



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

March 23, 2017

Part 1 of 2

Manitoba College
of Social Workers



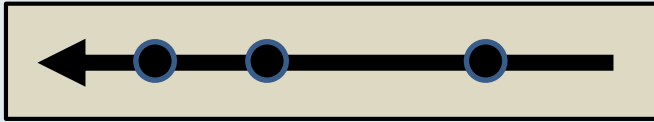
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OVERVIEW

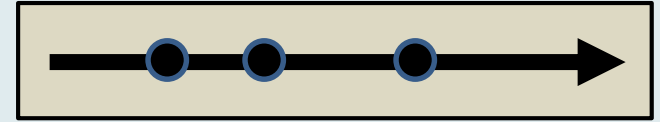


- Contact and its consequences
- 500 years of shared history
- Diversity of Indigenous peoples in Canada
- Historical role of colonization
- Policies of assimilation and cultural genocide
- Why are people traumatized?
- Ways in which traumas are expressed
- Engagement





HISTORY



- Europeans began trading and settling in North America in the 1400s.
- The first permanent European settlement was the 1534 colony of New France. This colony, like the other early settlements, was dependent upon the local Indigenous peoples for survival.
- At the time of Contact, it is estimated there were over 2 million Indigenous peoples living within thousands of different nations in what is now called Canada.





DIVERSITY



- Today there are more than 600 First Nation communities, over 50 Inuit communities, and many Metis communities.
- Nearly 1.5 million Canadians identify as being of Indigenous heritage. (2011 Census)
- Indigenous peoples are highly diverse. For example, some people live in remote Indigenous communities while others live in urban centres.
- Indigenous peoples follow a variety of spiritual practices. This includes traditional, Christian and other faiths. Some Indigenous peoples do not identify with spiritual practices.



CANADA'S ABORIGINAL POLICY



“For over a century, the central goals of Canada’s aboriginal policy were to eliminate Aboriginal government; ignore Aboriginal rights; terminate the Treaties; and, through a process of assimilation, cause Aboriginal peoples to cease to exist as distinct legal, social, cultural, religious, and racial entities in Canada.”

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada



COLONIZATION

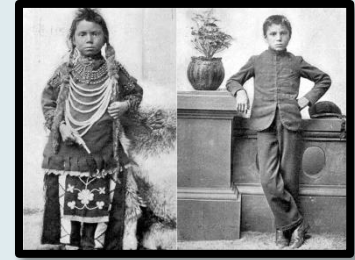


- The Indian Act (1876) allows the federal government to control most aspects of many Indigenous peoples' lives including Indian status, land, resources, education, health and band administration.

“Within two generations there will be no Indian problem, because there will be no Indians.”

Duncan Campbell Scott, Minister of Indian Affairs, 1914 - 1932

COLONIZATION



- Creation and maintenance of Reserves.
- Forced relocation of Indigenous communities to Reserves, some located on marginal land in remote locations.
- Indian Agents were placed on reserves to govern. Community members required permission to leave the reserve to hunt, visit family, seek work.
- Banning of cultural and spiritual practices



COLONIZATION

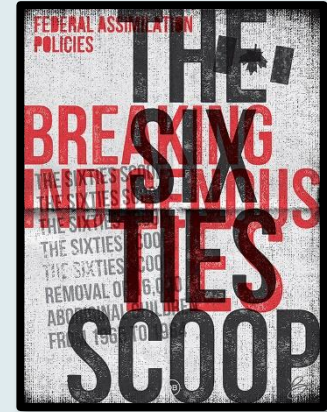
Residential schools



“When they graduate from our institutions, the children have lost everything native except their blood. They have forgotten their mother tongue and, in this way, cannot live native life anymore; we instill in them a pronounced distaste for the native life so that they will be humiliated when reminded of their origin.”

Bishop Vital Grandin, 1875

COLONIZATION



- 60's scoop (1960s – 1980s)
 - Thousands of Indigenous children were taken from their families and placed with non-Indigenous foster or adoptive families; social workers played/play an important role
 - Continued fracturing of family bonds/attachment, loss of identity, culture and belonging



IMPACT OF POLICY OF CULTURAL GENOCIDE



- Generational, repeated breaches of parent-child and family attachment
- Generational loss of culture, language, identity, self-esteem, belonging

IMPACT OF POLICY OF CULTURAL GENOCIDE



- Loss of land, home, economic means of supporting family & community
- Loss of self-government, loss of autonomy in adulthood, denied the right to vote

INTERGENERATIONAL TRAUMA

- Humans manifest these types of intergenerational trauma/wounds in many ways, including:
 - Remaining in the victim role
 - Victimizing self
 - Victimizing others
 - Journey to healing



LATERAL VIOLENCE

- Internalized oppression/racism:



- Shaming, humiliating, damaging, belittling and sometimes violent behaviour directed toward a member of a group by others of the same group.
- A learned behaviour; allows oppressed and vulnerable people to feel more powerful by turning their anger against each other.

LATERAL VIOLENCE

- Symptoms include:

➤ Gossip, put-downs, competition, family feuds, gang wars

Middleton-Moz, 1999



OVER REPRESENTATION & SYSTEMIC OPPRESSION

- Why are Indigenous peoples over represented in so many negative statistics?
 - Jail populations
 - Children in care
 - Suicide
 - Addiction
 - Health problems such as tuberculosis, diabetes



RECONCILIATION



What can Canadian Social Workers who are settlers/ descendants of settlers do?

“True reconciliation is to remember and change.”
Reconciliation acknowledges the full truth of the past, recognizes our interdependence and our need for peaceful coexistence.



Lederach, 1998

RECONCILIATION

CASW Code of Ethics



➤ Pursuit of Social Justice

- Advocate for equal treatment and protection under the law and challenge injustices, especially injustices that affect the vulnerable and disadvantaged



RECONCILIATION



- Respect for Inherent Dignity and Worth of Persons
 - Respect the diversity among individuals in Canadian society and the right of individuals to their unique beliefs consistent with the rights of others
- Competence in Professional Practice
 - Social Workers strive to maintain and increase their professional knowledge and skill



NEXT WEBINAR

- To encourage ongoing discussion and learning about our shared history of colonization
- To examine colonization from our social work lens
- To discuss where we are today as a consequence of colonization

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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