



Horticultural Therapy Professional Code of Ethics

This document applies to all individuals who are practicing within the field of Horticultural Therapy (HT) &/or Therapeutic Horticulture (TH) in Canada, &/or are applying HT/TH methods to their work, regardless of title or designation.

Please respect and help uphold our professional standards.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the Horticultural Therapy Professional Code of Ethics please contact chair@chta.ca.

Land Acknowledgement and Environmental Stewardship

As professionals who partner with the land, plants, and wide spectrum of nature to accomplish our work, we are committed to acknowledging traditional territories, as well as respecting and applying honourable harvesting and stewardship practices in all that we do.

A professional shall make their best effort to collaborate with local indigenous nations, to learn the traditional best practices and protocol, and to ensure that any professional practices demonstrate care and respect for land we are working, playing, and gardening with.

Responsibilities

A professional's prime responsibility is to the client served:

- To provide a safe and appropriate environment
- To provide an appropriate intervention dependent upon assessment
- To provide an intervention which is monitored and measured

Documentation

Policy, procedure, goals, objectives, assessments, interventions, and outcomes shall be documented in accordance with employer policies and/or professional best practices. Client information shall be confidential and shall not be used for unethical purposes or personal advantage.

Any photos of participants can only be used with expressed, informed written consent. There must be a clear understanding of how and where the photos will be used.

Misrepresentation

The professional shall provide no misrepresentation regarding information relating to the profession and practice of horticultural therapy. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of professional titles/designations, terminology, and standards, as established by the CHTA.

Endorsements

The professional shall refrain from endorsing any product or service related to the practice of horticultural therapy without having made an objective assessment of those goods or services.

Professional Competence

A professional shall demonstrate the highest possible level of professional skill gained through education and experience in horticultural therapy by demonstrating integrity, reliability, sound clinical judgment, and professional decorum.

A professional shall be professionally responsible for services rendered by the professional or by other personnel including students who are under his/her/their direct supervision.

A professional shall be aware that client welfare depends on the capacity of all professional personnel to integrate their efforts.

The professional shall demonstrate the spirit of cooperation and encourage collaboration with other professionals in planning and providing client care.

The professional shall only work within his/her/their scope of practice and area of professional competency. Professionals shall make other professionals and personnel aware of his/her/their skills and experience within the field of HT/TH.

The professional shall inform and work with other personnel, affiliated professionals, and caregivers to clarify and establish the role that HT/TH plays for the individual(s), groups, and/or organization being served.

The professional shall be responsible to the profession and to the employer.