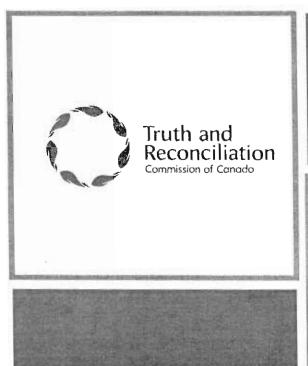


A report of the Canadian Psychological Association & the Psychology Foundation of Canada

Prepared by the Task Force on Responding to the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Report



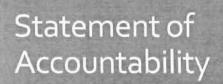


The Task Force



- Statement of accountability & responsibility to Indigenous Peoples
- Guiding principles for psychological practice that acknowledges & respects Indigenous concepts
- Addresses assessment, treatment, research, education, clinical training, continuing education, & programming

**Guiding principles** 

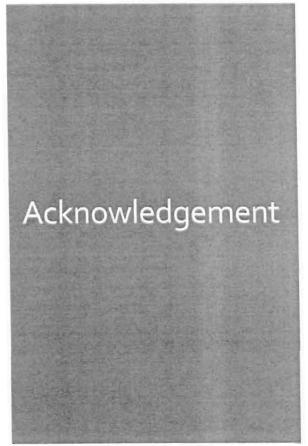


Acknowledge accountability for harms done to Indigenous Peoples in Canada by the profession of psychology

- Articulates specific harms done
- Provides a formal apology on behalf of the profession

Position statement

How to move forward toward reconciliation between psychology & Indigenous Peoples & psychology's role moving forward



The profession of psychology, in its interaction with Indigenous Peoples in Canada has contravened its own code of ethics & our history of having caused harm toward Indigenous Peoples

#### We apologize for:

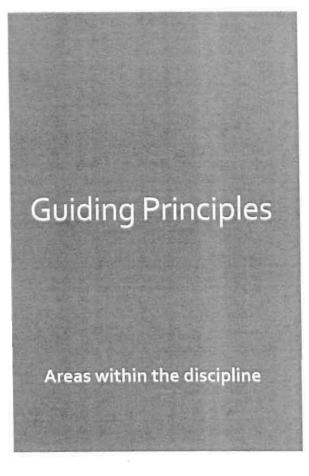
- Not opposing discriminatory governmental policy
- Colluding with policies & laws of marginalization & oppression
- Grounding our approaches in irrelevant epistemologies & research
- Lack of acknowledgement of cultural & historical contexts in our professional work
- Our failure to name the unjust impacts of governmental policies

We have been biased, irresponsible & disrespectful to Indigenous Peoples in Canada -- We apologize for failing to be supportive allies & advocates

#### **Guiding Principles**

Practice of Psychology

- \* Cultural Allyship -- Stand with Indigenous Peoples
  - · Have localized knowledge & cultural literacy
- Humility -- Address & respect Elders & traditional knowledge
  - · Genuine learning & collaboration
- Collaboration -- Community collaboration
  - Bridging Western & Indigenous cultures
- Critical Reflection -- Commit to unlearn some training
  - "Self-locate" (credentials, ancestors, role in colonization)
- Respect -- For people & peoples
  - For resilient Indigenous cultures & their healing traditions
- Social Justice
  - · Strive for greater understanding of social justice context



#### Assessment

 We lack what we need to provide meaningful psychological assessments to Indigenous Peoples

#### Treatment

 Interventions not validated with Indigenous people may impose Western norms

#### Research

Refer to the First Nations Principles of OCAP

#### Program development

· To be developed in partnership with Indigenous community members

#### Program evaluation

 Acknowledge power dynamics – ensure Indigenous Peoples provide relevant feedback

#### Advocacy & social justice

Be proactively involved in the advocacy of Indigenous mental health



**Education & Training** 

The task force addressed four broad topics in relation to education in psychology & Indigenous Peoples in Canada:

- 1. Barriers for Indigenous students
- 2. Key training elements for undergraduate students
- 3. Key training elements for graduate students
- 4. Current psychologist's need for cultural literacy training

### **Guiding Principles**

**Education & Training** 

#### Barriers for Indigenous students

- < 12 Indigenous practicing & or teaching psychologists in Canada
- Need -- funding for indigenous psychology students
- Risks -- Indigenous graduate students lose traditional ways of knowing if education only validates Western epistemologies
- Very few universities recognize the scholarship of traditional, non-university educated knowledge keepers; Needed --Psychology should advocate for their acceptance by academia

# **Guiding Principles Education & Training**

#### 2. Key training elements for undergraduate students

- Undergraduate psychology students should have access to a course on Indigenous cultural literacy
- Indigenous cultural literacy courses need to be separate from cultural diversity courses, as these are two entirely separate realms of knowledge

# Guiding Principles

**Education & Training** 

#### Key training elements for graduate students

- Knowledge of the residential school system / intergenerational trauma experienced by Indigenous Peoples in Canada
- Demonstrate Indigenous cultural literacy, value of Indigenous traditional knowledge, & how to balance with Western current practice
- Indigenous knowledge & cultural literacy as a core competency
- Knowledge sharing that demonstrates that Indigenous communities already have the cultural, linguistic, & spiritual knowledge they need to heal
- Programs can partner culturally competent instructors with Indigenous leaders, Elders, & respected community members

## **Guiding Principles Education & Training**

#### 4. Current Psychologists need cultural literacy training

- Experiential on-land experiences
- Reach out to friendship centres & Indigenous treatment centres to gain cultural literacy
- Those communities receiving services should be involved in the psychologist's cultural competency training
- But, remain cognizant of the possibility of overburdening communities with this responsibility

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