



RADY FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Social Accountability Committee

1. PURPOSE AND MANDATE

1.1 **Purpose/Mandate:** The Social Accountability Committee (“**Committee**”) of the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences (“**RFHS**”) is established to:

- (a) act as the main discussion and advisory body of the RFHS in relation to issues of social accountability;
- (b) assess the social needs and challenges of the community that the RFHS serves, with particular input from community members;
- (c) coordinate an inventory of social accountability activities and initiatives occurring within the Colleges and/or RFHS and serve as the repository body for social accountability activities and initiatives;
- (d) determine the gaps in social accountability initiatives within the RFHS, based on the identified social needs and challenges, the inventory, and any other information the Committee determines is relevant;
- (e) identify social accountability initiatives as priorities to be implemented within the RFHS and its respective Colleges;
- (f) recommend implementation strategies for social accountability priorities within the RFHS and its Colleges, including without limitation identifying sufficient opportunities for, encouraging, and supporting learner participation in service-learning and community service activities;
- (g) monitor and report on the outcomes of the social accountability priorities within the RFHS and its Colleges (i.e., its “**Mandate**”).

1.2 **Definition of Social Accountability:**

Social Accountability is being accountable to the social realities of the community in which one lives and serves.

A socially accountable health system is one that is obligated to engage with and respond to its community’s needs, as well as instill the values of this responsibility within its institutions and its practitioners. The goal of social accountability in health care is a health system built on the needs of a community and its members. Health care provid-



ers, administrators, health sciences education providers and researchers work toward this goal through; engagement with society (people, governments, and businesses); and intentional policies, medical practices, educational, and research activities that work toward achieving the community's health priorities as identified by all of these actors.

Social accountability in this context includes the consideration of the causes of existing health concerns as well as the health concerns themselves. Socially accountable activities in a health care education and research setting include:

- Teach social responsibility as a core value for future practitioners.
- Educate future health care professionals on broader determinants of health.
- Teach and practice culturally safe health care. This includes the skills of intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.
- Identify groups with specific or greater need such as higher rates of illness or greater barriers to health.
- Provide opportunities for learners to volunteer, and co-curricular and community service learning that allows the student to engage with and learn from the group's members and encourages future work with such groups including working as an ally to support systems and policy change.
- Conduct community-identified research.
- Reflect the principles and calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

