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ICCA Calls for Rigorous Identity Verification for Indigenous Designated Roles and Funding

In light of recent public concerns regarding the authenticity of individuals claiming Indigenous identity, the Indigenous Curatorial Collective (ICCA) calls on all organizations, governments, and academic institutions to implement robust identity verification processes. It is essential to ensure that any applicant seeking Indigenous-designated funding, positions, board appointments, or artistic roles can adequately demonstrate their Indigeneity with appropriate documentation.

The ICCA strongly recommends the use of the **Indigenous Protocols document**—a comprehensive resource developed with the support of a full Indigenous Advisory Group and funding from CARFAC National. This document provides a clear and culturally respectful framework for requesting proof of identity and should be considered a primary reference in these matters.

The issue of identity fraud, often referred to as the 'Pretendian' problem, poses a significant threat to the integrity of Indigenous communities and the equitable distribution of resources intended for Indigenous peoples. However, the ICCA recognizes the complexities surrounding identity verification, particularly for those impacted by the Sixties Scoop, adoption, and the devastating legacy of the residential school system. We are sensitive to these contexts and acknowledge that there is much work to be done to create a fair and inclusive approach.

We urge all entities involved in appointing individuals to Indigenous-specific roles or allocating Indigenous-designated resources to take proactive steps. This includes asking the necessary questions and requiring documentation that confirms the individual's connection to their Indigenous community. Utilizing the Indigenous Protocols document can provide a roadmap for organizations to navigate these sensitive issues thoughtfully and effectively.

The ICCA is committed to fostering a transparent and equitable environment where the rightful members of Indigenous communities are recognized and supported. We believe that by taking these actions, we can collectively strengthen the integrity of our institutions and ensure that Indigenous identities are honored and protected.

For further information or to obtain a copy of the Indigenous Protocols document, please contact:

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