

Indigenous Social Work Committee (formerly, Aboriginal Social Work Committee)

Terms of Reference

Preamble:

The ACSW recognizes the inherent rights of Aboriginal Peoples in order to change systems that have negatively impacted their lives and communities.

The ACSW recognizes that there is a distinct need to address the issues surrounding Aboriginal communities and their social work experiences, and in doing so, seeks the advice of the ASWC.

1. Purpose and Mandate:

The Aboriginal Social Work Committee (ASWC) acts in an advisory capacity to the Council of ACSW on issues related to Aboriginal social workers.

The mission of the ASWC is to identify and advise the ACSW on Indigenous issues that it foresees as affecting the needs, methods, delivery and practices of social work.

2. Definitions:

ASWC is a standing committee of ACSW.

“Traditional Aboriginal approaches” means the use of ceremonial practices and customs and traditional rituals. **Culture** includes the norms recognized by the community as to what is appropriate and acceptable behaviour, what the community is, and who is part of the community. **Spirituality** includes those practices/traditions, including ceremonies and beliefs that are utilized in order to express a relationship with a different power, other than self. **Ritual** includes those ceremonies, prayers and beliefs that do not seem to meet criteria of Spirituality and Culture, but appears to have favourable results in the communities’ and individual’s bid to create and continue healing.

“...Regulated members are permitted to provide psychosocial intervention using traditional aboriginal practices if the member has received training and guidance in the use of traditional aboriginal approaches and is recognized by an aboriginal community as being competent in the use of traditional aboriginal practices”. (Social Work Regulation, Section 12)

3. Goals:

- To advise Council of the diversity of Aboriginal protocols customs, traditions, culture, spirituality and Ritual.
- To identify and advise Council on Indigenous issues at the international, national, provincial and grassroots level.
- To encourage the recognition of inherent rights and traditional wholistic healing practices.
- To encourage the development of continued competency requirements that embrace an Aboriginal worldview.
- To identify Aboriginal Social Workers and encourage their involvement on ACSW committees, projects and activities.

- To facilitate the understanding of cross cultural practices and values which creates cultural safety.
- To facilitate the acceptance of change with a wholistic perspective.

4. Membership

The Committee shall be comprised of a maximum of ten (10) aboriginal members. Seven (7) of whom reflect the diversity of Aboriginal social work in our territory. An additional three (3) ex-officio members who are not required to be social worker but represent some characteristic valued highly by committee (elder, youth.) Membership will ideally include 2 Treaty 6, 2 Treaty 7, 2 Treaty 8, 2 Metis, and 2 Other. The chairperson shall be selected by the committee and confirmed by council.

5. Procedures:

a)Terms of Office:

Members are appointed for two-year terms and may be re-appointed for a maximum of two additional terms.

b)Accountability:

ASWC is accountable to ACSW Council and Aboriginal Social Workers and to the Aboriginal Communities whom we represent.

c)Frequency of Meetings:

ASWC shall meet at least quarterly.

d)ASWC Chair will summarize the activities of ASWC at each council meeting making appropriate motions, submissions.

e)Quorum:

A quorum of ASWC shall be four members.

f)Written Reports

A written report will be submitted annually for the ACSW annual report. Other reports may be submitted as required in both languages.

g)Notice of Resignation

Written notice 30 days given to committee.

h) Officers: The chair of ASWC is a RSW confirmed by Council. The ASWC will choose from its members a: Secretary/Treasurer/Co-Chair.

6. Council Liaison

The chair of ASWC attends ASCW Council meetings as a voting member of Council.

7. Planned Date for Review May 1, 2010

8. Date Revised June 19, 2010

9. Date Adopted by Council June 25, 2010