



SASKATCHEWAN SOCIAL WORKER

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“Strengthening Individuals, Families & Communities”

November 2016 Edition

President’s Message



I hope everyone had a good summer! I was able to get away on some holidays with my family in August and now back to work gearing up for a busy year with the SASW. It is anticipated that proclamation of the Approved Practice Endorsement (APE) will take place this fall. Once this is proclaimed formal efforts to move towards implementation will begin. One of these

efforts will be to continue our work with the College of Psychologists to establish a memo of understanding on how their College and the SASW will ensure that effective supervision of social workers seeking APE designation occurs. An APE sub-committee has been established out of the Standards of Practice Committee to further assist in the implementation of APE. Thank you to Ralph Aman, Patti Petrucka, Ray Pekrul and Kathy Bovair in bringing your expertise to this work.

Jurisdictional issues related to social work practice continues to be an area that the SASW is focused on as it relates to online services for clients from out of province. In addition there is a need to look at the most effective ways for registered social workers from other provinces to access registration in our association to address the increasing prevalence of out of province social work practice.

Throughout the past year work has been done to review our policy manual to keep it up to date. Edits to this manual will be finalized in the coming months.

I wish to thank Richard Hazel, former Executive Director of the SASW, for his willingness to consult with Council last year as we managed significant change in the Association. Richard’s knowledge of the Association was very informative to Council as we managed the work of the SASW in the temporary absence of an Executive Director.

Development of a new Strategic Plan for the SASW is a priority focus this year. Our current Strategic Plan expires in June of 2017. We are working to ensure that the process used to develop this plan is one that has a strong connection to our Associations Mission and Vision. It is also important that the final plan be clear and concise in terms of how it will be actualized. Assurance of well-defined responsibilities and accountabilities for each aspect of the new Strategic Plan is important. We recognize that the SASW relies on our membership’s volunteer efforts through branch, committee, advisory board and council work to fulfill many aspects of the work of the Association. Given this reality, the new Strategic Plan needs to efficiently define the work for our volunteer positions.

The SASW is working to have Fred Phelps, Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW), come to Regina to spend some time with Advisory Board and Council. I know Karen Wasylenka is working on the details of this. The CASW has released the slogan for Social Work Week for 2017 which is “The Power to Empower.”

In September 2016 I had the opportunity to attend the Council on Licensure, Enforcement & Regulation (CLEAR) Conference in Boston which provided me the opportunity to learn about professional regulation across a wide array of professions. It was interesting to see the different issues regulatory bodies face as well as the unique differences between the United States and Canada. This fall I will be attending the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Annual Meeting in San Diego. I am looking forward to learning more about the workings of ASWB.

Council is meeting at the end of September and again in October to begin moving our work agenda forward for the year. Thank you to Debb Fisher, Office Administrator, Fay Schuster, Interim Registrar, and Karen Wasylenka, Executive Director for the work you are doing and for the support you provide to our Membership, Branches, Committees, Advisory Board and Council.

*Submitted by:
Ryan Labatt, MSW, RSW*

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- ADVOCATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
- PROMOTE THE PROFESSION
- REGULATE THE PROFESSION
- SUPPORT FOR ETHICAL PRACTISE

Executive Director's Message



As I write this in mid-September, summer has just passed. By the time you read this, however, summer may seem like a distant memory and we will be closer to Christmas than summer. How quickly our year goes! Fall is our time of renewal; not just of memberships but the committee and branch work that usually takes a break over

summer. We are getting busy with meetings, catching up, and planning.

CASW/Social Work Week 2017

I attended my first Canadian Association of Social Workers federation meetings in June. It is always inspiring to meet colleagues from across the country, to share best practices and common issues and concerns. There was much discussion around the table one afternoon when talking about the theme for Social Work Week in 2017. The discussion turned into a reflection about our profession and how we portray ourselves. Think about this. When you meet someone new and they ask what you do, what do you say? Do you say, "I am a school counsellor" or "I work in mental health"? What do others say when you ask them what they do? Do they say, "I work in the emergency room of the hospital" or do they say, "I am a nurse" or "I am a doctor"? Do they say, "I work with children in a school" or do they say, "I am a teacher"? We should be proud to say, "I am a social worker." Yes, we might get the response, "Oh, that's a really hard job" or "I wouldn't want to be taking kids away." When we get those responses, we have an opportunity to talk about social work – to help the public understand what social workers do. Promoting our profession is an important role of SASW but I also believe that each of us has a responsibility to promote our profession – as members, we are the SASW! And, as an aside, we didn't settle on a theme that day either.

