



SASW Annual General Meeting & Provincial Conference

Annual General Meeting

The SASW Annual General Meeting was held in Saskatoon on April 23, 2008, with approximately 75 registered members attending. Highlights of this meeting included the approval of:

- the revised Vision and Mission Statements,
- the new Values & Principles Statements,
- fee increases for 2009 through 2011, and
- the 2008 budget.

The slate of officers for 2008 was approved as well. The SASW Council for 2008/9 is:

Jim Walls (North Battleford), President
Debra Wiszniak (Regina), Past President
Joyce Reid (Regina), Treasurer
Myrna Pitzel (Regina), Secretary
Members at Large: Susan Luedtke, Prince Albert
Victoria Walton, Saskatoon
Hazel Berg, Melfort
Public Representative: Doug Stewart, Regina

The CASW National Social Work Distinguished Service Award was presented to Tom Seeley (Yorkton), the SASW Distinguished Service Award was presented to Nadine Campbell (Saskatoon) and the SASW Student Scholarship was presented to Pamela Vorstermans-Agar (Saskatoon). Following the presentation of the awards, there was a reception which provided a fine opportunity for congratulations to be offered to the recipients of the awards and to connect with colleagues.

Provincial Conference Highlights

Nancy McConkey, a leading authority in Canada on solution-focused skills training, presented her 1 1/2-day workshop on solution-focused counselling. Throughout the workshop, Nancy emphasized the importance of



Nancy McConkey (left) and Darlene Chalmers, conference planning committee.

finding strengths in the situations and circumstances that people experience, and to build on these strengths in assisting and motivating people to bring about change.

continued on page 3

SASW COUNCIL

President: Jim Walls, North Battleford
 Past President: Debra Wiszniak, Regina
 Public Representative: Doug Stewart, Regina
 Treasurer: Joyce Reid, Regina
 Secretary: Myrna Pitzel, Regina
 Members at Large: Susan Luedtke, Prince Albert
 Victoria Walton, Saskatoon
 Hazel Berg, Melfort

SASW COMMITTEE CHAIRS/APPOINTMENTS:

Registrar: Bill Tingley, Regina
 CASW Board Member: Marlene Chatterson, Saskatoon
 Senate Representative: Grace Jasper, Regina
 Standards of Practice: Bernadette Holzer, Saskatoon
 Professional Conduct: Carol Bryant, Regina
 Discipline Resource: Terri Woods, Saskatoon
 Social Policy: Judy White (Saskatoon) and Kirk Englot (Regina)
 Education: Ray Pekrul, Regina
 Public Relations: Roxane Schury, Saskatoon
 Practice Ethics: Joann Schenn (Prince Albert) and Marcia Clark (Saskatoon)
 Legislative Review: Geoff Pawson, Regina
 Psychologists Act Task Team: Vacant
 Volunteer Development: Tom Seeley, Yorkton
 Scholarship Task Team: Marlene Glettler, Regina
 Health Care Task Team: Wanda Miller, Weyburn
 Mentorship: Vacant
 Aboriginal Social Workers Task Team: Hazel Berg, Melfort

SASW BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES:

Regina: Dianne Allen
 Saskatoon: Erin Scriven
 Prince Albert: Charlene Cameron
 Northeast Branch: Lucie Dmyterko, Nipawin
 Swift Current: Patti Wilson
 Yellowhead East: Kendra Sedley
 Battlefords: Brenda Zulynik
 Moose Jaw: Leann Keach

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- **ADVOCATE** for **SOCIAL JUSTICE**
- **PROMOTE** the **PROFESSION**
- **REGULATE** the **PROFESSION**
- **SUPPORT** for **ETHICAL PRACTISE**

SASW Annual General Meeting & Provincial Conference, cont.

The workshop format allowed for small group discussion and didactic role play. Nancy was able to share her passion for and commitment to working within a solution-focused model and framework. She was also able to illustrate theory and concepts by not only providing many examples from her own work as a social worker and family therapist, but also by making links to the many areas of practice represented by conference participants. At the conference end, participants received certificates indicating completion of Level I Certification in Solution-Focused Counselling.

The annual conference was well attended with approximately 155 participants taking the opportunity to develop and enhance their practice knowledge, and to connect with other participants. Nancy made copies of her book available for purchase, and Peter from Turning the Tide Bookstore in Saskatoon set up his mobile bookstore for both days providing workshop attendees with the opportunity to peruse or purchase from his collection of social work related titles. Many conference participants took advantage of the evening dinner at TCU Place, which was accompanied by a string quartet of four very talented young women from Saskatoon. Post dinner activity options included The Phantom of the

Opera performance, and the SASW President's Social hosted by president Jim Walls at the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel.

Submitted by:
Darlene Chalmers, MSW, RSW (Sask.)
Chair, Conference Planning Committee

Klaus Gruber Recognized



Former Executive Director of SASW Klaus Gruber, Saskatoon, was awarded the Anglican Award of Merit, the highest award for lay people, for his work with refugees, in a presentation by the Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church in Canada at St. John's Cathedral in Saskatoon on April 6, 2008.

Photo by: Peter R. Coolen



CTRI provides professional training and consulting services for individuals, communities and organizations affected by or involved in working with issues of crisis and trauma.

SELF-HARM BEHAVIOUR IN YOUTH - ISSUES AND STRATEGIES

Self-harm can be difficult for loved ones and people in the helping field to understand. This workshop will assist participants in understanding the experience and motivations of adolescents who intentionally injure themselves. In addition, the course will provide practical strategies for working with youth struggling with this complex issue. Participants will leave this workshop with increased insight regarding self-harm behaviour in youth and direction for effective interventions.

Saskatchewan Public Workshops

Saskatoon

October 23, 2008

Prince Albert

October 24, 2008

Regina

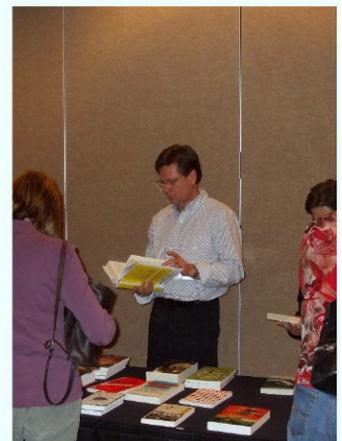
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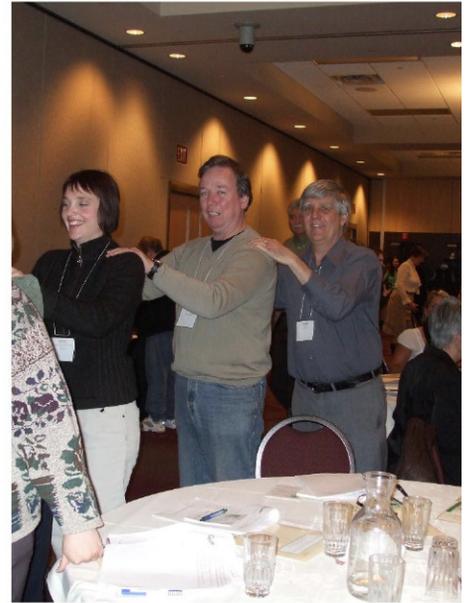
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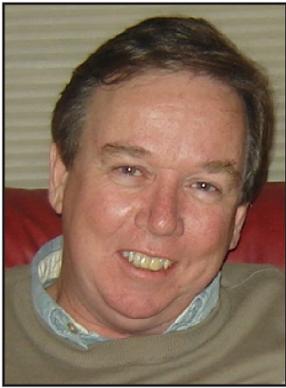


SASW AGM & Conference Pictures





President's Message



I must confess I assumed the Presidency of the SASW with more than a little trepidation. Over the years I have been involved in the Association, I have met some remarkable social workers; remarkable in their professional skills and knowledge; their commitment to their communities; their patience and endurance in the face of

obstacles; and their ability to bring people together to pursue common goals. The quality of the people who make up the social work community in Saskatchewan might cause me to wonder whether I am up to the task of leading their professional organization. It is fortunate that SASW has a clear Mission and Vision, newly minted and approved by the members. It has an enormous resource of members who care and are willing to be a part of ensuring that it stays true to its Mission and brings the Vision closer to reality. Those are pretty important elements for a successful organization. They are also important resources for the leadership of SASW. For me, leadership means bringing together the most committed, determined, high quality people and finding ways to have them best use their art and skills. I am very clear that for many, SASW is a very important part of their professional identity, and that they care deeply about it.

I am very grateful for the support and guidance offered to me by the now Past President, Debra Wiszniak, over the past. I have come to understand that the job of President is complex, continual and not without its frustrations. At the same time, Debra has demonstrated the determination to move our agenda forward and remain faithful to our values and principles. She has earned, and deserves our thanks for the leadership she has provided over the past two years. I look forward to leaning on her experience and counsel in the weeks ahead.

Maureen Kraemer has served on council for many years and accepted the role of secretary in her last last term. The Council and Advisory Board are very grateful for Maureen's substantial contributions to SASW and trust that she will continue to have her familiar positive and insightful influence on the organization.

There are many challenges that lie ahead for SASW. "Creating a Culture of Ethical Excellence" will provide training related to the Code of Ethics for all SASW members and many others over the next four years. This is

material that sits at the very centre of our professional lives, and I believe it will be a great opportunity to explore and discuss ethics with our partners and colleagues.

We need to reach out to those working in the community of aboriginal agencies who are not currently involved in SASW. There is much we have to learn from those providing professional service to First Nations and aboriginal people and there is also much we can offer in terms of support and service.

