

# **Society for Research in Child Development Indigenous Caucus**

## **BYLAWS**

(Submitted )

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## **Article I: Name and Mission**

### **1.1 Name of the Society**

The organization will be known as the Indigenous Caucus (IC) of the Society for Research on Child Development (SRCD). "Indigenous" is inclusive of all people inhabiting or existing in a land from the earliest times or from before the arrival of colonizers world-wide.

### **1.2 Mission Statement**

The mission of IC is to advocate for the well-being of Indigenous peoples and to advance knowledge pertaining to Indigenous developmental science.

### **1.3 Purpose of the Society**

The purpose of IC is to:

- a) Create a forum in which IC members can network and support each other.
- b) Provide outreach and mentorship to Indigenous developmental science, education, and public health students.
- c) Advance the understanding of the development of Indigenous children.
- d) Further the development of research methods and models of treatment and intervention that are ethically and culturally appropriate for Indigenous people.
- e) Contribute to the scientific understanding of features of ethnicity, culture and class among Indigenous people.
- f) Promote adequate education and training related to Indigenous people.
- g) Facilitate a professional exchange concerning relevant policy, practice, and research related to Indigenous people at the annual SRCD convention and beyond.

## **Article II: Membership**

### **2.1 Membership Criteria**

IC membership is open to individuals who subscribe to the Mission Statement, including Indigenous developmental scientists, educators, and other child development professionals and trainees, and others interested in advocating for Indigenous developmental science.

### **2.2 Application for Membership**

Individuals who wish to join IC can complete a membership application at the current SRCD website.

### **2.3 Membership Dues**

Membership dues are established by SRCD. IC members in good standing must be current on their annual SRCD and IC membership dues and have provided an up-to-date email address for communication purposes.

## **2.4 Membership Rights & Responsibilities**

IC members, in good standing, have the right to vote in IC elections, and to subscribe to the IC listserv. IC members are responsible for working collaboratively to strengthen IC, including providing an updated email address. IC members should not engage in any activities that harm other IC members or those served by the SRCD, put IC in structural or financial jeopardy, or bring discredit to IC.

## **2.5 Removal from Membership**

If the Governing Council determines that specific IC members have violated their responsibilities, their membership may be revoked. Such individuals will be removed from IC's active membership list.

# **Article III: Governing Council and Officers**

## **3.1 Composition of Governing Council**

There shall be an Governing Council consisting of the chair Trio (chair, Past chair, and chair Elect), Treasurer, Secretary, Council of Elders, Student Representative, and ad hoc appointed committee Chairs as determined by the Elected Officers (e.g., Conference Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, Awards Committee Chair, Mentorship Committee Chair). Only the Elected Officers will vote on official IC business (when formal votes are deemed necessary).

## **3.2 Election and Term of Office**

IC Officers are elected through a biennial vote by IC members that corresponds with the SRCD biennial meeting, in which a simple majority vote among those voting wins the election. Officers will officially take office at the end of the biennial meeting of the IC in the year in which they were elected and serve for two years.

For the transition from steering committee to governing council (corresponding with 2025 biennial meeting) a call for nominations will be solicited via email within two months of the business meeting. Nominations will be considered by the steering committee who will arrange for the ballots to be distributed to the IC via email. The results of the election will be shared with the IC and it is expected that the first Governing Council will be established by August 1, 2025 and serve until the next SRCD biennial meeting in 2027.

Starting with the 2027 biennial meeting, nominations will be invited from IC membership for any open elected officer positions of chair chair, chair elect, secretary, treasurer, and student representative. The invitation will be sent via email approximately six months prior to the biennial meeting (i.e., **Sept 1st**) and shall specify the return of suggestions to the governing council not later than four months prior to the approximate date of the biennial meeting (i.e., **Nov 1st**). Voting will take place at the biennial meeting until such time as a formal Membership and Nominations committee exists. Vacancies will be filled by appointment by the Chair Trio until the following election.

