



CANADIAN COUNSELLING AND
PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DE
COUNSELING ET DE PSYCHOTHÉRAPIE

Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair Awarded Professional Champion Award by Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association

VICTORIA (May 7-9, 2014) The Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) is pleased to announce the Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair as the recipient of the CCPA 2014 Professional Champion Award for his lifelong dedication to the peoples of Canada, his commitment to the important role of effective mental health supports in healing, and his ongoing actions that give voice to those who have been silenced. Justice Sinclair's exemplary work as Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada since 2009 is a testament to his deep understanding and unwavering representation of Aboriginal peoples. Through this award, CCPA formally recognizes Justice Sinclair's important role in advocating for positive change in Canadian culture, in working towards healing historic and present day harms, and in recognizing counselling supports as part of a comprehensive response to the Indian Residential School legacy.

CCPA is dedicated to the enhancement of the counselling and psychotherapy profession in Canada. As a national bilingual association of professionally trained counsellors engaged in the helping professions, CCPA has over 5000 members working in many diverse fields of education, employment and career development, social work, business, industry, mental health, public service agencies, government and private practice.

The Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair addressed the International Association for Counselling (IAC) Conference as a keynote speaker, providing insights to international and Canadian delegates on the Indian Residential School legacy, explaining the role of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and sharing the voices of survivors. Hosted by the CCPA, the IAC Conference included delegates from fifteen countries worldwide. The CCPA Professional Champion Award, formally awarded at the Awards Ceremony at the CCPA Conference on May 9 was presented to Justice Sinclair following his keynote address. In presenting the Professional Champion Award to Justice Sinclair, CCPA President Blythe Shepard quoted a Mohawk saying: "The best chief is not the one who persuades people to his point of view. It is instead the one in whose presence most people find it easiest to arrive at the truth".

CCPA believes that the most critical factor in providing effective counselling is to ensure that all Canadians have access to timely, qualified, and effective support. The opportunity to have confidential dialogue on matters related to mental health issues is healing.

CCPA hosts a public website "Talking Helps" (www.talkingcanhelp.ca), which supports open dialogue and where members of the public can find authoritative information about the benefits of counselling in ameliorating a variety of life experiences that negatively impact health and wellbeing. For more information on the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, visit <http://www.trc.ca/>.

"We are very proud to honour Justice Sinclair as he advances the mental health agenda in Canada," concluded Shepard. "On behalf of CCPA and its members, I encourage all Canadians to join the conversation and take action with the Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair in making mental wellness and social justice a priority."

The Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) is a national bilingual association providing professional counsellors and psychotherapists with access to exclusive educational programs, certification, professional development and direct contact with professional peers and specialty groups. CCPA promotes the profession and its contribution to the mental health and well-being of all Canadians. For more information on the counselling and psychotherapy profession, please visit www.ccpa-accp.ca or www.talkingcanhelp.ca.

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