We continue to pursue legislative changes focused on scope of practice and mandatory registration as well as ensuring that qualified social workers can practice and be registered in all parts of the country. We continue to hone our skills as an organization to most effectively advocate for and influence matters of social justice and political policy making that affect the people of Saskatchewan and most particularly those who are most vulnerable.

Members at the Annual General Meeting made it clear that there is deep concern about what appears to be a trend in social policy in the province. SASW must be relied upon to reflect and enunciate, and act upon the Values and Principles it adopted at the AGM. I do not consider these statements to be window dressing. Rather, I see them as standards which we should apply to all our decisions and actions.

Balance is important in all things. SASW has a mandate made up of four distinct but interrelated functions: to regulate, to advocate, to promote and to serve. I have learned that there are members who have particular skills, knowledge and interests in each of these areas. Committees have immersed themselves in the philosophical and technical aspects of these functions and all serve the Association well. My thanks to Committee Chairs and members who do the important work of SASW. It will be your leadership's job to ensure that balance is maintained among these functions and that each is provided the resources and supports it needs,

In this, my first report as your President, I am going to ask for a few things. I ask that those of you who are currently engaged in the work of SASW at the Branch, Committee or Council level to accept my thanks and my hope that you will continue and renew your commitment. To those who have not yet become engaged or who have stepped back for a time, I ask you to consider how you might participate in the life and work of SASW, in any way that you can. I look forward to working on your behalf.

*Submitted by:
Jim Walls, MSW, RSW (Sask.)*

Executive Director's Message



In the early pages of this newsletter you have seen some profiling of the Annual General Meeting and the Provincial Conference that was held in Saskatoon from April 22 to April 24. It takes a great deal of planning and effort to prepare for these events, and I want to thank everyone who assisted in any way to set the events on their

way. I was able to stay for the entire conference to enjoy Nancy McConkey's presentation.

As you would be aware from the last newsletter and from the enclosure with your Annual General Meeting package, the survey on the Quality of Work Life for social workers is currently available for your participation. If you go to the SASW website and click on the icon right at the bottom of the main menu, you'll be taken directly to the survey. Please take the time to participate—if you do, you will be joining social workers from across Canada in establishing a picture of work in our profession. This survey will be available to you until June 30, after which we will have the results analysed and a report prepared. Our report will then join those from other jurisdictions and CASW will participate in the development of a national report. It is anticipated that both our local report and the national one will be useful in a number of ways.

A revised version of the SASW Action Plan was presented at the meeting of Advisory Board on June 13. It captures the 34 objectives that received priority at the January 2007 strategic planning workshop and sets out the times by which it is expected this work will be completed. Should you wish to have a look, the new version is available on our website under the tab, "Council/Committee/Branch Information". Already, some very good work has been undertaken and the report shows that progress. It will be useful for Council as it prepares for its annual planning day later in August.

There have been some recent questions on how it is that one stays connected to the Association while on leave from active practice. At the end of calendar 2007, of our 1260 registered members, 159 were in the "non-practicing" registration category. The annual fee for this category is \$82. As you may know, for the coming registration year, the category of registration is usually established by the work status of a member on December 1. In matters of family leave, the registrar

can adjust the period for which the non-practicing fee is applied to suit the circumstances. A key thing to keep in mind is that it is clearly to your benefit to remain connected during a period where you are not in active practice, especially where the period exceeds one year. As you may know, reinstatement is possible during the first year after your registration lapses, by filing the required documentation, paying the applicable registration fee and a \$50 administration fee. Should you exceed one year after your registration has lapsed, the requirement is that you file the same application as would a new applicant, plus you would be required to pay the \$50 administration fee. This means that you would have to meet the existing set of requirements for new applicants which include:

- Application form
- Criminal records check
- Reference letter
- Resume
- Document showing the conferring of your social work credential, sent directly to SASW from the institution that awarded the credential
- The appropriate registration fee

Last month, Jim Walls and I had the privilege of representing SASW in Toronto at the annual meetings of provincial presidents and executive directors, then the joint meeting with the CASW Board on which, of course, Marlene Chatterson sits as our representative. There is always a useful exchange of information at these meetings and we often find that issues are being commonly experienced across the country. Information from this time was highlighted at the recent gathering of our Advisory Board, and will also be very useful to us as we make plans for the future.

My best wishes for a great Saskatchewan summer! I do hope that you will find time to rest and renew over the next short while.

Submitted by:

Richard Hazel, MSW, RSW (Sask.)

Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome.

Read any good books lately?
Working on an interesting project?
Have an area of interest that you would like to share with other people?
Write to SASW Editor and see your name in print!
Deadline for the next newsletter is September 15, 2008.

Tom Seeley Receives CASW National Distinguished Service Award

The 2008 CASW Award went to Tom Seeley, BA, BSW, RSW (Sask.) of Yorkton. Tom was raised in Grand Coulee, Saskatchewan and attended school there and most of his high school at Luther College in Regina. He attended the University of Regina obtaining his BA in 1971 and a BSW in 1982. Tom completed his practicum in Nambour, Australia.

From 1971 to 1989, Tom worked for the Department of Social Services in Yorkton ending his career as a Child Protection Supervisor between 1985 and 1989. Following his resignation from the Department, he worked for Big Brothers of Canada from 1989 to 1995 and then took over as Executive Director of S.I.G.N. (The Society for the Involvement of Good Neighbours). He has been there until the present with the exception of one year when Tom received a Muttart fellowship and focused this year on outcome evaluation. S.I.G.N. is a unique multi-disciplinary agency and acts as an umbrella for many services in the City of Yorkton. A recent donation by Remai Investments of a hotel provided many new challenges for Tom and his Board of Directors and they have created a viable service which combines social and economic development. During his tenure,

the budget of S.I.G.N. has increased from \$500,000 to \$750,000 to \$2.75 million and his staff has increased from approximately 30 to 65.

Tom has been active with the Yellowhead Branch of SASW and was instrumental in getting the Branch started in the early 1990s. He was a founding member and acted for five years on the Discipline Resource Pool. He became President of SASW from 2004 to 2006, participating in SASW's leadership role with the A.I.T. discussions. Since finishing his term as Past President, Tom continues to serve SASW as the Chair of the Volunteer Development Committee.

Tom has been married 38 years to Wendy. They have two children, Tracy, a reporter and producer with CBC radio news, living in Toronto with her partner Dennis, a musician, and Twila, a translator and teacher of Spanish, living in Yorkton with her husband, Fabian, a construction worker. Tom has two grandchildren—Tomas, 3 years old, and John Joseph (J.J.), 19 months, (who are indeed the greatest grandkids in the world!).

Wherever you go,
Whatever you do,
Say

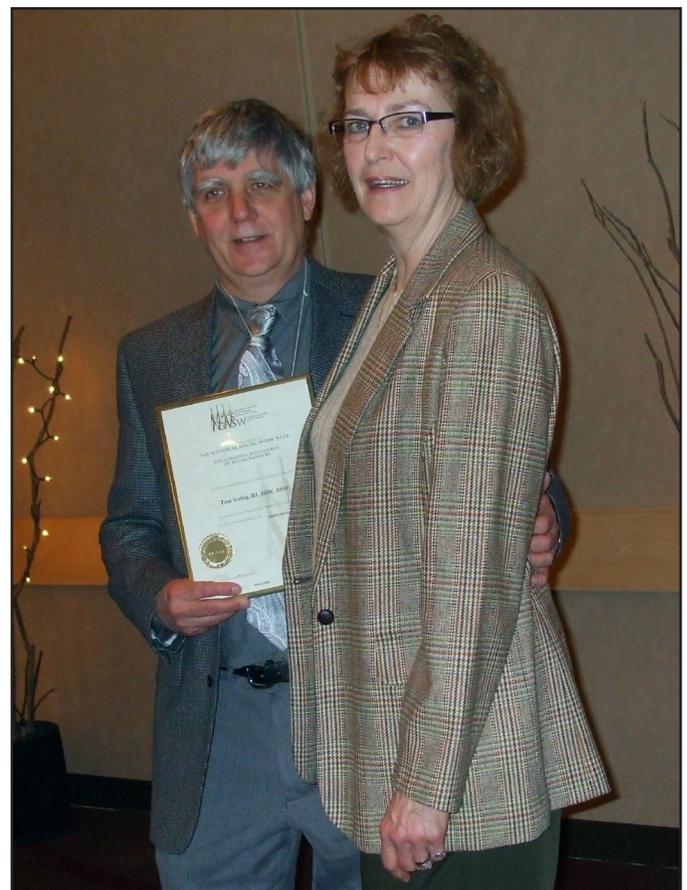


"I AM A SOCIAL WORKER"

You may be surprised at how often social workers say they work with alcoholics or they do therapy or counsel troubled children or direct an employee assistance program. There is nothing wrong with these statements, but preface each with "I AM A SOCIAL WORKER" and then add the statement "...who works with troubled youth." What you will be doing is performing an invaluable service to the education of the public which benefits the social work profession and ultimately yourself.

The best way to strengthen the image of the social work profession is for social workers to identify themselves as SOCIAL WORKERS.

Social Workers – Make a Difference



Tom and Wendy Seeley at the AGM on April 23, 2008, in Saskatoon.

Nadine Campbell Receives SASW Distinguished Service Award

Nadine Campbell, Saskatoon, is the 2008 recipient of the SASW Distinguished Service Award. Nadine is married to Bill Campbell and they have three children and four grandchildren.

Nadine has been a social worker at Royal University Hospital for the past 22 years. She did her major social work practicum at RUH and was subsequently hired into a position. Presently, she covers the Intensive Care Unit, the Cardiac Care Unit and the Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery ward. At one time she also covered the Emergency Department, but had to let that go when her load became too heavy.

