



Source: The Canadian Press
The Honourable Murray Sinclair

The Manitoba College of Social Workers (MCSW) honours Murray Sinclair, a visionary leader whose tireless efforts have shaped our collective understanding of justice, reconciliation, and the power of truth. Sinclair's enduring commitment to human rights and the dignity of Indigenous Peoples continues to inspire social workers in our province and beyond.

Sinclair dedicated his life to exposing and addressing the injustices inflicted by colonial systems and highlighting the resilience and strength of Indigenous

communities. His work resonates deeply with the core principles of social work: respect for diversity, a steadfast commitment to human rights, and the pursuit of equity and healing.

As Manitoba's first Indigenous judge and later as Chief Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC), Sinclair's leadership exposed the painful truths of residential schools, giving voice to thousands of survivors. The TRC's *94 Calls to Action* remain a cornerstone of our collective journey toward reconciliation. For social workers, these calls serve as a framework for meaningful, sustained efforts to dismantle systemic barriers and foster social change rooted in justice and accountability.

Sinclair's wisdom and teachings remind us that reconciliation is a process—a journey that requires courage, compassion, and unwavering dedication. He has emphasized that healing from intergenerational trauma is not merely a policy challenge but a profoundly relational process, one that requires listening, humility, and a commitment to uplifting Indigenous voices. This perspective supports Manitoba social workers to prioritize practices informed by Indigenous knowledge and traditions, ensuring our work fosters resilience, self-determination, and holistic well-being.

Throughout his life and career, Sinclair has exemplified the Seven Sacred Teachings: love, respect, courage, honesty, wisdom, humility, and truth. His approach reflects the essence of what social work strives to achieve - working "in a good way" that builds meaningful relationships, strengthens communities, and supports healing.

For the social work profession in Manitoba, Murray Sinclair's legacy is a guiding light. His life's work reminds us to continually examine our own practices and systems, to advocate for systemic change, to act as allies in the pursuit of justice, and to learn and walk alongside those whose voices have been silenced.

Miigwech, Senator Sinclair, for your wisdom, strength, and guidance. Your legacy will continue to inspire Manitoba's social workers as we walk together on the path of reconciliation, equity, and hope.