

7th World Congress for Psychotherapy: Psychotherapy meets Africa

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North America Report from Canada: World Council for Psychotherapy

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This report from Canada offers a brief overview of psychotherapy services provided in Canada with a particular focus on Indigenous Services provided for the Haudenosaunne, Leenape and Anishinabe Peoples of Southwestern Ontario. Each province provides regulatory practices which vary across the country. *The College of Psychologists of Ontario* is the governing body for registration of Psychologists as well as for Psychological Associates in Ontario where I reside in the Province of Ontario. The College is not a university, school or community college—its mandate “*is to protect your interests by monitoring and regulating the practices of Psychology.*”

I am a Professor Emerita from King’s University College, Western University in the area of Psychology. The University has three affiliated Colleges—King’s (Catholic), Huron (Anglican) and Brescia (Sisters of St. Joseph). Degrees are received from Western University. As a Registered Psychologist in Ontario, I provide psychological services for students at King’s University College in London, Western University. I initiated the development of Counselling Services for Students at Kings University College (including services for students with disabilities) as separate but connected to counselling services offered by Student Services at Western University. The university has three affiliated colleges—King’s University College (Catholic), Huron College (Anglican) and Brescia College (Sisters of St. Joseph). Also, I am on the Board of Directors as past-President Atlohso Native Family Healing Services and am Vice-President on the board of Directors for Southwestern Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC). In addition, I serve on the Board of Directors for the Ontario Native Women’s Association of Canada. In addition, I have had a private practice as a Psychologist in addition to the academic work—teaching and research.

In North America, Canada, we provide healing services for our Indigenous Peoples. In the region where I live and work we include services for the Anishinaabe, Leenape, and Haudenosaunee. Each of these three nations has practices, ceremonies and ways of being in the world that connect to Indigenous peoples from around the world, however, each area has distinctive ceremonial activities, rituals, and community practices. The Haudenosaunee people include six distinct but related peoples—the Cayuga, Onondaga, Seneca, Onyoto:aka, Mohawk, and Tuscarora.

I would like to draw attention to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) and our local community in southwestern Ontario which includes the Six Nations

comprising the Haudenosaunee peoples—Mohawk, Onyoto: aka, Cayuga, Onondaga, Seneca and Tuscarora of upstate New York and Canada. In London, Ontario we provide services for Indigenous Peoples through various organizations including Atlohsa Native Family Healing Services which has three sites—main office (Atlohsa) and a shelter for abused women (Zhaawanong), and the St. George Street transitional housing unit. Also, community services are provided by the Namerind Community Centre, and Southwestern Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC) which has expanded to include sites

- I. **Registered Psychologists**—The College of Psychologists of Ontario is the governing body for Psychologists and Psychological Associates in Ontario. The College is not a university, school or community college. Its mandate is to “*protect your interests by monitoring and regulating the practice of psychology*” (www.cpo.on.ca).
- II. **Registered Psychologists are required to have a PhD.** and meet requirements for the number of hours of supervision and to have successfully completed a written examination set by the College of Psychologists as well as an oral examination.
- III. **The College of Psychologists of Ontario establishes requirements** for entry into practice, administers oral and written registration examinations and sets and monitors standards and ethical behavior of the profession, and administers the Quality Assurance Program and ensures continued competence of the profession. In addition, it provides educational materials and information for the public and the profession re: the practice of psychology.
- IV. **Strategic direction 2011-2016 by the College of Psychologists of Ontario is to** promote excellence in the practice of psychology by a) enforcing standards; b) communicate clearly & effectively with stakeholders—particularly applicants, members and the public; c) support and assist members to meet high standards and to respond to changing needs in new and emerging practice areas; d) collaborate to shape regulatory environment and promote cohesiveness of the professional standards; and e) promote cohesiveness of the profession.
([http://www.cpo.on.ca/About the College.aspx](http://www.cpo.on.ca/About_the_College.aspx))