Nadine has shown leadership and initiative in mentoring new staff and students and has been instrumental in creating a work place that is inclusive and inviting. She has fostered an atmosphere of respect and acceptance for all in the department and on the wards she serves. She consistently advocates for her clients' best interests.

Nadine has been involved in teaching Ethics to Medical students for many years. The ethics text used in that class acknowledges her assistance and contributions. Nadine raises ethical issues for discussion within our department and on the wards she covers, inspiring her co-workers to maintain an ethical stance.

As a key member of the Death and Dignity committee, Nadine was instrumental in having the legislation passed for Advanced Health Care Directives and



Melonie Grace (left) presenting the SASW Distinguished Service Award to Nadine at the AGM on April 23 in Saskatoon.

Substitute Health Care Decision Makers Act.

Over the years there have been numerous patients and their families who have thanked Nadine for her work, either in person, in letters or in obituaries. One letter supporting Nadine's nomination for this award was written by David Miller, a physiotherapist at RUH. Following is an excerpt from David's letter that so poignantly describes Nadine's quiet, professional presence in the hospital.

"I'm not sure how she does it—some exquisite mixture of listening, kindness, practicality, experience, and an uncommon ration of common sense—but she has a visible effect on everyone with whom she comes in contact. I see it in an anxious family talking with her in the I.C.U.... I don't hear the conversation, but the parent's shoulders, tight with worry, begin to drop gradually and the family walks out with their arms around one another, still tired but now ready to get through the long night. I see it in an elderly patient whom I'm helping to walk: we meet Nadine in the hall and she praises his efforts, tells him how good he looks now that he's out of bed, chats for a moment about the daughter and grandchildren who were visiting him earlier in the day.... Nadine bustles off to see another client while my patient steps off with a surer stride, a little taller than he was a few minutes earlier. (My posture is a little straighter; too, after listening to Nadine tell him how lucky he is to have me for his physio.)"

Nadine has a seemingly bottomless supply of things that really matter in the hospital: warmth, caring, patience, humour, and a deep, quiet wisdom that is wonderful to behold. ...whenever I see Nadine on a ward where I'm working I know that one of my patients is getting the best care available...from one of the best human beings I know."

We are all very grateful to have this opportunity to publicly acknowledge the incredible work that Nadine does everyday.

Submitted by:

Melanie Grace, MSW, RSW (Sask.)

HealthLine, Saskatchewan
New province wide
24-hour telephone advice
service under the management of
Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region.
1-877-800-0002

SASW Scholarship Awarded to Pamela Vorstermans-Agar

The SASW Student Scholarship is awarded to a social work student in recognition of their contribution to the community. The student's community service is to be beyond the immediate requirements of education or employment and should be activities related to the professional association, group, or volunteer work. It is with pleasure that the SASW Scholarship Task Team would like to recognize Pamela Vorstermans-Agar, Saskatoon, with the 2008 SASW Scholarship Award. It should be noted that Pamela was also the 2007 recipient for this award.

Pamela's volunteer experience began in the summer of 2005 when she and her husband worked as construction hands on a Habitat for Humanity building, recognizing that communities can work together to make changes for those disadvantaged. During that same summer, she volunteered at a summer camp with Family Services Saskatoon, accompanying youth on outings. That fall, Pamela approached a teacher about helping in the classroom to explore the possibility of becoming a teacher. During this volunteer work, at Dundonald Elementary, she found she was more interested in what was driving the behaviour of young people and her focus shifted to social work.

In the past year, Pamela has continued to maintain her long term relationship with a student she encourages and supports through Big Brothers as an In-School Mentor. Pamela has also continued her work on the Sas-



Pamela (left) is presented with the scholarship by Darlene Chalmers at AGM on April 23, 2008, in Saskatoon.



SASW members from the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region (Mental Health Clinic) celebrated Social Work Week by hosting an edible fruit bouquet party. The fruit bouquets were hand-made by the social workers from the clinic. Participants at the fruit bouquet party were in awe of the works of art created by the social workers.

katoon Social Work Student Society as the SWITCH Liaison and participated in development and organization of the SWSS Student Community volunteer Award.

Pamela's largest contribution in the past year however, has been her dedication to SWITCH (Student Wellness Initiative Toward Community Health). Pamela's volunteering spans from working weekly shifts at the clinic to being the Human Resources Coordinator on the SWITCH Council. As a volunteer, Pamela has contributed to SWITCH in many ways such as helping with the organization of SWITCH's Annual Golf Tournament, promoting and educating students and the public about SWITCH, and training/coordinating shift supervisors. Most recently, Pamela co-planned and is currently co-managing the SWITCH Mental Health Initiative, a new program that provides counselling to SWITCH clients.

In addition to her continued volunteering, this last year Pamela began volunteering at the Royal University Hospital as a visitor for palliative care patients.

The depth of Pamela's volunteer experience, her commitment to community, and vulnerable people through her work, is phenomenal.



Articles Section

The Public Representative: A Retrospective

Four years ago I wrote a short piece for *The Saskatchewan Social Worker* (November, 2004) on the role of the Public Representative, or at least on how I understood that role as a relative newcomer to it. With my last term quickly drawing to a close, this may be a good time to offer a few final observations and reflections. Probably a good place to start is by reassuring the general public that the governance of SASW is in good shape, and the public interest is being well served. As a representative of the public I have had considerable opportunity to observe the inner workings of the Association, and to meet and interact with many who serve on its governing bodies. These are highly dedicated and compassionate professionals who willingly volunteer their time—in the face of demanding workloads—to sit on Council, the Advisory Board and the Association’s numerous committees, bringing much experience, insight and good judgment to bear on the issues at hand. They, along with the Executive arm, are the primary reasons, I believe, for the high standards of professional practice of social work in this province and for ensuring the profession is well regulated. To this extent, the role of public representative has certainly been made easier for me and, I would anticipate, for my successor as well.

That said, I do not wish to leave the impression that the Public Representative does not have critical part to play in the SASW. In general, the primary task of the public representative is to keep a watchful eye on the two major benchmarks of a profession—especially one like SASW which provides health-related services that could pose a public risk were these services to be incompetently or improperly performed. I refer of course to the notions of accountability and transparency. The former concerns the extent to which a professional association has a clearly-defined and defensible set of goals, produces good reasons for what it does, and can demonstrate that it takes its public responsibilities seriously by having sound guidelines in place for determining what counts as competent and ethical practice. The latter concerns

the extent to which a profession is willing to be open to public scrutiny, including the extent to which its major policy statements and regulatory documents are framed in a language that is publicly accessible. To fulfil their mandates to the SASW, public representatives need to become familiar with the Acts, bylaws and policies governing a profession and ensure, as best they can, that these are followed and that a profession’s standards of practice are being upheld.

One of the more challenging tasks, in my experience, apart perhaps from those associated with disciplinary hearings, has been to maintain what the Orientation Guide for Public Representatives (MSS) calls an independent perspective while also functioning as a “team member.” When articulating a point of view on Council or Advisory Board it is not always easy to strike such a fine balance as the Orientation Guide suggests (and perhaps not always necessary either). Yet this provision at least underscores why there are, and should be, limited terms of service for public representatives.

When I first accepted this role I made a conscious decision to pay particular attention to the clarity of terminology used in SASW’s documents and policy statements—especially those intended for the public domain and to the manner in which

these documents were framed. I suppose this was a reflection of my own training in analytic philosophy with its focus on linguistic usage and analysis. Of particular interest, therefore, was the Association’s decision to rework its Mission and Vision statements, a project that was launched at the January 2007 Strategic Planning Workshop in Regina and only recently completed. Some eyebrows in the membership may have been raised over the numerous iterations these statements were subsequently subjected to as they made their way through Council and Advisory Board, and consequently over the length of time the project took. But the time factor should not be surprising. Mission statements, which

continued on page 12

The Public Representative: A Retrospective, continued

articulate what a profession is about and what its basic purposes are, and vision statements, which articulate the ideals to which a profession aspires, are complex, of different orders, and often contestable. It became clear in the process of reworking these statements there were some deeply-held convictions about the scope of mission in particular, such as whether it should include a reference to 'advocacy' in the context of the pursuit of social justice. These were matters that required open, respectful and rational dialogue and debate. As those most directly involved with the final iterations would no doubt acknowledge, the crafting of these statements in clear, cogent and comprehensive terms, without duplication or overlap, and in a way that differentiates mission from vision is not easy to do. From the perspective of public trust and confidence, and the maintenance of that trust and confidence, I firmly believe the exercise was indeed a timely one with good outcomes and well worth the effort.

Earlier I referred to the Discipline Committee as one of the bodies on which the public representative is required to sit. Ideally, it would be nice to report that not once was I called to serve at a disciplinary hearing; but social workers are human too! For the nearly five years I have served in this role, however, only two cases of professional incompetence or misconduct had to be heard, and this in an Association with over 1200 members. The evidence surely speaks for itself. The regulatory bodies of the Association—such as the Professional Conduct Committee with its new authority to call upon the services of a paid investigator should the need arise—are obviously working effectively. And the overwhelming majority of registered social workers in the Province are obviously committed to competent professional practice within

a sound ethical framework, and thus to securing the protection of the public. In furtherance of this commitment and all that it entails, registered members of SASW will be expected to have taken a workshop focussing on ethical practices and boundary issues in social worker-client relationships by the end of 2011.

It is not the task of the public representative to be an apologist for SASW but to ensure the public is well served by the profession. Yet in outlining why I think that interest is being well served I may have crossed the line! So be it. The experience I have had with the governing bodies of SASW has been enjoyable and enlightening. I have welcomed the opportunity to rub shoulders with another group of professionals, people of good will, with whom I would otherwise never had the occasion to know. I wish the Association well and feel confident it will continue to flourish.

