

First Nations Wellness/Addiction Counsellor Certification Board
CODE OF ETHICS: Indigenous Certified Addictions Specialist I, II, III

As Indigenous Certified Addictions Specialists, our “Code of Ethics” defines our responsibilities to ourselves, our families, our colleagues, our clients, our Nations and the public. It guides us in the performance of our professional duties and responsibilities. It also clearly defines our legal, ethical and professional conduct. This “Code of Ethics” that we choose to live by is built on the cultural integrity of traditional First Nations’ healing philosophy.

- ... Abstain from substance mis-use and process addictions during our tenure as Indigenous Certified Addictions Specialists.
- ... Strive to incorporate the spiritual teachings of our ancestors into our daily lives.
- ... Take personal responsibility for continued growth through education, training and a developmental wellness plan.
- ... Be dedicated to the concept that addictions are treatable and the primary goal is to maintain recovery and wellness of the client.
- ... Show a genuine interest in helping and serving persons with addictions issues and be dedicated to the concept of wellness, recovery and holistic healing.

- ... Honour cultural and traditional teachings that empower clients to choose a healthy lifestyle.
- ... Recognize the therapeutic value of humour.
- ... Accept and show respect for the diversity of all peoples and honour their race, colour, creed, age, sexual orientation, cultural/spiritual practices and views.

- ... Respect the client by maintaining an objective professional relationship at all times. Avoid dual relationships at all times.
- ... Protect the confidentiality of all professionally acquired information. Disclosure of such information is done only when required or allowed by law to do so, or when clients have consented to disclosure. This includes all records, materials, and communications.
- ... Make a commitment to provide the highest quality of service possible. This is evidenced by continued professional interaction with the client and, where necessary, the utilization of other health professionals and/or services to assist and guide the client in her/his recovery and wellness.
- ... Assess personal and vocational strengths, limitations, biases, and effectiveness and be willing to recognize when it is in the client’s best interest to refer or release them to other individuals and/or support programs.
- ... Be respectful of, work within, and strive to improve institutional policies and management functions.

Signature

Name (please print)

Date