As Ray Pekrul indicates in his CASW report, the Canadian Association of Social Workers has been active on a national level, advocating on social policy issues. CASW produced a discussion paper and then presented to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights on Medical Assistance in Dying. Much work has been done on advocating for a national Social Care Act, and in August of this year, CASW sent a letter to each provincial premier urging the province to pass on Order in Council to "support full, transpar-

ent, and open communications with the national Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Inquiry." Most recently, CASW released their Pre-Budget Submission to the Standing Committee on Finance. I encourage you to visit the CASW website and review the materials released as CASW is our national voice on social policy issues relevant to social work.

Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB)

I also had the opportunity this summer to attend regulatory training by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB). ASWB is a non-profit association dedicated to social work regulation. Its mission is to strengthen protection of the public by providing support and services to social work licensing boards in the United States and Canada. ASWB is focused on the regulatory responsibilities, while CASW and NASW (National Association of Social Workers in the United States) are focused on promotion of the profession. At the session we were reminded that we have an important responsibility – to protect the public interest through regulation. This requires due diligence in our registration and licensing. You might sometimes think that we are overly picky with our requirements; it is because we have the responsibility to advance competent and ethical social work practice in our province.

Continuing Professional Education/Advanced Ethics Workshops

In the Interim Registrar's message, Fay Schuster talks about the importance of continued professional development. I hope that you noted in our September E-Newsletter the call for volunteers to facilitate advanced ethics workshops. The SASW Education Committee has worked very hard to get this project underway and they are eager to consider the possibilities of other workshops and opportunities for our membership. We have lots of expertise and experience in our province and one of my goals is to make those connections and develop more learning opportunities. There will be more information about Advanced Ethics in the next newsletter.

Cross Jurisdictional Practice

Do you provide services outside of our province? Do people from adjoining provinces come to you for services? Do you offer services outside Saskatchewan via Skype or email? Or have you personally accessed services from someone outside Saskatchewan? One of the current areas facing regulatory bodies is cross

continued on page 4

Executive Director's Message, continued

jurisdictional practice in this new era of technology. Interjurisdictional practice has moved beyond a social worker from one province living close to the border and having clients from the next province. We have practice that crosses provincial and national boundaries because of technology. Services are provided via Skype, email, and other technologies. The questions that arise are related to licensing – does the social worker require a

licence in the jurisdiction that that client is located? If so, what type of license? What is the fee? Which licensing body responds to a complaint? These are only some of questions and issues under discussion among our colleagues across the country. I am sure you will hear more about this in the future.

SASW Committee Work - Volunteers

We will be in the midst of membership renewal when you read this. As you complete your renewal and haven't been involved in committee or branch work, please consider how you might become more active in the association. We all have an important role to play in our association and advancement of our profession.

SASW Registrar - Permanent Contract Position

You will also note that SASW has posted for the position of registrar (permanent/part time), after having the position as interim for sometime. The posting is located in this edition of the newsletter and is posted on the SASW website - [Http://sasw.in1touch.org/uploaded/web/employment/employment%20ad%20-%20registrar.pdf](http://sasw.in1touch.org/uploaded/web/employment/employment%20ad%20-%20registrar.pdf)

Submitted by:

Karen Wasylenka, MSW, RSW



EMPLOYMENT POSITION POSTING SASW Registrar

SASW is seeking a highly motivated and committed individual to fill the position of Registrar on a permanent basis. This is a part time (30%) contract position (585 hours/year), with flexible schedule. The Registrar is required to spend time in the SASW office.

Primary duties include:

- maintain the register of the association
- manage the processes involved in the acceptance and refusal of applications for registration
- respond to regulatory inquiries from the membership, other professional associations, regulatory bodies, employers, and members of the public
- lead development and maintenance of policy and procedure regarding the registration process

For further information, please contact Karen Wasylenka, Executive Director, at ed.sasw@accesscomm.ca or 306-545-9155.

To be considered for this position, you must be a member in good standing of SASW. A criminal record check and proof of professional liability insurance will be required.

To apply: Submit your resume to ed.sasw@accesscomm.ca by November 30, 2016.



SASW Office

The SASW office exterior has a refreshed look after work was completed by a local contractor over the summer on the stairs & front sidewalk leading up to the office. As well a shared sidewalk between the office and the house next door had to be replaced. This work needed to be done to replace aging infrastructure which had become a safety issue.

Interim Registrar's Message



I was very pleased the Association extended my term as Interim Registrar until the end of January 2017. I have enjoyed the work as well as connecting with existing members and new members.

I wanted to highlight a couple of items primarily as a reminder.

2017 Registration Renewals

Members would have by now received their registration renewal packages in the mail for the 2017 registration year. I want to encourage members to complete the process as soon as possible to avoid last minute issues which result in frustration. As most of you are aware we are a small office. We want to be as responsive as we can to our membership. With renewal time as our busiest time of year, you can really help out by getting started now so any issues that may arise can be resolved, resulting in no delays in the processing of your registration.

