

# *Resolution*

## ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION CALLS TO ACTION IN SUPPORT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN CANADA

*Whereas* the Board of Directors of the *Canadian Association for Couple and Family Therapy/ Association Canadienne pour la Thérapie Conjugale et Familiale* (CACFT/ACTCF) values learning to work within a framework of respect and recognition with the Indigenous Peoples of Canada, acknowledging the inherent integrity and value of the world view of Indigenous Peoples; and

*Whereas* the CACFT/ACTCF acknowledges the responsibility of our Government's social policies for the violence and genocide toward Indigenous peoples in Canada, and for how contemporary systems, including those of our profession, perpetuate this oppression directly and indirectly; and

*Whereas* the CACFT/ACTCF is committed:

- ◆ to self-reflection in our profession concerning where we fall short of our stated values of social justice (including diversity, equity and inclusivity); and
- ◆ to humility with regard to unearned advantage, and to unlearning the colonial Eurocentric perspective that privileges European Canadian ways of being and knowing; and
- ◆ to taking a more public and overt position addressing and remediating the relationship between our profession and Indigenous Peoples' health and well-being, the history of genocide and the healthcare system; and

*Whereas* the systemic perspective underlying the work of the CACFT/ACTCF has foundational similarities with the world view of many Indigenous Peoples, including the emphasis on the role of family, community and relationship in well-being; and

*Whereas* the CACFT/ACTCF wish to strongly support the health and well-being of Indigenous individuals, families and communities in Canada, and contribute to true reconciliation and harmony between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people of Canada; and

*Whereas* the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has issued a set of Calls to Action including recommendations with regard to improving health care and child welfare;

*Therefore*

*CACFT/ACTCF* with the support of the Board of Directors *herewith commits*

*CACFT/ACTCF to:*

- ◆ providing opportunities for our members to do reflective work to understand their own locations within systemic racism in Canada, and how it may manifest in their work and within CACFT/ACTCF,
- ◆ being collaborative advocates and allies with Indigenous families and communities in Canada, with the following goals, as determined by those families and communities, of
  - supporting and developing Indigenous holistic well-being, and
  - supporting Indigenous rights and freedoms
  -
- ◆ walking beside Indigenous individuals, families and communities when invited, joining voices to amplify Indigenous priorities in the wider Canadian community
- ◆ endeavoring to deepen awareness among non-Indigenous Canadians concerning the roadblocks to wellness faced by Indigenous families and communities and encouraging widespread participation in, and commitment to, the process and practices of reconciliation
- ◆ supporting the recommendations of the TRC and contributing to their implementation both within CACFT/ACTCF and in our own professional activities and wider communities, through research, education, development and evaluation of implementation strategies regarding Calls to Action that overlap with our profession's mission and areas of influence
- ◆ in partnership with Indigenous researchers, bringing systemic research regarding Indigenous interests and well-being to the attention of appropriate governmental and legislative participants; and
- ◆ after creating conditions for a non-exploitative relationship with Indigenous mentors, members and communities based on mutual respect, engaging in conversations seeking their guidance on how best to accomplish our goals with regard to the Calls for Action, while following appropriate protocols of reciprocity for the mentoring and guidance that may be offered to us.

*Adopted by The Board of Directors of CACFT/ACTCF*

*on* April 8, 2024