



NIAB
National Indigenous
Accreditation Board

MEDIA RELEASE

NIAB AND CASWE-ACFTS Mutually Honour Social Work Degrees

November 12, 2019 – Representatives from the National Indigenous Accreditation Board (NIAB) and the Canadian Association for Social Work Education – Association canadienne pour la formation en travail social (CASWE-ACFTS) met on Tsuut’ina territory on October 29, 2019 to sign an agreement that considers their accredited social work degrees as substantially equivalent. This agreement underlines the strengths of both parties’ accredited social work programs.



Agreement Signatories and Witnesses (left to right): Stéphane Grenier, President CASWE-ACFTS; Betty Bastien, President NIAB; Marceline Potts, Knowledge Keeper: Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation; Margaret Waterchief, Knowledge Keeper: Siksika Nation; and Mary Moonias, Knowledge Keeper: Louis Bull Tribe. These three Knowledge Keepers are members of a Council of Elders who have provided long-standing guidance throughout the many years of collaborative efforts leading to this groundbreaking signing event. Photo credit: Kendrick Three Suns, 2019

“Through this agreement we embody our shared responsibility to expand the education landscape to include the use of Indigenous knowledges in the advancement of relational practices which contribute to healthy communities and harmonious relationships,” explains Betty Bastien, President of NIAB. “As we move forward on this collaborative journey of mutual blessings, we will contribute to the reclamation of Indigenous languages, natural laws, and ways of being.”

“This is part of CASWE-ACFTS’ commitment to engage in the process of reconciliation and honour social work education programs that are developed by Indigenous Peoples, accredited by Indigenous bodies, and delivered by Indigenous institutions,” says Stéphane Grenier, President of CASWE-ACFTS. “It’s especially important because both parties are committed to ongoing dialogue and engaging in collaborative relations, including the mutual exchange of knowledge.”



After the signing ceremony, several guests remarked about the emotionally charged quality of the evening and expressed deep appreciation for being able to witness such a historic event. Photo Credit: Kendrick Three Suns, 2019

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