This year's renewal package is emphasizing the need for members to ensure they retain their username/password in order to access the system. The online system supports the registration process which is a core piece of our business. I can appreciate that some members may only access the system at renewal time and find

themselves searching for their username and password. The online system, for you to retrieve this information when misplaced, works well but only if you keep your profile up to date, specifically your e-mail address. We encourage you to not use an employer's e-mail in the event you find yourself on leave and unable to access that e-mail. A personal e-mail is preferred.

Although SASW does have the ability to assist members when they have misplaced their username/password and cannot recall what e-mail they have in the online system, it taxes our human resources especially at renewal time. You would think it's not a big issue; however, with a membership of over 1700 (and growing), if 10% have not retained their username/password, that is 170 e-mails or phone calls we have to process in a compressed time frame. We appreciate all of the efforts of our membership in their diligence to support our requirements and processes.

Continuing Professional Education (CPE)

As I indicated in my Annual Report presented at our Annual General Meeting, I was impressed with the quality of CPE reporting by our members, most who surpass the 40-hour requirement.

Each year SASW audits about 10% of CPE submissions in conjunction with our registration renewal.

Our renewal package again provides details on the CPE submission requirements. Our CPE policy requires reporting in at least two categories of the three available. Please take time to review the policy and ensure you have undertaken the required activities to meet the requirement for registration in 2017.

I, as a professional social worker, cannot emphasize enough the importance of Continuing Professional Education. As a regulated profession this requirement is paramount to our status as a profession. It is core to how we ensure the public and organizations have confidence in our profession.

I would like to refer members back to our June 2016 Newsletter (available on our website) page 6 to the submission entitled "A Professional's Perspective on Continuing Professional Development," submitted by Selena Batman BSW/MSW/RSW, Director of Professional Practice with the British Columbia College of Social Workers. What an insightful perspective!

Submitted by:

Fay Schuster, MSW, RSW

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 complete the form that has been developed and placed under each member's Profile home page. This form is received in the SASW office and forwarded to the Chair of Practice Ethics.

Letter to the Minister About Income Security

The following is an excerpt from a letter dated September 9/16 from Ryan Labatt, President, to Hon. Tina Beaudry-Mellor, Minister of Social Services.

“... As a profession committed to a fair and just society and principles of social justice, we have an interest in ensuring that income support programs are adequate and meet the needs of those receiving them. We believe that economic security, including an assured and adequate income and freedom from hunger, homelessness and poverty, is a universal and fundamental human right and that Income Security programs are provided in order to achieve an adequate material standard of living to ensure well being, dignity, and self determination for individuals and families.

We are concerned that further erosion of the bene-

fits now available will be detrimental to the health and well being of those who rely on our social programs as well as to all Saskatchewan people. Unfortunately, although a reduction in benefits may reduce spending in the short term, it is probable that a deepening of poverty and homelessness will increase costs in health care and emergency services.

We urge you to carefully consider both the impact on individuals and on the broader, long term outcomes of these changes. It is our hope that your decision regarding these very important programs will be to not only leave them intact but to ensure that they are accessible, delivered in a timely fashion, and provide the support that our most vulnerable citizens require and deserve.”

SASW Discipline Decision - Ms. Carolyn Cheers

On October 23, 2015, a hearing of the Discipline Committee of the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers was held in Regina with respect to a complaint against **Ms. Carolyn Cheers**.

The complaint was made by a former client alleging unethical and unprofessional behavior by Ms. Cheers. The SASW Professional Conduct Committee investigated and recommended the matter be referred to the SASW Discipline Committee to **hear and determine** the complaint.

At its October 23, 2015, hearing, the SASW Discipline Committee concluded that Ms. Cheers failed to:

- maintain professional boundaries during and after the professional relationship;
- entered into a prohibited relationship with the client;
- breached client confidentiality;
- exploited the professional relationship;
- failed to maintain a professional relationship;
- caused the client harm, anxiety and distress; and
- refused to co-operate with the SASW Professional Conduct Committee.

At a Discipline Committee Penalty Hearing held on May 2, 2016 in Regina, the decision of the Discipline Committee was as follows:

- 1) That Ms. Cheers be expelled from the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers and that her name be forthwith struck from the Register;
- 2) That Ms. Cheers pay costs in the amount of \$12,000 on or before May 3, 2017;
- 3) That a copy of the SASW Discipline Committee Decision and the Order be distributed to:
 - the registrars of all social work regulatory bodies in Canada,
 - the decision/order be posted on the SASW website,
 - the decision/order be summarized in the Saskatchewan Social Worker (SASW newsletter),
 - the decision/order be forwarded to the Association of Cooperative Counselling Therapists of Canada.

