



CASW

Canadian Association of
Social Workers

ACTS

Association canadienne
des travailleuses et travailleurs sociaux

INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES & SOCIAL WORK

CASW & MCSW Webinar Series

Facilitated by Kara Moss, BSW, MSW, RSW

April 10, 2017

Part 2 of 2

Manitoba College
of Social Workers



OVERVIEW



- Healing
- Indigenous Social Action
- Reconciliation
- Action: Next Steps



HEALING



All Canadians must now demonstrate the same level of courage and determination (as the Survivors)...

By establishing a new and respectful relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians, we will restore what must be restored, repair what must be repaired, and return what must be returned.

- What We Have Learned, Principles of Reconciliation, Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015

<http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Principles%20of%20Truth%20and%20Reconciliation.pdf>

HEALING

Intergenerational Trauma



We are perfectly normal people responding to an abnormal history.

When we are aware of the deep dynamics of trauma, we can begin to cope.

➤ Dr. Martin Brokenleg, 2012

HEALING



You are the same people who fought so well and so bravely at the Battle of Cutknife Hill... but you will have to fight the toughest battle; yourselves, and the belief that we are less than they are because it is not true.

➤ Chief Pîhtokahanapiwiyin (Poundmaker)

1842 – 1846

HEALING



1. Learning about, understanding and acknowledging the past cultural genocide

➤ *The Survivors Speak, A Report of the TRC*

http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Survivors_Speak_2015_05_30_web_o.pdf

2. Understanding the ongoing oppression of Indigenous Canadians

➤ *TRC Calls to Action*

http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

HEALING



3. Relationship building

4. Community needs specific approach

➤ Dr. Gabor Maté, 2015

HEALING

Circle of Courage, Dr. Martin Brokenleg, 2012

- Belonging
We matter to each other
- Mastery
We know we can learn, solve problems, and develop our abilities
- Independence
We set our own destiny
- Generosity
We value others



INDIGENOUS SOCIAL ACTION



- 1960s - 70s the Manitoba Indian brotherhood formed, laying the foundation for the Assembly of MB Chiefs
- June 12, 1990, MLA Elijah Harper stood in MB's Legislature with an eagle feather in his hand and said "No" to the Meech Lake Accord
- Newfoundland & Labrador followed suit
- The Accord failed

INDIGENOUS SOCIAL ACTION



- Summer 1990 - Tipi village was established on the grounds of the MB Legislature
- Grand Chief Phil Fontaine disclosed his experience of abuse in residential school on the MB Legislature steps
- Bear Clan Patrol was formed; advice and guidance from the American Indian Movement
- 1991 - Children of the Earth, first Indigenous High School

INDIGENOUS SOCIAL ACTION



- Also in the 1990s
- In the absence of healthy belonging, gangs can become a source of affirmation and spirituality
- Emergence of Indigenous youth gangs
 - Indian Posse
 - <http://www.macleans.ca/culture/books/the-troubled-life-of-canadian-outlaw-daniel-wolfe/>
 - Manitoba Warriors
 - Native Syndicate



INDIGENOUS ACTION TODAY

- Idle No More
- Return of the Bear Clan
- Creation of the Mama Bear Clan
- Meet Me at the Bell Tower
- Got Bannock
- Drag the Red
- Sisters in Spirit
- Kookum's Medicine Walk
- Action to promote self-government
- Action to protect the environment



INDIGENOUS ACTION TODAY

“Education is the new buffalo”

➤ Wab Kinew, MLA



- Indigenous youth are attending University in greater numbers, and
- Attending ceremonies and returning to tradition

RECONCILIATION AS A RELATIONSHIP



What We Have Learned: **Principles** of Truth and Reconciliation, TRC, 2015

<http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Principles%20of%20Truth%20and%20Reconciliation.pdf>

- Reconciliation is a process of healing of relationships that requires public truth sharing, apology, and commemoration that acknowledge and redress past harms.
 - Value 1, Guideline 8
 - http://casw-acts.ca/sites/default/files/attachements/casw_code_of_ethics.pdf
 - http://casw-acts.ca/sites/default/files/attachements/casw_guidelines_for_ethical_practice.pdf
- Reconciliation requires constructive action on addressing the ongoing legacies of colonialism that have had destructive impacts on Aboriginal peoples' education, cultures and languages, health, child welfare, the administration of justice, and economic opportunities and prosperity.
 - Value 2, Guideline 8.2

RECONCILIATION AS A RELATIONSHIP



- The perspectives and understandings of Aboriginal Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers of the ethics, concepts, and practices of reconciliation are vital to long-term reconciliation.
 - Guideline 1.2

- Supporting Aboriginal peoples' cultural revitalization and integrating Indigenous knowledge systems, oral histories, laws, protocols, and connections to the land into the reconciliation process are essential.
 - Value 1, Guideline 1.2

- Reconciliation requires political will, joint leadership, trust building, accountability, and transparency, as well as a substantial investment of resources.
 - Value 2, Guideline 8.2

RECONCILIATION AS A RELATIONSHIP



- The perspectives and understandings of Aboriginal Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers of the ethics, concepts, and practices of reconciliation are vital to long-term reconciliation.
 - Guideline 8
- Supporting Aboriginal peoples' cultural revitalization and integrating Indigenous knowledge systems, oral histories, laws, protocols, and connections to the land into the reconciliation process are essential.
 - Value 1, Guideline 8
- Reconciliation requires political will, joint leadership, trust building, accountability, and transparency, as well as a substantial investment of resources.
 - Value 2

RECONCILIATION AS A RELATIONSHIP



- Reconciliation must create a more equitable and inclusive society by closing the gaps in social, health, and economic outcomes that exist between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.
 - Value 2
- All Canadians, as Treaty peoples, share responsibility for establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships.
 - Value 1
- What We Have Learned, Principles of Reconciliation, Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015

<http://www.nlasw.ca/sites/default/files/inline-files/Ethical%20Ponderings%20on%20Anti-Oppressive%20Social%20Work%20Practice.pdf>

RECONCILIATION



Truth & Reconciliation – 94 Calls to Action

Which Call(s) will you actively support?

- Funding Equity in Education, Health, Justice and Child & Family Services
- Collaboration with Indigenous communities in the development of new health and social services models, approaches and policies

RECONCILIATION



- Adopt and implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Repeal Section 43 (Spanking) of the Criminal Code
- New Oath of Citizenship to include:

“I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada including Treaties with Indigenous Peoples”

RESOURCES



- <http://cahr.uvic.ca/nearbc/documents/2009/FNC-OCAP.pdf>
- <http://www.sanyas.ca/> & <http://www.icscollaborative.com/>
- <http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Principles%20of%20Truth%20and%20Reconciliation.pdf>
- http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Survivors_Speak_2015_05_30_web_o.pdf
- http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf
- <http://www.macleans.ca/culture/books/the-troubled-life-of-canadian-outlaw-daniel-wolfe/>
- http://casw-acts.ca/sites/default/files/attachements/casw_code_of_ethics.pdf
- http://casw-acts.ca/sites/default/files/attachements/casw_guidelines_for_ethical_practice.pdf
- <http://www.nlasw.ca/sites/default/files/inline-files/Ethical%20Ponderings%20on%20Anti-Oppressive%20Social%20Work%20Practice.pdf>