

# Another First from the Committee on Ethics

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Increasingly, psychologists are recognizing that supervision is a specialized area of psychological activity that has its own foundation of knowledge, skills, and attitudes, which is enhanced by education and training. On 6 November 2010, the Board of Directors of the Canadian Psychological Association approved the *Resource Guide for Psychologists: Ethical Supervision in Teaching, Research, Practice, and Administration*. The main purpose of the *Resource Guide* is to support psychologists in applying the *Ethical Guidelines for Supervision in Teaching, Research, Practice, and Administration*, adopted by CPA on 7 February 2009.

These two CPA documents contain several unique features not found in current supervision literature. In the *Ethical Guidelines* the overarching moral framework of the *Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists* is used, with each guideline linked to one of the four ethical principles of the *Code*, namely, Respect for the Dignity of Persons, Responsible Caring, Integrity in Relationships, and Responsibility to Society. In addition, the guidelines apply to all areas of psychological activity, not just to the area of clinical or counselling psychology. Although supervisors, by reason of their position of power and knowledge, must accept greater responsibility for maintaining functional and appropriate working relationships, supervisees

and supervisors are portrayed in the *Ethical Guidelines* as sharing ethical responsibilities and obligations. The guidelines are not enforceable practice standards, but rather encourage the reflection and ethical decision making that are especially useful when the most ethical course of action is unclear.

The second document, the *Resource Guide*, begins with an introduction explaining its purpose and the linkage of the guidelines to the ethical principles of the *Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists*. Demonstrations of ethical decision making are then presented for four different dilemmas, one from each of the areas of teaching, research, practice and administration. This is followed by over 70 vignettes for educational purposes. The vignettes contain life-like, and often complex, dilemmas from the areas of teaching, research, practice and administration. The Appendix contains the complete text of the *Ethical Guidelines*.

Forewords from Canadian John Pearce and American Carol Falender commend CPA for both the *Ethical Guidelines* and the *Resource Guide*. The *Ethical Guidelines* . . . “offers professional psychologists in diverse areas of practice a comprehensive array of guidelines to facilitate ethical conduct in the provision of supervision.” The *Resource Guide* . . . “increases accessibility of the *Ethical Guidelines* for training and education and contributes to the concept of ethics as a living and relevant document.” Well done CPA!



**UAF Program Director:** The University of Alaska *Joint Ph.D. Program in Clinical-Community Psychology* seeks a qualified individual to fill a tenure-track Associate Professor or Full Professor position in Fairbanks and to assume the role of **UAF Program Director**. The start date can be flexible any time during academic year 2010/2011 with the latest start date of August 2011. The successful candidate will provide academic leadership and support the University of Alaska mission of teaching, research, and service. **Qualifications:** PhD in Clinical or Clinical-Community Psychology; licensure as a psychologist; experience with academic leadership; mature research program (preferably with history of extramural funding); university-level teaching record; years of academic experience commensurate with rank and leadership position; and current minimum academic rank of associate professor. Teaching and research responsibilities will be adjusted for time demands of the DCT position. **Application:** Questions should be directed to Christiane Brems, Ph.D., ABPP (afcb@uaa.alaska.edu; 907-786-1730). For details regarding the position and application process, see [www.uakjobs.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=70854](http://www.uakjobs.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=70854). UAF is an AA/EEO employer and educational institution.