The full report and decision for this hearing is posted on the SASW website:
<http://sasw.ca/site/disciplineHearings?nav=06>

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

- CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO COUNCIL POSITIONS -

As per Section 25 (2) of *The Social Workers Administrative By-laws*, SASW voting members are hereby given notice of your right to nominate licensed member(s) to fill any Council vacancy for the upcoming year. The positions open for nomination are **one member at large position** and **president-elect**.

All nominations must be submitted on the "Call for Nominations Form" which is included below. Nomination forms must be faxed or emailed to the SASW Office no later than **March 15, 2017**.

Call for Nominations for SASW Council

Position for Nomination: _____

Name: _____ SASW Registration Number: _____

Address: _____ Credentials: _____

City/Town: _____ Number of years in practice: _____

Area(s) of practice and contribution to the profession: _____

Previous/present involvement with SASW Branch/Committee:

Nature of contribution(s) to be made on SASW Council:

Signature of Nominee: _____

Nominators – Registered Social Workers	Signatures of Nominators

Deadline for submitting nominations: March 15, 2017.

Send completed form to SASW Office – 2110 Lorne Street, Regina, SK, S4P 2M5

Email: sasw@accesscomm.ca Fax: 306-545-1895



Article Section

“Access to Recovery” Research Project

Drs. Gabriela Novotna and Randy Johner, University of Regina - Faculty of Social Work (FSW), together with their core research team members (Drs. Nuelle Novik (FSW); Bonnie Jeffery (FSW); and Michelle McCarron (RQHR)) and with the support of multiple community collaborators, including SASW, and two graduate students, Meagan Taylor and Michelle Jones, received a Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF) collaborative innovation research grant (2015) to explore current substance use treatment (screening, assessment, and aftercare) for persons with coexisting substance use and ability issues (physical, and/or sensory). The research project, “Access to Recovery,” was a collaborative and developmental research project and environmental scan. This project gathered data from a comprehensive literature review; and individual

interviews with service providers and policy-makers (6 individuals), service users with ability and substance use issues (6 individuals), and two community listening sessions with family members, allies and care-givers (14 individuals). Overall, our comprehensive literature search indicated that standardized behavioral treatment programs for populations with intellectual ability issues or traumatic brain injuries have proven to be ineffective; these treatment programs are rarely completed and not successful. Most studies, whether specifically related to persons with either intellectual ability issues, traumatic brain injuries or other ability issues in general, suggested that quality of life outcomes were important considerations in substance use treatment programs. Our interview/community listening session data revealed the need for the following: improved physical access to buildings; improved service provider approaches (*i.e.*, service provider language that supports, rather than hinders, diverse ability issues); modifications to existing substance use treatment programs (*i.e.*, accessible language for diverse communication needs); and staff training, such as increased knowledge of ability issues, intersectionality between poverty, ethnicity, ability and substance use issues, and accessibility needs for diverse abilities (*i.e.*, cognitive; sensory). For example, service providers agreed that they “need to re-design” their treatment programs while service users suggested, among other things, that a “different discourse is needed on how to explain things to individuals.” Given the empirical findings derived from this study, we have found overall that there needs to be a balance between current ready-to-use treatment programs and individualized treatment programs for persons with ability and substance use issues in Saskatchewan.

Submitted by:

Randy Johner, RSW, and Gabriela Novotna, RSW

Resources for Social Workers

Among recent changes to the SASW Web site is an updated and expanded list of resources with links to relevant web sites. Below is a list of the content areas you can find by going to www.sasw.ca. If you have suggestions for other links that we should add please contact us at ed.registrar.sasw@accesscomm.ca.

- Social Work Organizations/Associations
- Social Work Education
- First Nations/Indigenous Resources
- Information on Social/Practice Issues
- Child Welfare/Children's Issues
- Family Violence
- Health/Mental Health Resources
- Poverty Resources
- Workplace Bullying
- Policy Organizations
- Free On-Line Journals
- Practice Guidelines
- Social work and social media
- General Social Work Sites
- Saskatchewan Links
- Employment Opportunities
- Records Storage
- Grant Writing
- Advocacy & Social Action



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

Ranch Ehrlo Family Program: Relies on Social Work Background for Success

For those employed at Ranch Ehrlo Society's family programs, every day at work is a little different than the last. But one thing remains the same – the willingness to help families who have tried almost every other option at their disposal and have come up short.

The family programs, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this September, consist of the Family Treatment Program (FTP), a longer term program where families work to either prevent out of home placements of their children or reunify with children who were in care and the Intensive Family Preservation Service (IFPS). The latter service is just what it sounds like – an intense, six to eight week program meant to assist families who are at imminent risk of having their children placed in care.

With the therapists, they work on overarching goals, like parenting capacity enhancement or managing addictions. The family treatment workers assist with more basic, micro-level areas such as learning to budget, shop for and cook healthy meals, and maintain a clean home.