Submitted by:
Douglas Stewart

Call for Creative Material

The Public Relations Committee of the SASW needs your help. Part of what the Public Relations Committee strives to do is to promote the profession of social work to the public and professionals in other disciplines, as well as to potential future social workers. In order to do this it is necessary to have eye-catching promotional material that can capture the essence of what we do in as few words as possible.

How can you help? You can help us by taking pictures of social workers at work in their various fields of practice, by designing and drawing artwork or graphics that symbolize our profession, or by creating other forms such as poetry, music, etc. The media you donate could be used in promotional materials (*i.e.*, brochures, calendars, posters, etc.), power point presentations, or the SASW display board, among other things.

Some simple guidelines to follow when taking pictures:

- 1) Make an attempt to capture the setting, the nature of the work, and a sense of who the clientele is.
- 2) If using actual clients in the picture, a letter of consent signed by the client or their guardian, giving permission to the SASW to use the image in its promotional activities on an ongoing basis, will be needed. Otherwise, recruit a volunteer to pose as that client.
- 3) Remember that the social worker and their work is the focal point.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Alan Corbeil at alcorbeil.sw@sasktel.net or by phone/fax at (306) 446-8885.

Website: www.sasw.ca

Child Focused Not Family Focused Child Protection – What does this mean?

The article “Supreme Court Decision affirms Child Protection Work is to be Child Focused and not Family Focused” in the November 2007 issue of the SASW Newsletter caught my attention. Child welfare is an interesting and specialized area of social work which typically does not receive a lot of public attention. The article was thought provoking and raised some questions that are cause for further reflection.

A discussion on designing a service delivery system to address the multiple and complex issues that brings children and their families to the attention of the child welfare system cannot be done in a short article such as this. This article will provide some commentary on the court decision, pose some questions arising from the article and, in the discussion, provide an additional perspective with the goal of promoting more dialogue on child welfare practice.

First, adding context to the court decision will be helpful in fully understanding the conclusion. The Supreme Court provided a detailed, well reasoned rationale for the decision in the matter of *Syl Apps Secure Treatment Centre and Douglas Baptiste vs. B.D.* (2007). The court needed to determine the proximity of the relationship between the parents and the Secure Treatment Centre and its employee, Douglas Baptiste. As part of their analysis, the court determined that the child was a permanent ward while residing at the Secure Treatment Centre. All parental rights are severed when a child is made a permanent ward, so child welfare services will then focus their work on the child with lesser or, in some instances, no involvement with the child’s family. Thus, the court noted that the focus of child welfare services is with the child and not with the family. The conclusion was that the lawsuit could not proceed because the parents are sufficiently removed in their relationship with child protection and its service provider.

A couple of questions could be raised, then, given the statement that “child protection is to be child focused and not family focused.” First, is there a concern that child protection will prioritize services to a child’s family when a child is a permanent ward? Second, is there a broader concern about the delivery of child protection services being focused on the family without sufficient regard for the child?

Regarding the first question, child welfare legislation in every jurisdiction sets out that when a child is ordered into permanent care, parental rights and

responsibility are severed and the “state” assumes the parental responsibility for the child. Practice in child welfare has moved to supporting some level of contact between a parent and a child who is in permanent care if it is in the child’s best interests to do so. It would be logical to assume that, generally, services to children in permanent care are focused on the child.

The second question raises concerns about the child welfare system and the overall approach taken to legislation, policy and practice. We need to take a look at the history of child welfare service delivery to inform a discussion on this topic. After all, we are told that if we do not learn from our history, then we are doomed to repeat it. Child welfare history shows up with warts because of approaches taken in the past, so we do not want to repeat what we now know to be unacceptable service delivery.

The traditional approach in child welfare has been a “child rescue model.” This model prevailed for many years with a focus placed solely on the child and the thought that by removing (or rescuing) children from so-called bad, inadequate, incompetent or dysfunctional parents and placing them in families where they will experience good, sound parenting we would help them become functional and productive adults. The heyday of this era in Canada is more infamously known as the “60s scoop.” This is an approach that we do not want to repeat.

What followed subsequent to this was a swing to the other extreme where families were supported to care for their children with lesser regard for the child’s need for protection and nurturance. This was called “family preservation” and, in some places, erroneously referred to as family-centred services.

Both of the above noted approaches contributed to unfavourable outcomes for children and families. Over the past 10 to 15 years, child welfare systems have moved towards a more balanced approach to service delivery. First Nations, because of their vested interest in this field, have become a significant influence and have contributed to changes in child welfare service delivery. Manahan, C. & Ball, J. in an article in *First Peoples Child & Family Review* state:

A family-centred approach to Aboriginal child care has been found to be better suited and more culturally appropriate than simply a child-focused approach. The family-centred model is preferred in most Aboriginal

continued on page 14

Child Focused Not Family Focused Child Protection – What does this mean? continued

communities.

In addition, family-centred practice has informed this balance; however, because of the misrepresentation of family preservation as a family-centred practice, confusion and misunderstanding have resulted.

Family-centred services place paramount concern for the safety of children. When it is safe to keep children at home, then services will be provided to the child and family to maintain the family unit in recognition of the importance of family. The outcomes of services offered under this approach are child safety and well-being as well as permanence. This service model has a philosophical approach to working with children and families which empowers all members of a family, involves inclusive and intersectoral approaches to planning, decision making and service delivery, and emphasizes the importance of understanding the culture of the child and family.

What is the approach that should be taken for children in need of protection, then? Our history demonstrates that the solution does not lie in prioritizing children over families or, conversely, families over

children. Rather, an approach that balances the needs of children with the needs of families employs the learning gained from child welfare history. Family-centered services are a comprehensive and systematic approach to bring this kind of balance to services for children and families who experience abuse and/or neglect.

Submitted by:

Joyce Reid, BSW, MED (Psych.), RSW (Sask.)

BELL, TEMPLE

Barristers & Solicitors

LEGAL ADVICE FOR MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN
ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

To reduce the risk of civil claims or disciplinary complaints against social workers, Aon Reed Stenhouse Inc., in co-operation with the Canadian Association of Social Workers and your insurer, Halifax Insurance, have arranged for *pro bono* summary legal advice service to be provided by Bell, Temple, Barristers & Solicitors. Bell, Temple, in consultation with Halifax Insurance, will arrange for the appropriate referral to legal counsel in provinces other than Ontario.

Bell, Temple will provide confidential advice by telephone to all social workers participating in the Professional Liability Insurance Program administered by Aon Reed Stenhouse Inc. and co-sponsored by the Canadian Association of Social Workers.

Bell, Temple is a litigation law firm that has been involved in malpractice liability and health discipline matters for many years on behalf of many professional groups. Bell, Temple's Health Discipline Group are well versed in the regulations, standards of practice and the ethical obligations of social workers. They are available by telephone to provide free, confidential legal advice to avoid or reduce the probability of a claim or complaint. Each telephone consultation is limited to 30 minutes per inquiry. The advice given will rely upon the accuracy and completeness of the information you provide. Please have your policy and certificate numbers available.

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Cameron C.R. Godden – extension 820

Lisa E. Hamilton – extension 8207



SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY (SKAMFT) FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Date: September 26, 2008

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Location: Briarcrest Seminary, Caronport, SK
(15 minutes West of Moose Jaw on Hwy 1)**

The SKAMFT, a division of the American Association for Marital and Family Therapy is pleased to present the first annual conference with a focus on healing couple and family relationships. Participants will choose two of four half-day workshops presented by experienced and skilled practitioners of relationship and family therapy including:

George Enns: Working with difficult adolescents within the context of their families: step by step roadmap

Sam Berg: Narrative Therapy – the power of language and narrative to construct and reconstruct the lives of persons, couples, and families.

Ryan Melin: The Gottman Method – utilizing the research and evidence-based approach of John Gottman in couples work.

Dennis Arbuthnott: Changing couple and family belief systems by integrating individual therapy techniques into relationship and family therapy.

Registration Fees: \$100 / Student Fee: \$50

For Further Information Contact:

Dennis Arbuthnott

Phone: (306) 522-1800

E-mail: arbuthnott@sasktel.net

Social Work in Medical Settings: Creating a Framework for Practice

On November 2, 2007, 37 acute care medical social workers from across Saskatchewan gathered in Saskatoon to discuss their work. The goal of the day was to develop a framework for practice, as well as to strengthen connections between the acute care workers in Saskatchewan.

The purpose of this article is to describe the process that made this one day conference possible.

The idea for the conference originated with nine acute care social workers at Royal University Hospital, who meet every Monday morning for an hour to discuss challenging cases and issues and to review journal articles. Unable to find meaningful literature about social work in acute care, we found ourselves reviewing literature from other disciplines. Dissatisfied with this state of affairs, we set a goal to publish an article about the work we do in acute care. We recognized this would require input from other acute care social workers in the province and thus the idea for the conference was born. The work to organize the conference was a collaborative process as was the conference itself.

Darlene Chalmers, Coordinator of Field Education, Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina, Saskatoon Campus facilitated the conference.

Committees evolved out of our different areas of interest and expertise. An e-mail was sent to each acute care medical social worker in the province informing them of the conference and inquiring about their interest in attending the conference. A literature search was done and articles that we thought would be helpful in our discussions were sent to participants.

While the planning of this day proved to be a major undertaking, the organizing committee was continually buoyed by the excitement expressed by the other medical social workers throughout the province. Through the commitment of organized and detail-oriented social workers, as well as the hours of assistance from the office administrators, the vision of the day took shape and plans were finalized.

The conference was held at West Winds Primary Health Centre. Conference attendees met in the morning as a large group with Darlene Chalmers outlining a process that integrated theory and practice. The afternoon was spent in small discussion groups. Four questions were provided to help focus the discussions. It was an opportunity to examine the details of acute care social work. The large group reconvened to summarize the discussions.

