



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

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Subject: Seeking Your Support for CCPA's NIHB Campaign

Dear [...],

In efforts to increase access to mental health practitioners for First Nation and Inuit people we are requesting your participation in our letter writing campaign for the [Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association's \(CCPA\)](#) Canadian Certified Counsellors (CCC); some of whom are First Nation, Metis and Inuit practitioners. This Indigenous-led advocacy effort is one of the CCPA's actions towards reconciliation, informed and led by our Indigenous staff Angela Grier (Piikani First Nation), Indigenous Board Member Dr Melissa Jay (Métis) and the Indigenous Circle Chapter.

Today, we will be launching our campaign to advocate for access to mental health practitioners. We are one of the only national bodies with Indigenous Practice Standards within our Code of Ethics. Our work towards reconciliation calls us to express concern over what, to our understanding, was a unilateral decision made by the federal government in 2015 that disqualified [Canadian Certified Counsellors \(CCC\)](#) from the NIHB mental health program, without First Nation and Inuit consent or knowledge. Removing these nationally certified professionals who hold Masters degrees in a counselling or related field has created significant access to care issues for Indigenous communities across the country.

CCPA has called upon Indigenous Services Canada to reinstate our CCCs in unregulated provinces (AB, SK, MB, NL) within the [Non-Insured Health Benefits program \(NIHB\)](#) program whose mandate is to ensure equitable and fair access to mental health care services for First Nation and Inuit peoples, including the [Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support \(IRS RHS\)](#) Programs. We invite you to explore our microsite www.ccc4nihb.ca for more information and history, including Angela Grier's appearance as a witness in front of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

All of our campaign materials are available on our microsite at ccc4nihb.ca. We hope that you will support our campaign through our microsite in one or more of the following ways:

- [Add your logo to our list of supporters;](#)
- [Send a letter to decision-makers via our letter-writing tool;](#)
- [Spread the word via the shareables available in our social media toolkit;](#)
- [Sign our letter of support and send it to relevant stakeholders;](#)
- Share or send us a written or video testimonial of your experience with Indigenous mental health and the NIHB program.

With your help, we can communicate the effects of NIHB program gaps related to the mental health counselling benefit to be amplified nationally and on Parliament to push for

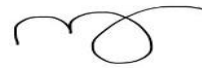
change. If this is something you can get behind and would like to support, please reach out to Angela Grier at agrier@ccpa-accp.ca.

We welcome thoughts or questions.

Kind Regards,



Angela Grier
Lead, Indigenous Initiatives
CCPA



Dr. Melissa Jay
Indigenous Director
CCPA