

**Manitoba College of Social Workers
Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord
Partnership Plan**



The Manitoba College of Social Workers is pleased to join with the City of Winnipeg as signatories to Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord. According to Justice Murray Sinclair, chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, education provides one of the greatest hopes in advancing the process of reconciliation. The College declares a commitment to reconciliation by taking steps to implement the Calls to Action outlined by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada specific to Social Workers through the promotion of education related to the history and culture of indigenous peoples.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION OF CANADA - CALLS TO ACTION

Child Welfare

1. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial and Aboriginal governments to commit to reducing the number of Aboriginal children in care by:

(iii) Ensuring that **social workers** (and others who conduct child-welfare investigations) are properly educated and trained about the history and impacts of residential schools.

(iv) Ensuring that **social workers** (and others who conduct child welfare investigations) are properly educated and trained about the potential for Aboriginal communities and families to provide more appropriate solutions to family healing

Health

22. We call upon **those who can effect change within the Canadian health-care system** to recognize the value of Aboriginal healing practices and use them in the treatment of Aboriginal patients in collaboration with Aboriginal healers and Elders where requested by Aboriginal patients.

Professional Development and Training for Civil Servants

57. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to **public servants** on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, *the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights and anti-racism.

CURRENT PROGRESS

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action outlined above are consistent with the goals of Continuing Competence Program outlined in the Social Work Profession Regulation. The Continuing Competence Program sets out specific requirements for Social Workers to complete workshops relating to social work with indigenous peoples, which includes knowledge of the history, culture and spirituality of indigenous peoples.

MCSW has taken the following steps to honour the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and make positive changes towards reconciliation:

- Since the College was established in April 2015, indigenous Social Workers have been represented on the Board of Directors and the College has increased the number of indigenous Social Workers participating on committees of the College
- Since January 2016, College events are opened with an acknowledgement that *we are on Treaty One territory and that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation*
- March 2016 – Indigenous drum group and dancers opened the national CASW meetings in Winnipeg
- Since April 2016 – MCSW has identified, approved and promoted indigenous workshops for Social Workers to encourage education related to social work with indigenous peoples
<https://mcsw.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/CCP-Approved-Content-Specific-Provider-and-Workshop-List-06-Jul-17.pdf>
- November 2016 – MCSW AGM and Education Day opened with Spirit Sand Singers and keynote speaker, Ry Moran, of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation who spoke about the history and legacy of residential schools and social work with indigenous peoples to an audience of approximately 300 Social Workers
- March 2017 – MCSW partnered with CASW to deliver a 2-part national webinar series on Indigenous Perspectives and Social Work, presented by Manitoba Social Workers, Kara Moss and Mitch Bourbonniere, with approximately 400 Social Workers participating

IDENTIFIED RECONCILIATION GOALS:

- Open Board of Directors meetings and College events with an acknowledgement that *we are on Treaty One territory and that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation*
- Continue to promote participation of indigenous Social Workers on the Board and committees of the College
- Develop a multi-year education plan to ensure Social Workers have the opportunity to receive education regarding:
 - The history and legacy of residential schools
 - United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
 - Treaties and Aboriginal rights

- Indigenous Law and Aboriginal-Crown relations
- Indigenous approaches to social work
- Aboriginal healing practices
- Intercultural competency
- Conflict resolution
- Human rights
- Anti-racism

The Manitoba College of Social Workers will continue to promote social work values that honour and respect the equality, worth and dignity of all people in support of social inclusion and social justice. We welcome this opportunity to formalize our commitment to reconciliation and join with the City of Winnipeg in this important initiative.



Richard De La Ronde
President



Barb Temmerman
Executive Director/Registrar