Family Treatment Program (FTP)

“Every family is completely different,” said Deena Hall, a therapist with the FTP.

Each family in the program sees a therapist, like Deena, and several family treatment workers each week. With the therapists, they work on overarching goals, like parenting capacity enhancement or managing addictions. The family treatment workers assist with more basic, micro-level areas such as learning to budget, shop for and cook healthy meals, and maintain a clean home.

“Usually when families come into our program they have three or four goals that they’re working on. A primary area is typically reunification services – do these children

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Family Program Relies on Social Work Background for Success, continued

who are coming out of care really feel connected to their parent?” explained Jordan Hubick, FTP manager.

Each week, the families in the program – along with their therapists and family treatment workers – partake in activities that promote bonding. It may be as simple as a walk around the lake or cooking a meal, as long as the parent(s) and children have the opportunity to create positive memories together.

This fall, the FTP, expanded by 40 per cent, allowing up to 23 families to be in the program at the same time.

Intensive Family Preservation Service

Social workers in the IFPS work on more time-sensitive issues – typically those that relate to a family having an open file with Child Protection Services.

“We work with parents who may live with mental health issues, addictions, or domestic violence. We work with kids who may also have mental health (issues), or extreme behaviours,” explained Donna Balkwill, IFPS therapist.

“We’re always trying to pull out the family’s strengths because these families have so many, they just struggle in certain areas that have pulled them down,” Jordan said.

With the shorter time frame of the IFPS, the focus is slightly shifted. Many of these families have worked with several professionals and come with a mistrust of anyone in the field, assuming their goal is to remove children from the home. While that is not the goal of the service, the therapists have a limited time-frame to begin to resolve very complex issues – so while the hoped-for result is the closing of a child protection file, that can’t always happen.

Instead, therapists in the IFPS work on shifting perspectives of social work in general.

“We always do our best to make a lasting memory with families,” Donna said. “So even if we don’t make leaps of progress, at time we just show them that social workers are supportive and here to help in difficult times.”

“We’re there to support them. So even if at the end of the intervention, they take that away, that’s a success to me, too.”

Social work as a base

Every therapist in the family program has a Bachelor of Social Work and is registered with SASW. From the program, they learned to view the world from a much broader perspective – connecting families with their communities and the resources available to them is a significant piece of social work.

Social work has also taught the family program therapists the importance of hosting a strengths-based approach with their families, which is the perspective that the program hinges on.

“We’re always trying to pull out the family’s strengths because these families have so many, they just struggle in certain areas that have pulled them down,” Jordan said.

“We’re very solutions focused. We don’t want to always just focus on the problem. We understand that the families are here for a reason, but what can we do to provide you with skills and provide you with tools that you need in overcoming those problems,” he continued.

“(Social work taught me) that barriers don’t make a person. They’re still a person that has values and dreams. Working with them, instead of for them – that’s the other piece that social work education really helps you with,” Deena concluded.

Submitted by:

*Cheyenne Geysen-Chartrand,
Communication Specialist, Ranch Ehrlo*

SASW Has a Facebook Page

If you have Facebook, you can now visit the page [Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers](#).

A page was chosen versus a group to be more visible to the public, in accordance to our mandate to promote the profession to our members and the public. This page will be managed by two Public Relations Committee members who will post relevant information and articles (following the media guidelines), communicate SASW updates when requested by the SASW Office/Council and police potential spam (controls will be set to minimize this risk).

You can search for “Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers” or enter the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/Saskatchewan-Association-of-Social-Workers-1507915522864962/?fref=ts> to view the page.



CASW Report

The CASW annual meeting along with the CASW Board meeting and the meeting of the federation of all partner organizations was held June 10th and 11th in Winnipeg.

The CASW AGM saw president Morel Cassie end his four-year term as president and subsequently his term as vice-president to International Federation of Social Workers. He received much praise and appreciation for his extensive work in both organizations. Jan Christianson-Wood (Manitoba) was elected president, Margaret Kennedy (P.E.I.) as vice-president and Joan Davis Whelan (Nfld-Lab) as treasurer were elected.

During the CASW Board meeting an extensive review of proposed changes to Board Governance were made. A Bylaw review will happen at the October meeting guided by the Governance Review Committee. The CASW Board adopted a paper on 'social investments' developed by K.J. Hermans, a social work student from Carlton University. This will allow us to advance a position in meeting with the federal government. The report recommends:

- Any social finance initiatives should be guided by a social conscience, and use as a framework the principles proposed by CASW's A New Social Care Act for Canada.
- Private profit has no place in the provision of services to vulnerable Canadians.
- Social Impact Bonds are a poor economic policy; private investors rates vary between 7.5 and 13%, while a traditional bank loan could be obtained at a 3% interest rate.
- The federal government should enable charities and non-governmental organizations the capacity to re-invest surpluses into their operations without losing their charitable status.
- The federal government should

conduct research about various types of social finance so to make evidence-based decisions.

