

The information and material in this statement may trigger unpleasant feelings or thoughts of past abuse. If you require emotional support, please contact the 24-hour Residential School Crisis Line at 1-866-925-4419ⁱ

The recent discovery of 215 children buried on the Kamloops Indian Residential School groundsⁱⁱ tragically and painfully demonstrates the devastating impact of colonialism and systemic Indigenous-specific racism.

The College recognizes the need to acknowledge the harm that has occurred within the Indigenous populations in British Columbia and throughout Canada because of colonization. We also understand the need to deeply embed the knowledge of this traumatic history into the social work profession and its regulation, so that it never plays such a role in the future.

The College is committed to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples by implementing a culturally safe, diverse, and accessible Social Work regulatory system that enhances public trust and public protection for all Indigenous Peoples and British Columbians. The Board of Directors affirms the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*ⁱⁱⁱ and its requirements to align with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.^{iv}

There is much work to be done. At the College, this means listening, learning, and leveraging new ways of being to implement initiatives that support the goals of decolonization and eliminating Indigenous-specific racism.

To achieve these important goals, the College commits to continue efforts and collaborations that include, but are not limited to:

- Fostering strong relationships with Indigenous Peoples and communities, so that Indigenous knowledge, perspectives, and values are inherent within the work of the College.
- Acting on the College's strategic priority to eliminate Indigenous-specific racism and the systemic racism existing in the regulatory practices of the College.
- Publicly and clearly affirming its identity as an anti-racist professional regulator.
- Reflecting its anti-racist commitment in the actions and culture of the College through its policies, programs, and practices.
- Continuing to learn about racism and best practices to decolonize and dismantle systemic racism.

- Developing and working to implement strategies that dismantle racism within all aspects of the College and society.
- Providing regular progress updates on the implementation of action items and achievement of objectives.

Registered Social Workers can participate in this work, and engage in a key social work practice ethic, by continuing to learn about and implement anti-Indigenous racism, de-colonialization, anti-oppression, anti-racist and anti-discriminatory, concepts and interventions.

The College recognizes that Indigenous Peoples and their communities, in the past, present and future, inherently occupy a unique space on the land and in the community within British Columbia and Canada. Indigenous Peoples and their communities have inherent rights and require acknowledgement of the intergenerational trauma resulting from colonization and racism. The College extends respect, dignity, and healing to the Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation and to all Indigenous Peoples of British Columbia and Canada.

ⁱ First Nations Health Authority, Indian Residential Schools Program, link retrieved 01-June-2021, [Indian Residential Schools Program \(fnha.ca\)](https://fnha.ca/indian-residential-schools-program)

ⁱⁱ CBC, Residential school survivors calls for action following discovery of children’s remains. Link retrieved 01-June-2021, [Residential school survivors society calls for action following discovery of children's remains | CBC News](https://www.cbc.com/news/indigenous/residential-school-survivors-2021)

ⁱⁱⁱ Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, link retrieved 01-June-2021, [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/indigenous-peoples-act)

^{iv} United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, link retrieved 01-June-2021, [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples | United Nations For Indigenous Peoples](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/)