



# *Saskatchewan College of Psychologists*

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## **Membership Advisory**

### **College Response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report**

In December of 2015 the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada released its final report. The report sought to identify and acknowledge the wrongs of the past that were imposed on Indigenous Peoples through the Indian Residential School System, and called on the Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Peoples of Canada to commit to establishing renewed and healthier relationships with one another through the process of reconciliation. Reconciliation as envisioned by the TRC involves establishing mutual recognition and respect, and calls for an end to the societal and systemic racism and paternalism that have been part of the Indigenous experience in Canada since colonization. The TRC hearings established that the negative events of the past cannot be changed, but they must be acknowledged, learned from and not repeated in order for society to move beyond these historic injustices and embark on partnerships forged in trust and mutual respect.

As a profession, we have a responsibility to contemplate the role that the profession has played in the events of the past, and the role that it should play in the process of reconciliation. Therefore, the Saskatchewan College of Psychologists in the spirit of reconciliation commits to the following actions:

- Promotion of cultural awareness and humility within the profession
- Establish practice guidelines sensitive to cultural diversity
- Support and promote culturally sensitive and ethically appropriate practices within the profession
- Support initiatives to increase awareness of psychology as a viable profession for Indigenous peoples
- Address practices within the profession that promote the maintenance of systems that may result in Indigenous citizens being disadvantaged or disenfranchised

The College encourages its members to consider the issues that were raised through the work of the TRC, and to work together to bring about change. Additionally, the College invites its membership to share their experiences of how the TRC's Calls to Actions may have initiated discussions which lead to concrete steps aimed at addressing them.