

Introduction

Land Acknowledgement

The office of the Manitoba College of Social Workers (MCSW) is on Treaty 1 territory - the traditional territory of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation. MCSW members are grateful to live, learn and practice social work in treaty and unceded territories across the province and respects Indigenous Peoples as the original and rightful stewards of Turtle Island. The College acknowledges our colonial history and respects the diverse experiences, histories and cultures of Indigenous Peoples across Manitoba in the spirit of reconciliation.

MCSW is committed to moving forward with a Strategic Plan with an Indigenous and anti-racist lens that incorporates the principles of inclusivity, diversity and equity. MCSW recognizes the importance of a meaningful land acknowledgement and continues development in this area through the work of the MCSW Land Acknowledgement Working Group and support of Knowledge Keeper, Allen Sutherland (White Spotted Horse), Anishinaabek member of Skownan First Nation (Treaty 2 Territory).

Forward

The MCSW Board of Directors appreciates the support and guidance of the diverse and Indigenous voices that helped shape the Strategic Plan with special acknowledgement to:

- **Elder and Knowledge Keeper, Clayton Sandy**, a member of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation (unceded territory)
- **Grandmother Sharon Stadnick**, a member of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (Treaty 5 Territory)

This Strategic Plan defines MCSW's vision for the future and identifies organizational goals and objectives. The MCSW Strategic Plan is guided by the values of the College and the Seven Sacred Teachings as foundational and interrelated principles. The seven sacred teachings share a message of traditional values, hope and respect that guide human conduct towards others and support healthy communities. The College's values of accountability, social justice, competence, interrelatedness, communication and ethical practice intertwine with long-standing teachings of honesty, courage, wisdom, humility, respect, love and truth. The College is committed to moving forward in a good way¹ as we continue to support the profession in the interest of the public.

¹In a good way is a concept used by many Indigenous Peoples to recognize work that is conducted in authentic and meaningful ways, with intention and sincerity, through reciprocal and respectful relationships. It is a demonstration of working with clear purpose and with high levels of integrity, moral strength and communal spirit.

Mission



MCSW serves the public by supporting ethical and accountable social work practice. MCSW is committed to promoting and advancing regulated practice that values diversity, equity and inclusion and our shared journey in honouring truth and pursuing reconciliation.

Vision



The Manitoba College of Social Workers strives for excellence in its mandate to serve the public interest through the regulation and support of the social work profession and in its pursuit of social justice.

Values



The Manitoba College of Social Workers is guided by the values of the College and the Seven Sacred Teachings.



MCSW Values

Accountability

MCSW is mindful of its primary responsibility to the public to promote and observe professional standards by leading with integrity and ensuring processes are clear, impartial and ethical.

Interrelatedness

MCSW values and respects the strengths of Indigenous, Western and non-Western worldviews coming together for the benefit of all.

Social Justice

MCSW advocates to uphold human rights, promote social equity and support the dignity of all people.