The information gathered from the small groups will be the basis for the article we hope to publish articulating a practice framework.

At the end of the day, tours of specialized areas in three hospitals were arranged for medical social workers from outside of Saskatoon. The purpose of the tours was to offer social workers first hand knowledge of some of Saskatoon's medical services so they could better inform those clients that may be referred here for care.

Bryan Woods, Director and Professional Leader of Social Work for the Saskatoon Health Region, provided the funds to cover the cost of hosting the conference. The SASW supported our efforts by supplying folders for each participant.

Of the 37 social workers attending the conference, 31 completed evaluations. They were resoundingly positive. It is clear that acute care medical social work needs to be defined and that a framework for practice can be articulated. The networking that occurred was very beneficial and the majority of social workers who completed the evaluations requested that there be more conferences of this nature.

Submitted by:

Melanie Grace on behalf of the Organizing Committee: Nadine Campbell, Trina Cochrane, Sandra Goodman-Chartier, Janice Kelly, Angie McConnell, Val Pottle, Karen Spilchak, and Keri Whitehead

The following Standards of Practice are available from the SASW Office/Website:

Standards of Ethical Practice for Professional Social Workers in Saskatchewan, Revised January 2001.

Standards for Social Work in Schools, October 1999.

Standards in Child Protection Services for Registered Social Workers in Saskatchewan, October 1999.

Standards in Health Care for Registered Social Workers in Saskatchewan, March 2001.

Standards for the Private Practice of Social Work, Revised 1999.

Standards in Custody/Access for Registered Social Workers in Saskatchewan, March 2001.

Why Purchase Professional Liability Insurance?

Issues arising from professional liability are of great concern today. There was a time when the professional (or quasi-professional) was not a target for lawsuits; clients would never have considered bringing an action against a professional, not even in instances where negligence or errors were obvious.

Times have changed. Today, the public and our legal system expect more and are much more inclined to initiate a lawsuit. When adjudicating cases, the courts have based their judgements on an increasingly higher standard of care and responsibility. The ever-increasing levels of education, training, experience and reputation of professionals have led the courts and the public to expect service which is superior than the average person. This expectation can be overwhelming.

Why have public attitudes changed towards professionals? There are a number of causal factors. Part of the answer is that the public has become more informed of its legal and contractual rights, and, rightly or wrongly, has been led to believe that a legal action may be initiated from any turn of events that was not an expected outcome by the client.

In addition, the media has brought to public attention the litigious climate of our modern society. Many legal actions have been sensationalized in the press. Lawyers have become much more aggressive in the demands for compensation, seeking ever larger and more extensive settlements.

Another reason why public attitudes have changed is because the relationships professionals have had with their clients have evolved. Traditionally, the connection between the professional and the client was much more personalized than it is today. In the past, clients' trust and confidence in the professional was absolute. Our changing society and financial constraints felt by many clients have heightened their awareness and increased the professional's accountability to the client.

Professional liability insurance is one form of protection for professionals and for their clients. Coverage will shield personal assets and will help maintain a good reputation through the defence of allegations of wrongdoing which might be frivolous or false. For the client who has suffered some damages through the actions of a professional, liability insurance will ensure that there are adequate funds available to make amends for the wrong that has been done.

A professional liability policy covers errors, omissions or negligent acts which may arise from the

normal or usual duties carried out by the insured.

When the professional is an employee of a firm, the firm, as the employer, is responsible for the actions of the employee. However, a court of law may find a professional personally responsible for an incident that occurred due to an error, omission or negligent act committed by the professional as an individual. To date, we know of no such situation ever occurring, however, it is our opinion that given the behaviour of the courts in recent times, one may be made personally accountable.

In another scenario, the employed professional may offer a professional opinion or "moonlight" professional services on his or her own time. In this case, the professional would be personally responsible for any consequence of these actions. It is highly probable that the policy of the employer does not provide coverage for the liability exposures of the moonlighter.

Should the limits of the employer's insurance be insufficient to meet the settlement of a claim in which the professional was co-defendant, then personal assets of the professional could be at risk. The difference in limits between the employer's insurance policy and the professional's policy is available to cover any shortfalls in these instances. A professional liability policy offers the insured peace of mind by knowing that he or she has independent coverage and by knowing what limits of that coverage are available.

When claims do occur, the professional's decision to have obtained professional liability coverage will remove the financial consequence of a legal action and provide him or her with a solid, reputable insurer upon whom he or she may rely in full confidence.

For more information on professional liability insurance, please visit www.casw-acts-aon.info or call 1-800-951-CASW.

*Author: Mary-Ann Hamel, Vice President, AON
Reed Stenhouse*



SASW
Toll Free Number
(outside Regina)
1-877-517-7279



Committee, Branch & Task Team Section

Professional Conduct Committee's Role in Self-Regulation

In the February issue of *The Saskatchewan Social Worker*, Richard Hazel, SASW Executive Director, outlined Council's intent in approving the "Professional Self-Regulation" policy. The policy confirms the formal regulatory responsibilities of SASW, and ensures the independence of the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) and the Discipline Committee appointed to hear allegations against its members. Social work is one of approximately 35 professions in Saskatchewan that are regulated by the "standard model" of self-governance. The model provides that the discipline of members who breach ethical and competency requirements are dealt with by the profession itself, through its professional association.

Self-government is an alternative to direct licensing and regulation by the government and exists only because the Legislature has delegated responsibility to SASW to regulate its members through amendments to *The Social Workers Act* in 1995. The responsibility of self-governance is onerous. Self-governance is acceptable only if it serves the public interest and the courts have found disciplinary proceedings must be "fair, transparent and efficient."¹ The public must be satisfied that complaints are taken seriously and properly investigated.

The mandate of the Professional Conduct Committee is to receive and investigate any written allegation of acts of professional misconduct and/or incompetence brought against a member of SASW. These complaints can come from either members of the public or members of the association. All allegations must be considered. Those that are considered to be neither frivolous nor vexatious must be investigated.

If after an investigation the PCC feels that there are reasonable grounds for believing that a member may be guilty of any allegations of professional misconduct and/or incompetence, the matter is then referred to the chair of the Discipline Committee. The Discipline Committee is distinct from the Professional Conduct Committee. The separation of investigation of complaints and determination of guilt is intended to avoid

bias. The Discipline Committee is required to act as an impartial judge, making its decision on the basis of evidence presented at the hearing by the PCC, usually through its legal counsel.

There are many challenges in effectively operating an integrated model. In Canada, there are some jurisdictions that have separated the regulatory and advocacy/membership support functions. However in Saskatchewan, SASW feels that the interests of the public are best served by a combined model. For this to be successful it is critical that the regulatory function clearly maintains its independence, and that this independence is respected and supported by the rest of the association.

Submitted by:

*Carole Y. Bryant, MBA, MSW, RSW (Sask.)
Chair, Professional Conduct Committee*

1. *Handbook on Professional Discipline Procedure*, Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan. March 2007, page 3.

Navigating an Ethical Minefield? Pondering a "Grey Area"?

The Practice Ethics Committee is a confidential support service for SASW members that offers guidance on ethical decision-making. The committee will make every effort to respond in a timely fashion, and will provide alternate ways of viewing and acting on ethical issues.

To contact the Practice Ethics Committee with your questions or dilemmas, please call the SASW Office. Contact may be by letter, email, telephone or fax. Sufficient detail should be given so that an informed response can be made.

Update from the Social Justice Committee

As spring advances and we move quickly into the new budget year this seems a good time for the Social Justice Committee to report on a very active and busy few months. Matters of social justice and the business of responding to social policy concerns continue to keep the Social Justice Committee very busy. Included here are a few of the highlights of our activity over the last few months.

Work Plan Development

During February and March the Committee gathered thoughts from its members (using an on-line survey) on priorities for action to be taken by the committee. Two general thrusts for our work were identified:

- poverty reduction and economic security for all in Saskatchewan;
- child protection and child welfare.

These are not new social justice projects for SASW, of course. But the results of our survey confirmed their importance, and generated ideas on how to marshal our resources more effectively in working in these two areas.

Poverty Reduction Activities

On the poverty reduction / economic security front, our committee has been addressing the recent Ministry of Social Services initiative to “modernize” the delivery of social assistance, which has generated much commentary and concern. We have developed a provisional list of four principles that, from our point of view as Social Workers, should govern the delivery of social assistance and related income security programs. This list of principles will be taken forward to inform and support our policy development work around matters of economic security and were developed to align with the policy principles developed by CASW and adopted by our provincial association.

Our list of “**Social Work Principles to Guide Income Security Reform**” currently reads as follows:

- Ensuring adequate economic security must be the pre-eminent goal
- Social activation goals (such as employment training and job placement) must be voluntarily undertaken by clients
- Income support programs must be delivered to clients in an individualized, respectful and professional manner
- Program administration in income security must be accountable to the public and to the best interests of clients.

Child Welfare Activities

In the area Child Welfare, members of the Social Justice Committee continue to be involved with The Saskatchewan Partnership for Families, Children and Youth and with the CASW National Committee On Children’s Issues. In regard to the former, the partnership is considering an early fall workshop where provincially based agencies and organizations concerned with the welfare of Saskatchewan families children and youth would be invited to join in discussion of children’s issues, in developing strategies to address them and in becoming involved in the ongoing work of the Partnership. Additionally the Partnership has been working on an information package that would contain brief essential information on a variety of Child Welfare related matters with website citations where users could find additional resources. Recruitment of more SASW members who have a background in Child Welfare is also a critical concern and the committee will be developing strategies to accomplish this with a view to having the Association become more active in addressing Child Welfare issues of concern to its members.

