

**THE FIRST NATIONS WELLNESS/ADDICTIONS COUNSELLOR CERTIFICATION BOARD
LAUNCHES ITS 2010 CANADA-WIDE APPLICATION CALL FOR INDIGENOUS CERTIFIED
ADDICTIONS SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION**

Vancouver, January 4, 2010 – As the first Indigenous Certification Board focusing on the professional certification of First Nations, Metis and Inuit Wellness and addictions counsellors in Canada, the First Nations Wellness/Addictions Counsellor Certification Board is launching its first 2010 application call for Indigenous Certified Addictions Specialist.

Believing that it is important that standards for Indigenous Certified Addictions Specialists be established by First Nations, and after 20 years of perseverance, the Association of BC First Nations Treatment Programs sought out funding to establish an independent society for the certification process. Today this independent society is known as the First Nations Wellness/Addictions Counsellor Certification Board (FNWACCB).

The mission of the FNWACCB is to provide relevant certification and access to training that is specific to traditional First Nations healing philosophy. The FNWACCB certification process is one way to ensure that Addiction specialists have and maintain the special skills and knowledge needed to work effectively within the First Nations Communities, thus insuring that they continue to provide the best and most appropriate services to clients.

The professional certification standards of the FNWACCB constitutes an important step to ensure the continuation of First Nations Wellness and Addiction Programs and provides a measure of competence which will be recognized far beyond the First Nations. An Indigenous Certified Addictions Specialist may be certified for three levels of knowledge and competence: ICAS I, ICAS II, and ICAS III.

The FNWACCB offers certification on a national level, with 234 certified counsellors from all regions of Canada, with a further 136 applications in review. Our 2010 goal is to increase the number of NNADAP certified counsellors, as well as to seek applications from other First Nations, Inuit, Metis and non aboriginal wellness/addictions practitioners. We will continue to relate our work to Provincial, Federal, National, and International endeavours, thus making certain that Indigenous Certified Addictions Specialists are on par with their peers internationally.

To respond to the 2010 application call for certification as an Indigenous Certified Addictions Specialist, contact the FNWACCB Registrar by mail or e-mail to request an application package, or download the Certification Application package from the FNWACCB website.

First Nations Wellness/Addictions
Counsellor Certification Board
401 - 1638 E Broadway
Vancouver, B.C.
V5N 1W1
Phone: (604) 874-1209
Email: records@fnwaccb.ca
Web site: <http://www.fnwaccb.ca>

or contact: Donald Prince, Executive Director
Phone: 250-996-1763
Email: donald@fnwaccb.ca