

Draft Revision of the *Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists*

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Since the first adoption of the *Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists* in 1986, the Canadian Psychological Association has been committed to maintaining its relevance and responsiveness through regular review and revision. The first revision was adopted in 1991; the second revision in 2000. A third revision is currently underway and it is anticipated that a draft will be ready for broad circulation to the CPA membership and other psychology organizations in the fall of this year. Circulation of the draft will be accompanied by a request for comments and feedback.

Each review process has included a review of the ethics literature since the previous version of the *Code*, a review of all comments and inquiries regarding the *Code* that have come in to the CPA office, consultations with CPA members and other psychologist organizations that are using the *Code*, and consultations with international colleagues.

Feedback from the consultations carried out during the most recent review process indicates that there is strong support for the underlying philosophy of the *Code*, its emphasis on the aspirational, its ordering of and organization around the ethical principles, and its emphasis on ethical decision making. The most frequent suggestions for change related to updates to content regarding: (a) more emphasis on the non-rational aspects of ethical decision making; (b) how the *Code* applies to the use of technology; (c) how the *Code* relates to the increase in collaborative work and interdisciplinary teams; and (d) the need for more adaptation of the *Code* to issues regarding diversity and

globalization, including the multicultural nature of Canadian society, rural practice, international work, and the link between non-discrimination and social justice issues.

The Association's Committee on Ethics is currently hard at work on the draft that will be circulated in the fall. In addition to working on changes relating to the main consultation themes mentioned above, members of the Committee also are working on such changes as clarification of the concept of "client," updates consistent with the additions and changes made to the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans* developed by Canada's three major research funding councils, inclusion of the concept of "peoples" found in the CPA-endorsed *Universal Declaration of Ethical Principles for Psychologists* (as well as in the Australian and New Zealand ethics codes), and updates to the section on Care of Animals consistent with recent national and international work on this topic.

As with all previous versions of the *Code*, your comments and feedback about the draft to be circulated this fall are essential to ensuring that the *Code* is as helpful and relevant as possible to Canadian psychologists. The Committee will inform all CPA members of the availability of the draft so you can provide us with your ideas and feedback. Please take a look when it is released, and tell us what you think.

Invitation: If you have topics or issues that you would like to see covered in future Ethics Corner articles, please let us know by sending an email to ethicscttee@cpa.ca.



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