

Code of Ethics 2024

Core Social Work Values and Guiding Principles

Value 1: Respecting the Dignity and Worth of All People

- Respect the inherent dignity and worth of all people.
- Promote the self-determination and autonomy of all people.
- Uphold the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people consistent with applicable rights and legislation.
- Respect the status, rights, diversity and needs of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Peoples.
- Uphold the rights of all people to receive services in a manner that considers intersecting factors of exclusion and respects all manner of diversity.
- Respect the rights of service users to make decisions based on voluntary consent when possible.
- Social workers uphold the rights of every person, group, and community to be free from violence or threat of violence.

Value 2: Promoting Social Justice

- Uphold the principles of social justice related to the rights of individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities to receive fair and equitable access to services, resources, and opportunities and to be free of oppression, racism, and discrimination.
- Advocate for the rights of Indigenous Peoples to be free from racism, systemic racism, and discrimination as stipulated in the United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.
- Advocate for the rights of all individuals, families, groups, and communities to be free from oppression, exclusion, racism, and discrimination.
- Advocate for the stewardship of natural resources and the protection of the environment for the common good of all people.

Value 3: Pursuing Truth and Reconciliation

- Social workers uphold the values and principles of reconciliation.
- Social workers acknowledge Indigenous world views in their practice.

Value 4: Valuing Human Relationships

- Place the well-being and interests of all people at the centre of their relationships.
- Continually develop self-awareness and practise self-reflection to guide their practice and personal well-being.

Value 5: Preserving Integrity in Professional Practice

- Act with integrity are honest, responsible, trustworthy, and accountable.
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries with service users.
- Are aware of potential conflicts of interest and avoid situations where their personal interests may interfere with their professional obligations.
- In private practice act with integrity in all business practices.

Value 6: Maintaining Privacy and Confidentiality

- Uphold the interests of service users, members of the public, and other professionals in developing and safeguarding the trust placed in the confidential relationship.
- Are transparent about the limits of confidentiality in their professional practice.
- Disclose confidential information with valid consent in accordance with applicable legislation or without consent when required by law or court order or allowed by legislation.
- Preserve privacy and confidentiality in the provision of electronic social work services.

Value 7: Providing Competent Professional Services

- Continuously develop their professional knowledge and skill at the level required to provide competent professional services.
- Practise within their level of competence and seek appropriate guidance when services required are beyond their competence.
- Contribute to the ongoing development of the social work profession and current and future social workers.
- Contribute to the knowledge base and advancement of knowledge in the social work profession.