Communication

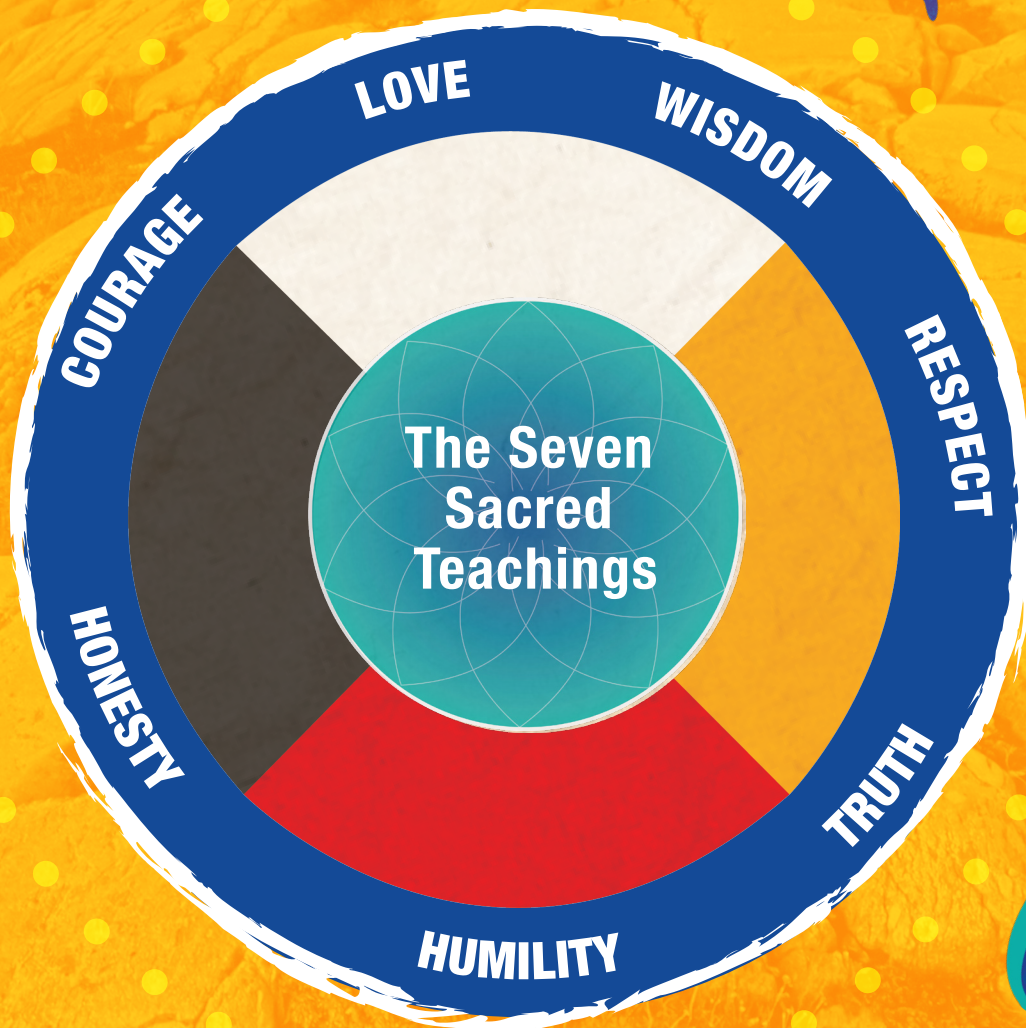
MCSW values engagement with partners to promote dialogue, share knowledge and build positive, collaborative relationships.

Competence

MCSW respects and upholds the public's right to competent social work services and demonstrates care in fulfilling its regulatory mandate.

Ethical Practice

MCSW promotes and applies ethical practice in all aspects of organizational conduct consistent with the values of the profession.



Seven Sacred Teachings



Love

Love is the gift from the Eagle. Love is a force that is undeniable. With love all things are possible. It is everyone's right to have and experience it. In terms of the Medicine wheel, love is the hub. It is symbolic of fire and the creator.



Wisdom

The Beaver carries wisdom. Wisdom is to be used for the good of all people - to cherish knowledge is to know wisdom. Wisdom is gained experience and knowledge is to know the difference and accept responsibility and accountability.



Respect

Respect is the gift from the Buffalo. The Buffalo respects the balance and needs of others. Respect is mutual and reciprocal - in order to receive respect, you must give respect. In all life, respect is first and foremost. Respect oneself and respect will be bestowed.



Truth

The Turtle carries truth. Truth is speaking only what you have lived or experienced. By living in a slow and conscientious manner, the turtle knows the value of both the journey and the destination. Since the beginning of time the turtle has not changed. The turtle has been chosen to be the bearer of truth and the basic truth of the laws of nature have not changed. The turtle has been able to adapt to change without changing; thus he represents truth.



Humility

The Wolf carries humility as a sacred part of Creation. Central to the wolf is the family pack - they work in cooperation with each other for the greater good. To ensure survival, the pack must be as one. In the wolf pack, each member understands their individual role and in our individual lives humility becomes the factor, which allows us to ask for guidance humbly.



Honesty

Honesty is carried by the Sabe (Sasquatch). Be honest in your words and actions. It is from within and not to be confused with truth. Honesty also means "righteousness." Be honest with yourself first - in words and action. Live correctly and with virtue and be true to your word.



Courage

The Bear carries courage and lives with a solid, strong heart. We seek the strength and courage to do what is right and face our foes with integrity. The Bear will give us the understanding to seek resolutions through spiritual intervention - hence, spiritual healing to deal with anger, pain and ourselves.

MCSW acknowledges and appreciates the support and guidance of Elder Clayton Sandy in his sharing of the Seven Sacred Teachings

MCSW Values and the Seven Sacred Teachings

HUMILITY

HONESTY

ACCOUNTABILITY

SOCIAL
JUSTICE

COURAGE

COMMUNICATION

LOVE

COMPETENCE

WISDOM

INTER-
RELATEDNESS

RESPECT

TRUTH

ETHICAL
PRACTICE