

# CASW CODE OF ETHICS (2005)

## SOCIAL WORK CODE OF ETHICS

Ethical behaviour is at the core of every profession. On the occasion of National Social Work Week 2005, the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) adopted a new Code of Ethics and published Guidelines for Ethical Practice to serve as a companion document to the Code.

The Social Work Code of Ethics was last issued in 1994. In light of new developments and new forms of practice, it has now been revised following extensive consultation with key stakeholders and experts.

The purpose of the Code of Ethics is to set forth values and principles to guide social workers' professional conduct. While a code of ethics cannot guarantee ethical behaviour it guides social workers as they act in good faith and with a genuine desire to make sound decisions.

The Code of Ethics identifies core social work values, and the principles which underlie those values. The identified core values are:

Value 1: Respect for Inherent Dignity and Worth of Persons

Value 2: Pursuit of Social Justice

Value 3: Service to Humanity

Value 4: Integrity of Professional Practice

Value 5: Confidentiality in Professional Practice

Value 6: Competence in Professional Practice

Accompanying the Code of Ethics is Guidelines for Ethical Practice which provides guidance on ethical practice by applying the values and principles in the Code to common areas of social work practice.

In Canada, each province and territory is responsible for regulating the professional conduct of social workers to ensure the protection of the public. Regulatory bodies may choose to adopt this Code of Ethics or use it as a basis for evaluating professional conduct.

Canadian Association of Social Workers, March 31, 2005

Link to full *CASW Code of Ethics* document

[http://casw-acts.ca/sites/default/files/attachements/CASW\\_Code%20of%20Ethics.pdf](http://casw-acts.ca/sites/default/files/attachements/CASW_Code%20of%20Ethics.pdf)