

Fall 2021 Webinar

Systemic Racism and Reconciliation

with Cindy Blackstock, PhD

October 14, 2021 9:15 AM to 10:45 AM CDT



Social work has too often been a bystander or an active participant in colonization despite our social justice mandate and related codes of ethics. This presentation surveys the lessons learned from the past to recalibrate social work to address the ongoing injustices facing First Nations peoples.

A member of the Gitksan First Nation, Cindy is honoured to serve as the Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society and a professor at McGill University's School of Social Work. She has over 30 years of experience working in child welfare and Indigenous children's rights and has published more than 75 articles on topics relating to reconciliation, Indigenous theory, First Nations child welfare and human rights. Cindy was honoured to work with First Nations colleagues on a successful human rights challenge to Canada's inequitable provision of child and family services and failure to implement Jordan's Principle. This hard-fought litigation has resulted in hundreds of thousands of services being provided to First Nations children, youth and families. She recently served on the Pan American Health Commission on Health Equity and Inequity and fundamentally believes that culturally-based equity is fundamental to meaningful reconciliation. Cindy is frequently sighted in the company of the Caring Society's reconciliation Am-bear-rister, *Spirit Bear*, engaging children in meaningful actions to implement the TRC Calls to Action.

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