



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

The First Nations Wellness/Addictions Counselor Certification
Board (FNWACCB)

and

The National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation
(NNAPF)

Cooperative Agreement

This agreement made in duplicate the 17th day of March, 2011.

Between:

FNWACCB – First Nations Wellness/Addictions Counsellor Certification Board
(Hereinafter referred to as “FNWACCB”)

- and -

National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation
(Hereinafter referred to as “NNAPF”)

Hereinafter, jointly referred to as the “Parties”

The purpose of this agreement is to set out the terms and conditions relating to the processes and goals of the collaboration between FNWACCB and NNAPF regarding joint initiatives aimed at supporting addictions counselors certification and research that supports First Nations and Inuit substance abuse and addictions programming in communities and treatment related facilities.

ABOUT THE PARTIES

First Nations Wellness/Addictions Counsellor Certification Board

In July 2010, Health Canada selected the FNWACCB as the national body which grants certification and ensuring the maintenance of competence among First Nations Wellness/Addictions Counsellors.

Certification provides a measure of competence which will be recognized far beyond First Nations communities, and constitutes an important step to ensure the continuation of First Nations Wellness and Addictions Programs.

The First Nations Wellness/Addictions Counsellor Certification Board believes that it is important that standards for certification of Indigenous Certified Addictions Specialists be established by First Nations. The Board is the national body which grants certification and ensures the maintenance of competence among Indigenous Certified Addictions Specialists. Certification for Indigenous Certified Addictions Specialists is considered necessary because of the recognition that special skills and knowledge are needed to work effectively within First Nations communities. Certification provides a measure of competence which will be recognized far beyond First Nations communities, and constitutes an important step to ensure the continuation of First Nations Wellness and Addictions Programs.

The goals of the National Certification Board are:

- to ensure a level of excellence in individual performance;
- to establish standards that are relevant to traditional First Nations healing philosophies and which are comparable to and generally accepted in the field; and,
- to gain reciprocity with the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counsellors (NAADAC), the Canadian Addictions Counsellors Certification Federation (CACCF) and their national board, as well as the Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse (CCSA), and others to be determined by FFWACCB.

National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation

NNAPF is a national organization created to advocate on behalf of and support the national addictions and wellness system of treatment and community-based services that spans across over 600 plus First Nations, and approximately 58 treatment facilities and 79 Inuit communities. Its work is based on compassion, honesty, humility, respect, trust, interconnectedness, families, cultural diversity, and holistic approaches all guided by a variety of principles that include and highlight partnerships. These partnerships include community-based, regional and national, Indigenous Agencies and representative organizations. They also include partnerships with the federal government and other levels of government within the understanding that Treaty and Aboriginal rights will not be diminished as a result of the acquisition of service delivery responsibilities by Aboriginal communities.

NNAPF's work has its basis in the population health model which encompasses capacity building, community development, and reverence to local and cultural needs, sharing, and holism.

NNAPF believes in the Indigenous Health Model that is multi-dimensional and holistic. Therefore addressing health in all its dimensions is important in the promotion of wellness within Indigenous communities. NNAPF knows this and strives to work and promote strategies that address the various social and cultural determinants of health.

Recognition of the Mandates and Diversity of NNAPF and FFWACCB

NNAPF's mandate is to support and advocate on behalf of substance use/misuse and wellness within a national treatment and community based prevention network, while FFWACCB's mandate is to provide support to the workforce, from front line to managers of this national system through certification and access to learning and skill development.

As NNAPF and FFWACCB work together they will respect that each organization has its own mandates, objectives, vision, and mission and will find ways and means to support mutually agreed upon projects and other initiatives as defined annually throughout the duration of this agreement.

Purpose of agreement

The purpose of the collaboration between NNAPF and FNWACCB is to:

- a) Magnify the impact of their activities through collaboration as well as knowledge and experience sharing across both organizations' networks;
- b) Support events that promote the organizations' shared objectives;
- c) Leverage each organization's expertise and membership in order to maximize their respective activities.

General Area of Cooperation

FNWACCB and NNAPF will work together in several areas described below to further certification and workforce initiatives and programs in Canada and abroad.

Specific Areas of Cooperation

NNAPF and FNWACCB will collaborate in a variety of ways listed below, though their shared objectives may lead to other cooperation not described in this document.

I. Network reinforcement

FNWACCB and NNAPF will mutually promote each other and support their network development and activity through publicity on websites, newsletter and in relevant printed materials.

II. Database Sharing

FNWACCB will coordinate with the NNAPF in to integrate databases that include all relevant organizations and individuals they both serve for the purpose of ensuring communication across shared stakeholders.

III. Cultural Competence

FNWACCB and NNAPF will mutually promote cultural competence in all its endeavours and in so doing mutually support organizational capacity that is beneficial to each others stakeholders.

Managing the partnership

A strong partnership will exist through the following support:

- a) The appointment by each organization of a staff to implement the partnership
- b) A data share agreement.

Agreement Terms

NNAPF and FNWACCB agree that the established partnership has been designed to establish an exchange of experiences, technicians, and knowledge.

NNAPF and FNWACCB agree that they will respect the mandates of their respective organizations and will adhere to keeping within these confines albeit with some flexibility and openness.

NNAPF and FNWACCB agree that there is no financial commitment to this agreement other than to collaborate to find funding for mutual projects with the aim of strengthening both parties.

NNAPF and FNWACCB agree that when joint projects are undertaken that they will be engaged in a full partnership with joint rights and responsibilities outlined as needed

NNAPF, as an entity, is subject to the *Official Languages Act* as outlined in NNAPF's Policy Manual. As such, all joint announcements must be issued in both official languages.

In witness whereof, the parties hereto execute this partnership agreement.

On Behalf of FNWACCB:

**On Behalf of National Native
Addictions Partnership Foundation:**

**Patrick Dumont
President**

Date: March 17, 2011

**Janice Nicotine
Vice President**

Date: March 17, 2011