Federation Meeting:

At the federation meeting, CASW Board presented the Strategic Plan and Logic Model. An outcome of the discussion was that CASW would circulate a survey allowing the federation to rank goals to identify clear priorities. This plan will guide CASW for the next five years.

The federation was advised that the Social Work Foundation had been disbanded due to administrative demands and all funds were directed to the Muriel Fergusson Foundation. The Fergusson Foundation's work is to research and educate social workers in best practices concerning domestic violence.

The Continuing Education Committee reported *continued on page 12*



CASW/SASW signing Partnership Agreement: SASW Executive Director Karen Wasylenska and Morel Caissie, CASW President, with SASW's representative to the CASW board, Ray Pekrul (standing).

CASW Report, continued

on their tasks to debrief the 2014 Joint Conference with educators and regulators, and research different webinar technologies. It was noted that webinars be provided in both official languages and all CPE publications circulated be in both official languages. CASW advised it would make every effort to do so.

Intersectoral Meeting

The Canadian Association for Social Work Educators (CASWE-ACFTS), the Canadian Council of Social Work Regulators (CCSWR) and CASW signed a historic memorandum (MOU) on June 12, 2016. The purpose of the MOU is to foster communication, connection and collaboration among the three pillars of the profession. This meeting is a continuation of the shared 2014 discussion at the conference held at St. Catherines

Ontario, along with the Conference of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Many major coalition meetings and meetings with government ministers and officials continue in increasing numbers providing an amplified voice for social workers at the national policy level. This increased flurry of activity will increase as preparation for the next budget and session arises. The next report will describe those activities and hoped for outcomes.

*Submitted by:
Ray Pekrul, MSW, RSW*

BELL, TEMPLE

Barristers & Solicitors

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Legal Advice for Members of the Canadian Association of Social Workers

A Pro Bono Program

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 a 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 will provide advice on questions regarding potential civil claims or disciplinary complaints including:

- ❖ Confidentiality - client files/records ❖
- ❖ Release of information ❖
- ❖ Response to a subpoena ❖
- ❖ Conflict of interest ❖
- ❖ Custody and access ❖
- ❖ Sexual involvement with a client ❖
- ❖ Incompetence ❖
- ❖ Other professional misconduct issues ❖

ABOUT BELL, TEMPLE

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.

Cameron C. R. Godden and Lisa E. Hamilton lead Bell, Temple's Health Discipline Group. They are well versed in the regulations, standards of practice and the ethical obligations of social workers. They have represented regulated professionals at every stage of discipline and civil matters, including assistance in the preparation of responses to complaints from the various Colleges, representation before discipline tribunals and the Health Professions Board, and related appeals. They are both 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 lawyer may consider it appropriate to review the issues and jurisprudence, and then call you back.

The advice given will rely upon the accuracy and completeness of the information you provide.

Please be prepared with the following information:

- ❖ Your name, telephone number(s) and address ❖
- ❖ Your policy and certificate numbers ❖
- ❖ A concise summary of all relevant facts ❖
- ❖ Your specific question or concern. ❖

Bell, Temple
Barristers & Solicitors

393 University Avenue, Suite 1500, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5G 1E6
Toll Free (888) 263-8600 Local (416) 581-8200

They can be reached during business hours or voice mail messages can be left after hours or on weekends:
Cameron C. R. Godden – extension 8201 Lisa E. Hamilton – extension 8207

In the event of a formal claim or complaint, notify Aon Reed Stenhouse Inc.

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 Association canadienne
des travailleurs
et travailleuses sociaux
Canadian Association
of Social Workers



Committee, Branch & Task Team Section

New SASW Branch – Humboldt & Area Branch

Practicing social work in rural communities brings with it opportunities that are both unique and rewarding. Social workers in rural settings become quickly aware of the many implications of practicing in a small city or town. It takes a special kind of social worker to practice competently and confidentially with fewer resources, less privacy, longer traveling time and more opportunity for dual relationships.

I am a social worker with rural roots. After completing my BSW and moving to the village of Jansen with my partner, I officially began my social work career in Humboldt. This was a natural transition for me. The small community has so much to offer, and I too feel I have a lot to offer my rural community.

Moving from Saskatoon and the BSW program, where the environment is so deeply rich with experience and opportunity for social workers, was a difficult transition for me. The biggest shift was the lack of interaction with other social workers beyond client work. I am the only social worker in my organization, as I am sure many are in rural practice. I do not dismiss the value my colleagues bring to the table; however, I found it was not quite the same. I was disconnected from the daily interaction with other social workers and also from the active SASW Saskatoon Branch.