SASW Endorses Joint Statement on Physical Punishment of Children

In March the Social Justice Committee was approached to consider SASW’s endorsement of a joint statement on the physical punishment of children. The joint statement is based on research evidence associated with the use of physical punishment of children and youth and is grounded in respect for the rights of children to be free from physical punishment. “Based on an extensive review of research, the *Joint Statement* provides an overview of the developmental outcomes associated with the use of physical punishment. **The evidence is clear and compelling — physical punishment of children and youth plays no useful role in their upbringing and poses only risks to their development. The conclusion is equally compelling — parents should be strongly encouraged to develop alternative and positive approaches to discipline**” (<http://www.cheo.on.ca/english/4220.shtm>). Endorsement of the joint statement signifies confidence and alignment in its endeavours and the SASW Council passed a motion to formalize SASW’s endorsement of this initiative at the end of March. We have since heard that SASW was the 300th organization to endorse this joint statement and the Social Justice Committee has enthusiastically supported our association in cooperating in this initiative. A copy of the statement can be found at http://www.cheo.on.ca/english/pdf/joint_statement_e.pdf.

Update from the Social Justice Committee, cont.

Station 20 West – Saskatoon

Many members have expressed a great concern for the funding withdrawal for Station 20 West in Saskatoon. It is the Social Justice Committee's perspective that this project is a creative and pragmatic approach to a variety of very concerning social issues within the Saskatoon core area. It is also clear that this response is rooted in population health research and sound community planning. The Committee in response to a great level of concern from the community and SASW members proposed a letter from our President to the Premier in response to the withdrawal of provincial funding. The letter and the response from the Premier follow this report.

Provincial Task Force on Housing Affordability

As part of the Social Justice Committee's ongoing work in the areas of social justice and social policy the topic

of housing has become an increasingly pressing concern. Housing security and adequacy have long been a concern for low-income citizens and given the recent market escalation and the reduced vacancy rate the issues of homelessness and housing insecurity have amplified significantly. As one response to this growing concern the Social Justice Committee has decided to respond to the Provincial Task Force on Housing Affordability. A written submission was prepared by members of the Social Justice Committee to speak to the matter of housing insecurity and homelessness and was submitted by the May 15 deadline.

Respectfully submitted:

Kirk Englot, BSW, RSW (Sask.), Co-chair

David Macknak, MSW, RSW (Sask.), committee member

Jim Mukvale, MSW, RSW (Sask.), committee member

SASW Saskatoon Branch Mentorship Program 2007/08

The Mentorship Program was offered again this year in Saskatoon. The program began with a *Kick-Off Luncheon* in October, held at the new Faculty of Social Work campus! There were **18 matches** this year. Many areas of interest/practice were represented, including justice and corrections, medical social work, child welfare, mental health & addictions, school social work, and health care. A *Come & Go Breakfast* was held in late January, providing an opportunity for Mentorship Program participants to mingle and get to know each other over a healthy breakfast. An evaluation form was distributed in early April. Participants' comments on the program follow:

Areas discussed in talking with your mentor/mentee:

- Practice issues
- Opportunities within the social work profession
- Work place challenges
- Support and self-care
- Volunteering

Greatest struggles in participating in the Mentorship Program:

- Working around different schedules
 - Staying connected with my match
- Success or significant experience in participating in the Mentorship Program:

- Sharing enthusiasm for our profession
- Receiving practical knowledge
- Sharing our experiences – both personally and professionally
- Openness and availability of my match

It has been a pleasure to connect with students, new social workers, and those practicing for many years in our profession. The generosity shown in this program is something our members and association should be proud of!

The Mentorship Program will continue to be offered by the Saskatoon Branch in the fall of 2008!

Submitted by:

Saskatoon Branch Mentorship Program

(Committee Members: Melissa Flowers, Terry Lowe, Angie Pollom, & Sarah Vidak)

In Support of Station 20 West

April 8, 2008

Hon. Brad Wall
Premier of Saskatchewan
Room 226, 2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

Dear Premier Wall:

We are the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers, the regulatory body and practice support organization for the social work profession. The four purposes that we serve are: regulation of the profession, promotion of public understanding of the profession, advocacy for social justice and the support of good and ethical practice. We have approximately 1,200 members practicing around the province in a variety of service areas. Social workers have close connection to the service needs of those who are marginalized and who struggle with the effects of poverty every day.

The purpose of this letter is to address the significance of the proposed Station 20 West Development Project in Saskatoon. To begin, I would like to underline the great concern that is being expressed by our members in Saskatoon who have a deeper understanding of what this project seeks to achieve. There is clearly an appreciation that Station 20 West could make a significant difference in the quality of life for those most clearly challenged in their ability to ensure their own health and well-being.

From a strategic perspective, it is also clear that this project is in part a response to the research study undertaken by the Saskatoon Health Region, entitled, "Health Disparity by Neighborhood Income" (Lemstra, Neudorf, & Opondo), which dramatically outlined the price being paid by those with limited access to a variety of services and supports. We further understand that this project responds also to several other reports, including the Pleasant Hill Local Area Plan, the Core Neighbourhood Development Council Strategic Development Plan, the

Riversdale West Central Business Development Strategy (2001), and the Anti-Poverty Roots of Poverty Project Report (2003). It seems clear that Station 20 West already has deep roots.

In addition, we see that a comprehensive response to the findings of the Saskatoon Health Region study will also begin to offer the benefit of a better connection to the mainstream, including connection to employment opportunities, for those who are not yet able to make that transition today. It would be our hope that there is yet room for reconsideration of what hangs in the balance in Saskatoon. We believe that the style of response to the set of poverty and health-related matters confronted in Saskatoon is a comprehensive and accountable way of working through tough issues. The approach could serve your government and other communities well.

The Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers strongly urges the Premier and his government to reconsider the decision to withdraw funding from this project. In any of this, we would be pleased to offer our further interest and assistance.

Sincerely,



Debra Wiszniak, MSW, RSW (Sask.)
President

c.c. Hon. Donna Harpauer, Minister of Social Services
Hon. Don McMorris, Minister of Health

Reply from Premier Brad Wall



PREMIER OF SASKATCHEWAN
LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
REGINA, CANADA S4S 0B3

April 15, 2008

Debra Wiszniak, President
Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers
2110 Lorne Street
REGINA SK S4P 2M5

Dear Ms. Wiszniak:

Thank you for your email regarding our government's decision on funding for Station 20 West Community Enterprise Centre.

I'd like to begin by clarifying that only one-third of this project is not proceeding. Despite reports to the contrary, I can assure you that the affordable housing component is proceeding and is, in fact, 70 per cent complete. This part of the project includes a 55 unit townhouse and an apartment building complex. The building will also include a library. In total, this represents a commitment of \$4.72 million.

As I have said publicly, I respect and applaud the commitment and passion of all the partners and proponents of the Station 20 West project.

Indeed, our new government shares these passions and commitment. That commitment to issues facing citizens in our core areas, and indeed all Saskatchewan people, was clearly demonstrated in our government's first budget.

- \$45.3 million for child care and early childhood development, including 500 new child care spaces and a wage increase for child care workers;
- \$500,000 more for school lunch and anti-hunger programs;
- \$5 million for community-based organizations to provide life skills and job training;
- \$8 million in new money to combat gang activity;
- \$1.1 million in new money to transition houses and sexual assault centres; and,
- \$5.1 million for 88 additional addictions treatment beds.

I also point to the recent announcement by Honourable Donna Harpauer regarding \$500,000 for EGADZ in Saskatoon to help vulnerable young people as a demonstration of that commitment. In addition to this new money provided for housing, residents will get help for day-to-day living and counselling for drug and alcohol addictions.

I submit this list represents a significant commitment to assisting those who live in our province's inner cities.

Additionally, while we share the priorities of the Station 20 West proponents, our government believes that we need to focus on investing in existing resources and facilities and community-based organizations to most effectively deal with these priorities.

The Saskatoon Regional Health Authority, Saskatoon Community Clinic and St. Mary's School and the need for more affordable housing offer existing opportunities to do just that.

Moreover, Station 20 proponents have confirmed that much due diligence was done on the business plan for the cooperative grocery store originally intended for Station 20 West.

They have confirmed to me that the business plan considered the opportunity for success of this cooperative. That potential for success is not dependant on a specific Station 20 West location. And as such, the store could operate at other locations in the area. I encourage those involved in the grocery store cooperative to pursue this opportunity.

More recently, the Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC) has contacted me directly to convey their support for our government's decision. While they have expressed some concern over the limited role First Nations leaders and community members played in planning and directing this project, the STC has affirmed their ongoing commitment to provide services and support that will address the needs of First Nations people in Saskatoon and benefit all residents of these core neighbourhoods.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Brad Wall
Premier

Submission of the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers to Industry Canada Regarding Proposed Amendments to the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA)

The Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers is pleased to participate in the public consultation on amendments to the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act* (PIPEDA) proposed by the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics.

The Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers is a professional association with members in many fields of practice across the province. All those using the title “social worker” in the province must be registered with the Association.

Our members work with people of all ages who have experienced one or more forms of abuse. The impact of financial abuse of older adults is far reaching. Not only is the older adult’s financial status and ability to afford needed services affected adversely, but his or her psychological well being, general health and interpersonal relationships also suffer. Some are able to ask for help; though too often they tell us that they cannot find it. Others state that they are too embarrassed to look for help or fear the consequences of doing so. Still other older adults have a disease process or impairment that limits their ability to comprehend they have been taken advantage of financially or how to protect themselves from further financial losses. Family members who try to help, even some who have been designated, often report that they do not know where to turn and that they are unable to assist.

