

BCASW Indigenous Steering Committee

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

MISSION

Work towards a respectful process of truth, healing and reconciliation within the profession of social work practice and values in the context of BCASW.

DESCRIPTION

This group aims to provide an indigenous space and forum for consultation with Indigenous social workers. Furthermore, this space would facilitate a process of reconciliation within the profession of social work. With the recent work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, it was highlighted that there is still much reconciliation work needed within the social work profession in BC. This group will be steered by Indigenous social workers and elders.

PURPOSE

1. Bringing together a group of Indigenous social workers and elders to form an advisory group to inform the BCASW board on indigenous perspectives
2. Discuss and steer the process of reconciliation within the social work community
3. Facilitate conversations with the larger social work community about the relationship of indigenous peoples within the context of social work profession, practice and history
4. Inform communication by BCASW on strategic or emerging issues related to indigenous practice.

MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

1. Indigenous social workers with a current BCASW membership (leadership to be elected by group)
2. Associate members may include:
 - a. Elders/Stakeholders invited to participate by the leadership of the Committee
 - b. Non-indigenous social workers with a current BCASW membership
 - c. Member selection criteria will be set by the leadership of the Indigenous Steering Committee
2. Provincial geographic representation
3. In-depth understanding of the indigenous experience and perspective
4. Variety of practice areas/specializations
5. Interest and commitment to participate respectfully and collaboratively

MEMBERSHIP Members will participate in teleconferences, on-line communication and in-person meetings as appropriate.

ADMISSION PROCESS

BCASW members can request to participate in the committee through the BCASW office and they will be invited to participate at different levels based on the discretion of the committee leadership. All BCASW members will be invited to participate in open discussions and forums.

EXCLUSION The intent of the committee is to provide an indigenous perspective, and therefore the leadership is limited to persons with an Indigenous background. However, there will be opportunities for non-indigenous social workers to participate at different levels. The leadership committee may further define exclusion criteria in the future.