The idea for a Humboldt and Area Branch was something that Deborah Bryson-Sarauer, social worker, and I had dreamed about for some time. We felt there was an adequate population of social workers in the larger rural area to host our own branch. With guidance and direction from the SASW Office, we were soon having our first meeting to see “who was out there.” At this

meeting with nine social workers present, we discovered that the areas in which we represent are quite diverse. We found we shared a common thread, a deep understanding of the community in which we are working: its strengths, challenges, and needs.

Fast forward a few more months and a few more meetings, we’ve received our official status and have approximately 20 individuals now associated with the Humboldt Branch. I’d like to thank everyone for their assistance and interest in making this a reality: Deborah Bryson-Sarauer for her guidance and support, the SASW office for being so efficient and welcoming, and Erica Hamilton and Rachel Trann who have agreed to join me on the Branch Executive for the coming year.

This is very exciting as we head into the fall. In past meetings we have already identified gaps, challenges and that we can speak as a voice for our area. The SASW Branch of Humboldt and Area is looking forward to becoming more connected as a group and also with the larger SASW network.

Anyone interested in connecting with us can send an email to saswhumboldt@gmail.com or find us on Facebook under Humboldt and Area Branch of the SASW.

*Submitted by:
Nicole Kinsel, BSW, RSW*

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
December 31, 2016.**

Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers
STRENGTHENING INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Members Login | Contact | Home

About SASW | Membership | Practice Requirements | Support | Surveys and Research | Complaint Procedures

Strengthening Individuals, Families and Communities

As an association, the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers is the voice of social workers in Saskatchewan. SASW is a professional association with members in many fields of practice across the province.

Council, Committee and Branch Information
Look here for information on who our council is or what committees are supported as well as branch information

Mentorship Program
This supportive network will contribute to the enhancement of the professional identity of SASW members

Awards, Bursaries & Scholarships
Find out how you can get bursaries or scholarships and who were the recipients

Member Services
Student Services
Find a Social Worker
Members Login Service

WHO WE ARE | NEWSLETTER | EMPLOYMENT

www.sasw.ca



Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina Section

Dean's Message



I read my last Dean's message and realize I am going to repeat the same message: the theme of a busy Faculty. And yes, we are all busy. But it has also been an exciting time.

Some of you will know that we had been struggling with our admissions process for a long time. In addition to the criteria of grades, we rely on a review process that includes

panels of three individuals who review applications. A member of SASW sits on each panel, along with Faculty of Social Work colleagues (panelists receive the applications and do not know who the other panelists are). Students need to get a minimum of two out of three panelists recommending their acceptance. There are no exceptions to this. A challenge was that panelists were not always clear about what the criteria for selection were. A team of colleagues worked on developing a grid to help with this. We used this grid for the first time during the last admissions review process (winter 2016). The feedback has been positive. Thank you to our SASW colleagues for their positive and constructive feedback.

Another challenge is determining the "right" number of students to accept. Unlike most other academic programs in the province, the Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina is the only Saskatchewan institution offering a program of Social Work education. We continue to be committed to a decentralized program that responds to BSW and MSW learners across the province. So we have set our numbers to respond to provincial need. An interesting phenomenon is that we consistently had several classes which were not filled at their maximum. Fall 2016 has been different. For the first time in many years, most of our classes are full. We fixed our admission numbers based on an assumption of capacity and we will be reviewing the numbers to ensure that the admissions target is realistic.

This does not mean things are perfect but, hopefully ...getting better. I can truly say that one of the more difficult times of the year would be the period following distribution of admissions letters. Many of us spend the

next few weeks (in some cases, months) responding to very unhappy parents and student applicants when applications are not successful. We have been hosting Looking to the Future events over the past four years to provide feedback to this group so that their re-application will have a better outcome the following year. Please encourage those applicants who were not successful to attend these sessions.

We are committed to student retention and to making the learning journey a good one for students. We increased the number of academic advisors within our Faculty. Our plan is that advisors will travel to northern and rural sites to visit with students in those areas. I want to thank Rachel Clare who has been an amazing academic advising resource to our graduate students. Rachel will be moving out of the province and we will soon begin a recruitment process to fill this gap. I also want to congratulate Vivian Haskins who has been employed within the Student Services unit for over 20 years and has now moved into an academic advising role. Both colleagues are based at the Saskatoon campus. Brandi Srochenski joined our Regina campus academic advising team. Brandi is a seasoned advisor, having come to us from the Faculty of Arts. Employing additional advisors to our team is a costly venture, but we believe it is worth the investment if we want our students to succeed. Thank you to Brad Colin, our Faculty Administrator who has been a great resource during the recruitment and hiring stages.

