

In preparation for our EC meeting the following information is provided for your consideration. In addition to our usual EC membership we hope to hear from some of our elders and our special guests invited because of their experience in APA governance. Our time is limited to the sixty minutes as another standing meeting is scheduled for the next hour. We will record the session for those unable to participate and we are accepting written comments that will be shared with this group. Once again our EC meeting is in the afternoon of March 19th at 1 Pacific 2 Mountain 3 Central 4 Eastern.

The primary question:

Should the Society of Indian Psychologists agree to be voting members of the American Psychological Association?

The history:

The American Psychological Association (APA) has spent over 10 years in efforts to allow the National Ethnic Minority Association Psychological Associations (EMPAs) voting seats on the APA Council of Representatives (CoR). CoR is the governing body of APA where representatives from each APA division, state associations and regional associations have a vote with respect to the governance of APA.

During the past years the EMPAs attended CoR meetings as delegates or ambassadors from their respective organizations. They were permitted to attend the meetings, state concerns, concurrence or disagreements with issues of importance to their constituents. The EMPA delegates also attended the special interest Caucus meetings held during CoR meetings and can participate as members in those particular meetings. They may also join in the governing body of each caucus if they pay the caucus dues.

Now CoR and APA members have voted to allow the EMPA delegates to become voting members of CoR. This gives us a vote with our voice with APA that could be an important step in the relationship between Indigenous psychologists in the United States and Canada with APA. It also requires that we consider all sides of the question.

Quote from APA leadership:

"APA does not seek a pledge from its voting Council of Representatives members, but it is a requirement under DC (and other states') nonprofit law that each council member is a fiduciary and owes their primary allegiance and loyalty to APA when participating in and voting on APA matters. APA also has a Council rule on conflicts of interest addressing duality of interests, a conflict of interest policy, and requests that each voting Council member complete a conflict of interest attestation form. See <https://www.apa.org/about/offices/ogc/conflict-of-interest.pdf> If a voting member feels that they have a conflicting duty to another organization (or individual) and that they cannot vote in good faith in APA's best interests, they can abstain from voting."

The questions we must discuss (answer) are:

1. What does it mean to become a voting member of APA?
2. Do we consider this giving up our sovereignty as an independent psychological association and becoming part of APA?
3. Do we remain independent and continue to send delegates to APA?
4. Do we accept the voting seat in APA?

Thank you colleagues,
Iva, Joe, Gayle