

## ***REPORT FOR CERTIFICATION BOARD***

### **Introduction:**

My name is Donna Charles, and I am in my final year of completing the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Child and Youth Care. This program is being delivered at Grant MacEwan College in conjunction with Malaspina University-College. I hold a Diploma in Child and Youth Care (formerly the Youth Development Program) from Grant MacEwan and I am also a full Certified Child and Youth Care Worker.

When I first became aware of the Association undertaking the revision of the Certification program, I was very interested and put my name forward to sit on the Certification Development Committee. I was very excited when I received notice that I had been accepted to sit on the committee to tackle this huge undertaking and am pleased to relay that I was part of the history in changing the face of Certification to meet the needs and trends that were emerging at that time. It is from this standpoint and from this experience that I am presenting this report to support what I am about to propose.

I would first like to share on a personal level my thoughts and feelings with regards to the field of CYC and Certification. I consider myself a professional regardless of the absence of the legislation to qualify this. In my role as a supervisor, I actively seek to recruit individuals that have the same philosophy and attitude around professionalism. I encourage and support staff to pursue Certification as I believe that this is the ultimate demonstration of a truly professional Child and Youth Care Practitioner. And for this reason, I jumped at the opportunity to tackle this pilot project to produce a learning resource for other CYC Practitioners to successfully undergo the certification process as my final practicum. It is only through the vision of another professional (my mentor through this process) who sees value in taking this field to another level and one step further to full professional recognition that this idea was realized. My passion for the work I do and this cause along with my unwavering commitment in supporting the need for every CYC Practitioner to be fully certified prompted me to take this risk.

In speaking and listening to other CYC Practitioners and more so non certified workers including supervisors, an alarmingly high number do not endorse or encourage staff to undergo the process. Those that want to but are hesitant state that it is because they find it hard to find the materials or that finding the material is time consuming and still some find the process intimidating. People often ask, "What's in it for me?" This mentality can change if Certification is no longer regarded as a mystery that cannot be solved.

The proposed learning web is introduced as a basis for understanding and seeing the value of Certification as opposed to jumping through hoops to satisfy or to grudgingly meet agency expectations. Potential candidates will have a reference point to begin the process of studying and preparing for Certification. This format will be based on workers supporting workers to attain a higher level of work performance and a conscious application of skills based on learning. The information is not presented as the sole source that is needed to becoming certified rather that it is a guideline of some resources that can be considered.

The purpose of this project is to provide CYC Practitioners with resources and information that may be helpful in preparing for certification. Group B questions 1, 2 and 3 were selected from the Certification Manual as a starting point. The intent is that this information will be posted on the CYCAA website in the form of a learning web.

The student's interest in this project came about as a practicum opportunity along with the aforementioned reasons expressed in the previous page and once approved the following were established;

- Discussions and agreement on what groups would be worked on
- Parameters around what information was needed to be included
- Medium for researching information/resources
- Timelines
- Completion of a report and/or presentation to the Certification Board
- Submission of the final product

Learning goals were established and discussed with the practicum supervisor and educational supervisor and ongoing contacts occurred between the student and practicum supervisor who acted as both a resource and support for the student.

#### Rationale for this Learning Web

- CYC Practitioners expressing a need for materials that's easily accessible
- To have a variety of resource information that can be expanded upon and tailored to specific services offered in the CYC sector
- To increase practitioners interest in pursuing certification
- To offer more services for Association members
- This system is fairly open ended, as it allows individuals to determine how to proceed with responding to their chosen areas
- This will allow other workers to share and pool resources

#### Recommendations

- That this compilation be posted on the CYCAA website as a learning resource for individuals preparing for certification
- The structure of this project be open to additions from other sources/workers in the field