SASW is concerned too about other people who are not older adults but who are nonetheless vulnerable to financial abuse and unable to protect themselves. People with intellectual challenges and people with chronic psychiatric conditions are among those considered vulnerable to abuse. Financial abuse is devastating regardless of the age of the person subjected to it.

Our members are aware of situations in which the financial abuse has continued despite the knowledge of others and the attempts of some to stop it. We believe that the laws under which financial abuse is now dealt with need to be strengthened.

The legislation regulating financial institutions must not only guarantee the privacy of their clients but must provide the legal framework that enables financial institutions to help those clients who are unable to protect

themselves, instead of remaining on the sidelines as observers.

Social workers respect the need for privacy and confidentiality. In fact, confidentiality is a core value of our Code of Ethics. Social workers are required to “protect the privacy of client information and respect the client’s right to control when or whether this information will be shared with third parties.” The Code of Ethics qualifies this in circumstances “when disclosure is necessary to prevent serious, foreseeable and imminent harm to a client or others.” The Code also requires that “In all instances, social workers disclose the least amount of confidential information necessary to achieve the desired purpose.” The Code of Ethics further requires social workers “to demonstrate transparency with respect to the limits to confidentiality that apply to their professional practice by clearly communicating these limitations to clients early in the relationship.”

We believe that the proposed amendment to Section 7(3) of the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act* would provide an important recourse to people experiencing financial abuse that is presently unavailable to them. It will provide for disclosure of personal information in situations of potential financial abuse in a manner consistent with ethical practices.

Accordingly, we are in support of the amendments proposed to Section 7(3) of PIPEDA that would allow disclosure of personal information to appropriate authorities, the next of kin or a designated contact for the individual, when the release of that information would be in the individual’s or the public’s interest.

Submitted by:

*Elliott Paus Jensen MSW, RSW, (Sask.),
Health Services Task Team*



FARM STRESS LINE
1-800-667-4442
www.agr.gov.sk.ca/saf/

Celebrating Social Work Week!

The Battleford branch of the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers celebrated the week with a luncheon on Friday, March 14. There were 26 people in attendance to hear guest speaker Bill Hall give a thought-provoking presentation on Human Rights, as well as honor this year's recipient of the "Social Worker of the Year," Linda Mushka. A very healthy lunch was prepared by representatives of Miwayawin Health Services "Healthy Living" program with assistance of coordinators Rose Favel and Marnie L'Heureux.

Bill Hall spoke about his experiences overseas and in North America with regards to those living in poverty and experiencing lack of food security as well as his current role as Executive Director of The Food Bank in North Battleford. The Battlefords has the third largest food bank in Saskatchewan and about 25,000 people used food bank services last year in Sask. The reality is that most people have access to food; however, 1.4 million in Canada were food insecure at some point a couple years ago. The U.N. says we all have the right to food but is that happening? We all need to take action to advocate, promote and lobby for this basic right. Mr. Hall talked about the need to continue to develop partnerships between community agencies to work together on this issue and the government needs to consult more with the people

and with those working with the people.

Linda Mushka was presented the local social work award for her dedication to the profession. Mary-Ann Gibson presented Linda with the award saying, "Linda embodies the Soul of Social Work." A singer, songwriter, and weaver, Linda sustains herself and reaches out to others with music and the arts. She not only works with individuals, but weaves strengths throughout our community's social fabric through involvement in various community organizations and by building sustaining annual events such as Women's Creativity Day and Stop the Violence Day. Linda is married and has 2 children aged 22 and 18 years. She considers parenting as one of her major accomplishments. Linda has worked in many different areas, including that of a researcher, interviewer, treatment program facilitator, crisis intervention work, and work with women who have suffered abuse. She is currently employed with Adult Mental Health Services where she works as a therapist. She has also been a mentor to approximately 12 social work students, having supervised their practicum. It was great to take time to honor such a role model to us all.

Also in attendance were the mayors of both North Battleford and Battleford, Julian Sadlowski and Chris Odishaw.

A Muse Amongst Us: Linda Mushka Honored



Linda Mushka has been reaping in the accolades! It all began with a 25-year service award from Prairie North Health Region. Then she was chosen by the Battlefords Branch of the SASW to receive their local social work award. Her co-workers also honored Linda with a tea. What has prompted such recognition?

Since earning a BSW in 1979 from the University of Regina, Linda has been busy. Settling in the Battlefords area she immersed herself in social work, blending it into the rest of her life. Linda incorporates art forms as well as music into therapy-offering mediums for catharsis. After gaining experience in several areas of social work, Linda settled into working primarily with those who have experienced domestic violence. She provides individual and group counselling; sits on the steering committee for the domestic violence treatment option court process, and has been an active member of the Battlefords Partnership Promoting Violence Free Communities for years. Linda builds strength

into the community.

Over the past ten years Linda became more aware of and interested in vicarious trauma and cumulative stress, and has been an educator and support for fellow staff members. Those who attended the AGM last year heard Linda perform some of her music, released on CD in 2002. Some of her lyrics reflect the angst that social workers live and work with. "I listen to the stories, the pain washes over me. The room gets dim and fills up with memories. The silence never ending...was not golden. I'm so very sorry that you had to live that story." Her songs also offer hope, reminding us that "The day (night) is only as cold as you make it. Your mind can be warm enough to bake it. So stick around and I know that you'll take it. 'Cuz winter's (the night's) not here to stay. No it'll soon be going away. 'Cuz it's just the passing of time."

In spite of her many accomplishments, Linda is not yet retiring. In fact she recently completed a course to become a Muse—characteristically seeking to find new ways to bring celebration and fun into the art of healing.

*Submitted by:
Mary-Ann Gibson, MSW, RSW (Sask.)*

Social Work Week Events in Saskatoon

In honor of Social Work Week, the Saskatoon Branch organized three free public presentations showcasing various local Social Workers in Private Practice. The presentations were held on three Wednesdays at the W.A. Edwards Building, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

On March 5, 2008, Paul Benson, MSW, RSW, a Social Worker that specializes in Grief Work presented "Dealing with Grief," a thorough overview of the grief process. Paul has many years experience dealing with grief having worked on a palliative care unit. His presentation was invaluable in describing the process of grief and various methods of accepting and managing it.

On March 12, 2008, Maria Badrock, BSW, RSW, and Norine Shewchuk, BSW, RSW, provided an enjoyable and practical presentation on stress management called *Balance – Bounce – Being*. It is a valuable and effective course which revitalizes your mind, body and spirit. This course taught the effects of stress and how to balance your daily responsibilities while taking care of yourself. Techniques taught and practised were breathing work, journaling, guided imagery, and progressive relaxation and laughter.

On March 26, Don Ebert, MSW, RSW, provided an engaging presentation "Developing Healthy Couple Relationships." Don has extensive experience in both individual and marital counseling. Using case examples, Don's key message in keeping relationships healthy requires couples to be good communicators. The most important and most fragile issue in relationships is emotional intimacy. We all have some degree of fear about getting close to another person as we make ourselves vulnerable. Don stressed that we need to be able to express all emotions both the pleasurable and the painful emotions while treating one another as equals.

The Edwards family graciously provided a wonderful space complete with coffee, tea, fruit and sweet trays to compliment the evenings. The Edwards family also provided advertising that went a long way to create the successful attendance with each session being attended by approximately 30 people.

The SASW Public Relations Committee intends to continue these types of presentation around Social Work week each year. It is our hope to encourage other regions to do the same in their communities.



Call for Submissions

Canadian Social Work

Canadian Social Work, the official journal of the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW), reaches social workers throughout Canada and beyond. The journal is published annually in October in on-line format. Where appropriate a special issue or an additional issue is published. *Canadian Social Work* is indexed with Social Work Abstracts and Social Services Abstracts.

Journal Goals

- To provide a forum in which Canadian social workers can share practice knowledge, research and skills, and debate contemporary social work concerns.
- To stimulate discussion of national and regional social policy issues.
- To promote exchange between: social workers in different regions and language groups in Canada, the CASW and its member organizations, and Canadian and international social work communities.
- To share information about social work educational resources—books, films, videos, conferences and workshops.

We welcome articles that are consistent with the journal's mandate and contribute to the profession's knowledge base. The journal aims to present perspectives that reflect our diversity as a country and as a profession. We are particularly interested in receiving submissions from practitioners and students. All articles are anonymously peer reviewed.

Articles (2,500 - 5,000 words) can be submitted in either French or English. Manuscripts accepted for publication will be printed in the language in which they were submitted, but the abstract will be translated into the other official language.

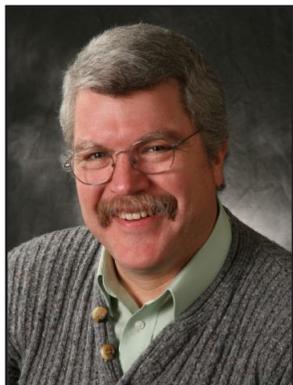
An information package for prospective authors is available from the CASW website (<http://www.casw-acts.ca>) or contact:

Canadian Social Work
Canadian Association of Social Workers
383 Parkdale Avenue, Suite 402
Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4R4
Phone: (613) 729-6668 Fax: (613) 29-9608



Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina Section

Dean's Message



Welcome to spring! This will be my second year of convocations as Dean and I look forward to participating in celebrations with our 109 graduating students from across our program and region. The season is not only a time of transition for students but also for faculty members. We will be saying a farewell to Dr. Michael

MacLean as he retires. He will be missed for his good spirits, significant contribution to the faculty and also his expertise in aging issues. Other faculty news to note is that Dr. Jane Cruikshank will be leaving on a sabbatical. Faculty member Kathy Donovan is extending her leave for another academic year in order to further her research. We look forward to their return invigorated by their continuing research activities and with more to offer students. In the meantime, we are gearing up for new searches to fill vacant positions as well as new positions recently authorized by the University. We are also pleased to be working with our new full time term faculty member, Dr. Margie Hollingshead. She is playing a significant role in our curriculum development activities as well as with students in the classroom.

