

June 21, 2016

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, P.C., M.P.
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
North Tower, 10 Wellington Street
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H4
InfoPubs@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca

Dear Minister Bennett:

On May 4th, 2016, the Canadian Evaluation Society (CES), through its Board of Directors, has taken a firm position regarding the importance of reconciliation and has committed to incorporating reconciliation in its values, principles, and practices. The following resolutions were adopted.

Whereas, The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) has released its findings, insights, conclusions and recommendations, on residential schools in Canada,

Whereas, Evidence of the colonial treatment of Aboriginal peoples in Canada is undeniable,

Whereas, The TRC Report defines reconciliation as "an ongoing process of establishing and maintaining respectful relationships",

Whereas, The TRC Report includes Calls to Action where all Canadians are asked to take part in a reconciliation movement to build and restore the relationship between Aboriginal and non- Aboriginal peoples in Canada,

Whereas, The TRC Report recommends monitoring, assessment, and reporting on several aspects of Aboriginal health, welfare, and education as well as progress on reconciliation,

Whereas, Among other roles, evaluators document history, assess progress as well as shape the future,

Whereas, The CES has included attending to issues of diversity and culture as one of its competencies for Canadian evaluators,

Whereas, The CES has adopted the JCSEE evaluation standards as its own and said standards include culture as well as human rights and respect, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the notion of reconciliation be included in the existing CES value of inclusiveness and that the CES make a public statement to that effect,

Resolved, That, as part of its next competency scheme review, the CES include reconciliation explicitly,

The Canadian Evaluation Society

Initiating its activities in 1980, the Canadian Evaluation Society is the oldest professional association focussed on evaluation in the world; it is dedicated to the advancement of evaluation theory and practice. Evaluation is the systematic assessment of the design, implementation or results of an initiative for the purposes of learning or decision-making. Evaluation assists effective decisions, balanced judgements, and evidence-based conclusions. Evaluation supports both program and project improvement and accountability, ultimately contributing to organizational and societal value.

Resolved, That the CES strengthen its promotion of and support for culturally responsive evaluation, and

Resolved, That the Diversity Working Group supports the CES in implementing consideration for reconciliation in its activities.

Because the CES as a professional association is closely involved in supporting practitioners of evaluation in delivering rigorous knowledge in support of federal ministers' letters of mandate and because of the crucial importance of the values of respect and reconciliation in the practice of evaluation, the CES will be actively pursuing action to include these values in its strategies, plans, and activities. We hope that other professional associations in Canada will follow our lead.

Yours sincerely,



Benoît Gauthier, President

cc: The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P., Prime Minister of Canada, 80 Wellington Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2