

# **CUC Code of Ethics**

## **for Adults & Older Youth Working with Children and Youth**

*- adapted from the UUA Chrysalis Training Program's Code of Ethics*

Adults and older youth working in leadership roles are in a position of power over and stewardship of youth and children. Adults and older youth also play a key role in fostering the spiritual development of both individuals and the community. It is, therefore, especially important that those in leadership positions be well qualified to provide the special nurture, care, and support that will enable children and youth to develop a positive sense of self and a spirit of independence and responsibility.

The relationship between youth and their leaders must be one of mutual respect if positive potential is to be realized. The areas of growth in one's self-worth and in the development of a healthy identity as a sexual being are very important parts of childhood and adolescent development. Adults play a key role in assisting children and youth in these areas of growth.

Research indicates that children, youth, adults and communities suffer damaging effects when leaders or those in positions of power and authority become romantically and or sexually involved with young persons in their care.

Therefore leaders will refrain from engaging in sexual, seductive, or erotic behaviour with children and youth. Neither shall they engage in sexually explicit conversations (unless it is part of the program i.e. OWL), particularly any of a personal nature, sexually harass or engage in behavior with children or youth that constitutes verbal, emotional or physical abuse.

All leaders shall be informed of this code of ethics and asked to agree to it before assuming their role as a staff or volunteer in any program involving children and youth which are sponsored regionally or nationally by the Canadian Unitarian Council.

In cases of violation of this code at CUC sponsored events, where further action is deemed necessary following due process of the Conference Affairs Committee (or designated group), appropriate action will be taken by the CUC staff (and Board as required) in consultation with the event's leadership and organizing team.

### **All participants 18 years of age and older or in leadership roles MUST sign:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ have read and understand the above statements of position, expectations, and actions of the *CUC Code of Ethics for Adults and Older Youth Working with Children and Youth*. I agree to follow this code of ethics and abide by CUC policies.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date