The faculty continues to plan for meeting the current needs of students, the profession and the agencies that employ so many of our graduates. The Undergraduate Studies Committee continues to work on curriculum improvements based on feedback of research conducted by Dr. Margie Hollingshead who surveyed the community, faculty, and other educational institutions. Already, recommended changes have been implemented in the area of writing skills and critical thinking. At the MSW program level, our work with Sluth Associates is producing interesting findings that are not quite ready to report in full. This research that many of you have participated in will go a long way toward equipping the Faculty of Social Work to better meet regional community needs at the graduate level. I wish to express my gratitude to the multitude of professionals across the province and region who have assisted with this needs

assessment process. This has included the faculties and community professionals in the two partner program communities of Aurora and Yukon Colleges.

This spring also marks the end of the first academic year of the certificate program in social work at the new site for Aurora College in Yellowknife. As I write this, the faculty and staff are fully engaged in their summer program with a full complement of students and are gearing up for a new class to start in the fall. I had the privilege of visiting last November for the signing of a new continuing agreement between the University of Regina and Aurora College and am indebted to them for their wonderful hospitality. I cheer their quality faculty and staff for the outstanding contribution they are making to the community in their preparation of CSW graduates to work in the area. The students with whom they work are an energetic talented group. Our partner in Whitehorse Yukon College continues to offer outstanding programming to a high quality group of future professionals as well. During my visit to graduation ceremonies last spring I found the energy and excitement of the students regarding their ability to contribute to their community with their new skills to be outstanding. I am looking forward to attending the ceremonies again this year and also meeting with faculty, staff, and university administrators as we work toward improving social work education in the Yukon for the future.

Lastly, spring brings change to facilities. A tour of our Saskatoon offices will reveal a faculty and student body well ensconced in their new "digs." They are also welcoming Dr. Eric Lefol of Institut français, who will be sharing offices at our center for the next several months. In Regina, sessionals will be pleased to find that change is afoot. An office redecoration with new furniture and décor is on the way. When complete, the sessional work environment should be a friendlier warmer place in which to work. The student lounge for the BSW program is also experiencing rejuvenation as we make efforts to enhance student experience when they visit campus. When you are in the area of either of our programs in Regina or Saskatoon, stop in and say "hi!" We would love to welcome you and show you

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Career Fair at the U of R

Social work week is celebrated in different ways throughout our province and this year the Faculty of Social Work Field Coordinator, Myrna Pitzel and Faculty Liaison and Placement Coordinator, Sheila Brandick decided to celebrate it at the University of Regina by organizing the first annual Career Fair for students. Other years we celebrated by organizing a forum for MSW students to present their research and more recently have joined the Regina SASW Branch in cosponsoring a luncheon during social work week.

The idea of a career fair came from students and the community. Students and field instructors are asked for comments and feedback on how to improve the practicum. We thought it would be worthwhile if the agencies were willing to come in. We value the input from our students and social work community, and will continue to be responsive to their needs. Thank you to both students and agencies for helping to make this happen.

The Career Fair was held on March 14 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Agencies were invited to do a five-minute presentation about the social work services they offer and opportunities for practicum.

We were delighted when sixteen agencies agreed to participate and even more excited to discover many brought display boards, pamphlets and information about their agencies. It looked very professional. For agencies, it was “a great opportunity for organizations to meet students and faculty as well as network with other organizations that have attended.” Tara Johnston, a third year social work student currently in practicum commented, “This was awesome, a great opportunity.”

The bonus this year was the interest shown by agencies offering employment to new graduates. The recruiting agencies had a separate time with the students providing their “pitch” to attract them to beautiful British Columbia, oil-rich Alberta and our own Saskatchewan through the Public Service Commission. The

Dean's Message, cont.

around. This is your program and your involvement insures that we continue to offer the highest quality social work education and services to meet the needs of the community and our clients.

Submitted by:
Dr. David Schantz, ACSW RSW (Sask.)
Dean Faculty of Social Work
University of Regina



The first annual Career Fair, top, was a great success. Dean David Schantz joins Grace Jasper (left) and Lois Adams (centre) at the Faculty of Social Work booth.

PSC invited social workers from the Ministry of Social Services to help get their message across to students and answer questions about child protection work. Jarrett Parker, a manager with the Ministry of Social Services from Nipawin, Saskatchewan has actively recruited our students for the past two years. Jarrett was on holidays when he joined us. “I was in Moose Jaw and didn’t want to miss this.” The humorous bantering between the provinces conveyed the clear message that social work jobs are plentiful and our BSW students are in demand. Wages, incentives and recreation were all topics covered in the sessions. Dean Schantz in his address to the students and agency representatives stated, “With the retirement of our aging workforce and changing demographics, more social workers will be needed to fill the positions.”

We were also open to students from other faculties at the university, letting them know what we are about and help them discover the diversity within our profession. SASW had their table set up with conference information, student applications and material about

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Career Fair at the U of R. cont.

the Code of Ethics.

It was a great experience we hope to make an annual event during social work week.

Participating agencies:

YWCA
Regina Public School Board
Ranch Ehrlo Society
Family Service Regina
Catholic Family Services
Regina Open Door Society
Mobile Crisis
Phoenix Residential Society
Rainbow Youth Centre
Women's Centre and Sexual Assault line
SCEP Centre

Early Learning Centre
Extendicare - Parkside
Alzheimer Society
Corrections Canada
Regina Qu'Appelle Health District

Recruiting Agencies:

Ole Peterson, Strategic Planner, Ministry of Children and Family Development Region, British Columbia
Terry Hays, Human Resource Consultant, Alberta Children's Regional Human Resource Services, Alberta
Karen Zukewich, Manager Recruitment and Employment, Saskatchewan Public Service Commission

*Submitted by
Myrna Pitzel, MSW, RSW (Sask.)*

Field Instructor Training

The following individuals have completed field instructor training offered by the University of Regina and SASW in Saskatoon and Regina. Three modules covering Feedback and Evaluation, Ethics and Professional Boundaries in Field Education and Theories, Perspectives and Models are offered yearly at each location. If you are interested in becoming a field instructor or are interested in training please contact Field Education Coordinators Darlene Chalmers, for Saskatoon and area at 664-7379 or Myrna Pitzel, for Regina and area at 585-4572.

Regina Campus, May – June 2007

Anne Marie Piniach	Ann Farn
Lourdes Parisio	Beth Bonnor
Lois Alport	Maureen Sonntage
Shane Smith	Arlene Bisskey
Lydia Thompson	

Regina Campus, September – November 2007

Shawna Palmer	Lisa Zaphé
Shelley Clouse	Alison Nabseth
Lori Rogala	Linda Fraser
Barb Horvath	Morgan Martens
Colleen Larkin	Renata Selinger
Donna Wilkinson	Margot Harms
Molly Barber	Cyndi Gray
Alan Jensen	

Regina Campus, September – November 2007

Sheila Ahenakew	Auralee Modeland
Leslie Allaby	Tracy Muggli
Julia Bidonde	Lynn Peterson
Karen Enns	Barb Schindel
Kathy Hauser	Matthew Shaddon
Dawn Keddy-Brezinski	Curtis Stevens
Arny Kroeger	Ruth Ann Thomas
Janet Martens	Tom Tilford
Carol McInnis	Diane Totland
Krista Whittard	Pat Keyser

The Health Care Task Team will be releasing two Social Work brochures for use in the near future.

The first one to be released promotes Social Work in Health Care; this brochure is entitled "Health Care Social Workers". It promotes social work to other professionals.

The second brochure will target persons seeking Social Work services in health care.

Watch for these brochures in the next few months.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Community Development Society – Annual International Conference

June 22 - 25, 2008
Saskatoon, SK
Website: www.comm-dev.org
Email: cloden@heartofwi.com
Phone: 1-715-423-1830

Basic Intensive Week In Reality Therapy/Choice Theory

August 12, 13, 14, & 15, 2008
Regina, SK
November 21, 22, 23, & 24, 2008
Regina, SK
Contact: Carole Eaton at (306) 569-1977 or
Linda Routledge at linda@accesscomm.ca

“Missing Women: Decolonization, Third Wave Feminisms and Indigenous People of Canada and Mexico”

August 14-17/08
Conexus Art Centre, Regina, SK
Website: www.missingwomenregina.com

Narrative Therapy Training with Stephen Madigan, PhD

September 26 - 28, 2008
Cost \$650.00
October 31 - November 2, 2008
Contact: Info@familyservice.sk.ca

National Conference – Shaken Baby Syndrome

(Abusive Head Trauma)
October 5 - 8, 2008
Vancouver, BC
Website: www.dontshake.org
Phone: 1-801-627-3399

Advanced Intensive Week in Reality Therapy/Choice Theory

November 21, 22, 23, & 24, 2008
Contact: Carole Eaton at (306) 569-1977 or
Linda Routledge at linda@accesscomm.ca

Somatic Experiencing Beginning Levels 1-3 (Beginner's Level)

Level 1 November 21-24, 2008,
Level 2 February 13-16, 2009
Level 3 May 22-25, 2009
Saskatoon, SK
Contact Information: Jeannette Kuc
Phone: (306) 343 0789
Email: kucj@stf.sk.ca
Website: www.traumahealing.com

CANADA POST CORPORATION
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Upcoming events, news and workshops are regularly posted on the SASW website.
Please visit the website for more information.