I also want to introduce you to our two newest faculty members (both started in July 2016). Kara Fletcher is coming to us from McGill University and Funke Oba from Wilfrid Laurier. Both are based at the Saskatoon campus. In addition to regular teaching and research, Kara has also assumed the role of Field Education Coordinator.

We also welcomed Britney Duncan and Colleen Hamilton who will share the role of research coordinator within the Faculty's Research Centre. Thanks to Dr. Bonnie Jeffery and Dr. Garson Hunter who have taken on the roles of Director and Associate Director of the Research Centre during this period of research centre renewal.

Another exciting addition to our team is Katherine Bird who is the Faculty of Social Work's Michelle Sereda

continued on page 15

Dean's Message, continued

Artist in Residence. Kathi is based in Prince Albert. A small group of Social Work students will be completing their practicum placement with her. The plan is that they will be hosting exhibits of their work at various sites throughout the province.

In the last newsletter I reported we would be hosting the Faculty retreat with Dr. Robina Thomas and Dr. Maggie Kovach as our facilitators. The retreat provided an opportunity for us to identify some goals and objectives as we move forward on the theme of Indigenization. Things have moved far more slowly than we want but we are committed to pushing forward. I hope to be able to report on initiatives in the next newsletter.

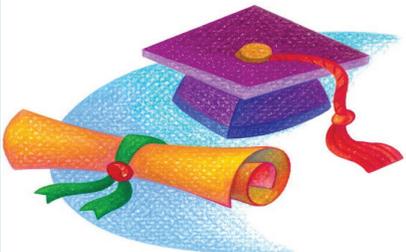
There is much more that is going on within the Faculty. Colleagues continue to engage in interesting,

innovative research. Several are exploring different ways of teaching and engaging our students. We continue to focus on what online teaching means for a Faculty of Social Work that is committed to social justice and social change. We are conducting a research project to get feedback about online programming and will report our findings once the study is completed. We will use the study to guide us in our deliberations about online teaching and learning. Thank you once again to all the SASW volunteers who work with us. We couldn't do this work without you.

*Submitted by:
Judy White, Ph.D., RSW, Dean*



**SASW
Student
Award Fund**





Climb on Board....
Make a Difference

What does your donation do?

- increases the amount of the award yearly; as the fund increases so does the award
- attracts students to the profession and to SASW while still in school
- an opportunity to pay back for support you received as a student
- official income tax receipts are issued for individual donations

How can donations be made?

- individual donations
- bequests from estates
- as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy
- through fund raising events

The SASW Student Award Fund is established through and managed by the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation.

Your donations can be sent to:
**South Saskatchewan
Community Foundation**
3934 Gordon Road
Regina, SK S4S 6Y3

Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers
www.sasw.ca

UPCOMING CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS

Emotionally Focused Couples Therapy Externship

Calgary, Alberta

November 15 - 18, 2016

Contact: www.talk-therapy.ca/eft-externship/

De-escalating Potentially Violent Situations

November 21, 2016

Saskatoon, SK

To register: info@ctrinstitute.com

204-452-9199 or toll free 877-353-3205

De-escalating Potentially Violent Situations

November 22, 2016

Regina, SK

To register: info@ctrinstitute.com

204-452-9199 or toll free 877-353-3205

Critical Incident Group Debriefing

November 23, 2016

Regina, SK

To register: info@ctrinstitute.com

204-452-9199 or toll free 877-353-3205

Collaborative Practice Level 2

December 1, 2, & 3, 2016

Barrie, ON

Contact: Brian@GalbraithFamilyLaw.com

To Register: www.thedivorceteam.com

WEBINARS

Depression: Overview & Awareness - Part 1

FREE webinar

Link: <http://ca.ctrinstitute.com/free-webinar/>

Refugees & Trauma: Tips for Supporting

FREE webinar

Link: <https://ca.ctrinstitute.com/free-webinar/refugees-and-trauma-free-webinar/>

Family Violence Through a Trauma Informed Approach

Link: <http://www.casw-acts.ca/en/family-violence-through-trauma-informed-approach>

Protecting Yourself First - Understanding Liability Insurance

Link: <http://www.casw-acts.ca/en/protecting-yourself-first-understanding-liability-insurance>

Ending Client Relationships

Link: <http://www.casw-acts.ca/en/ending-client-relationships>

Family Violence from an Intercultural Perspective

Link: <http://www.casw-acts.ca/en/family-violence-intercultural-perspective>

1. Emotional Intelligence: The Three Most Important EQ Needed in Business Today
2. Professional Presence: Confidence, Credibility and Professional Boasting
3. Art of One-Way Communication
4. Professionalizing your Brand
5. Start My Style. Your Professional Image Update

Link: <http://www.mbg.ca/services/webinars>.

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