



Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association Proudly Acknowledges National Aboriginal Day

OTTAWA (June 21, 2013) As part of the cultural mosaic that serves as a defining feature of Canada, the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) is pleased to acknowledge and recognize National Aboriginal Day.

Every year on June 21, through ceremonies and celebrations, National Aboriginal Day marks a time where Canadians can collectively reflect upon the past and present contributions of Aboriginal people in Canada. CCPA is pleased to take this opportunity to recognize the diverse cultures and traditions of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people.

“As part of our collective body of work, CCPA has an Aboriginal Circle Chapter that provides an Indigenous voice in the Association,” said CCPA President, Blythe Shepard. “Our membership in general, and this chapter in particular, remains committed to raising awareness and creating a network for Indigenous and non-Indigenous counsellors to work together on issues that affect Indigenous clients, families, and communities.”

CCPA has also launched a Northern Initiative project which provides networking and professional development opportunities for current CCPA members across Canada who provide counselling and psychotherapy services in northern and remote regions in Canada—many of which include Indigenous communities.

“We recognize past and present hardships experienced by Aboriginal peoples in Canada,” added Shepard. “As members of the counselling and psychotherapy profession in Canada, we work with issues related to Truth and Reconciliation processes and endeavour to provide therapeutic services which respect cultural traditions, practices and values of clients and communities. We address mental health issues throughout the lifespan.”

CCPA remains 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 approximately 4,800 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.

“On behalf of CCPA and its members, I wish to recognize the contributions of Aboriginal peoples to Canada, their wonderful achievements, and encourage all Canadians to join in on the celebrations on this special day,” concluded Shepard.

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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 further information, please contact:

Alana Baker

(613) 233-8906; ccpa@impactcanada.com