## **3.3 Removal and Resignation of Officers**

An Elected Officer may be removed from office when the membership holds "no confidence" for the office holder. The decision for removal will be made by a simple majority vote of the Governing Council in the Executive session. Elected Officers may resign from office by sending a letter or email

of resignation to the chair and/or Secretary.

### **3.4 Chair**

The chair shall provide leadership and preside at Governing Council meetings. The chair will also represent IC at meetings where such presence is necessary. The chair may delegate these duties to the Past chair, chair Elect or another member. The Governing Council may designate further duties to the chair to meet the demands of the Caucus.

### **3.5 Past Chair**

The Past chair shall advise the chair of the duties and responsibilities of the Office of the chair, and perform other duties delegated by the chair or requested by the Governing Council.

### **3.6 Chair Elect**

The chair Elect shall assume the office of the chair at the end of a two-year term, and perform other duties delegated by the chair or requested by the Governing Council in the interim.

### **3.7 Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall supervise the financial affairs of the Society, prepare a report on IC finances at least twice a year, and perform other duties as directed by the Governing Council.

### **3.8 Secretary**

The Secretary shall record the minutes of the meetings of the Society, share minutes with the Governing Council, schedule and convene meetings, and perform other duties as directed by the Governing Council. If unavailable for a specific meeting, the Secretary will request another Governing Council member to perform their duties.

### **3.9 Student Representatives**

Student Representatives shall have the responsibility to represent Student members' interests as a part of the Governing Council, to plan student activities for the SRCDC conference, and to attend the Governing Council meetings.

### **3.10 Council of Elders**

The Council of Elders is composed of previous IC chairs. The Council of Elders serves as an advisory group for the Chair Trio and the Governing Council. They hold an honored role as keepers of the IC's history and maintenance of the cultural integrity of traditional governance. The Council of Elders recognizes that there are different traditions for different Indigenous groups and works together in respectful ways to reach decisions in everyone's best interest.

## **Article IV: Meetings**

### **4.1 General Membership Meetings**

General Membership Meetings will be convened twice annually (typically in May/June) and during the winter months (typically in January). We will also hold meetings at the SRCD biennial conference.

### **4.2 Governing Council Meetings**

The Governing Council will meet monthly or as needed.

## **Article V: Committees**

### **5.1: Standing Committees**

The Governing Council will work to establish Standing Committees of the Caucus that may include a Bylaws Committee, Membership and Nominations Committee, Mentoring Committee, and the Awards Committee.

### **5.2 Special Committees & Task Forces**

The chair and Governing Council may establish time limited Special Committees or Task Forces for specific, temporary purposes beyond the purview of existing committees. Such committees shall conduct their work in consultation with the chair and Governing Council.

### **5.3 Committee Reports**

All committees will report on their activities to the chair and/or Governing Council no less than twice annually. Some committee chairs may be asked to report on their committee's activities at General Membership Meetings.

## **Article VI: Non-Discrimination**

### **6.1 Caucus Policy**

IC is committed to providing an environment that is free from discrimination based on race, color, religion, creed, national origin, veteran status, ancestry, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or age. Concerns can be reported to the Governing Council for assessment and remedy.

## **Article VII: Bylaw Amendments**

### **7.1 Proposing Bylaw Amendments**

Amendments to the IC Bylaws may be proposed by members of the Governing Council. Membership at large may also submit proposed changes to the Chair Trio for review and comments, which will then be forwarded to the Governing Council and the Council of Elders. The Governing Council may then provide comments to the Bylaws Committee.

## **7.2 Review of Proposed Bylaw Amendments**

The Bylaws Committee will review the proposed amendments and make recommendations to the Governing Council, who will make the final decision to reject the amendments or to submit the proposed amendments to a vote of the general membership. Rejected proposals will not move forward.

## **7.3 Voting on Bylaw Amendments**

Proposals deemed acceptable by the Governing Council will be submitted to IC membership for a vote, which requires support from a two-thirds majority of participating voting members to pass. Proposed Bylaw amendments should be circulated to the general membership at least six weeks prior to the annual IC election. If this is not feasible, then voting will occur at the subsequent election.