SASKATCHEWAN SOCIAL WORKER

Volume 20 Number 2 *"Social Workers – Make a Difference"* June 2009 Edition

SASW AGM and SASW Provincial Conference 2009

Overcoming Life Challenges: Integrating Hope, Spirituality & Self-Care into Practice

Annual General Meeting

The SASW Annual General Meeting was held in Yorkton on April 22, 2009, with approximately 50 registered members as well as some social work students attending. Highlights of this meeting included:

- By-law amendments and amendments to the amendments—a very interesting process for members to observe and be a part of.
- It was announced that the CASW National Social Work Distinguished Service Award would be presented later to Dr. Judy White, Saskatoon.
- It was announced that the SASW Distinguished Service Award would be presented later to Terri Woods, Saskatoon.
- The SASW Student Scholarship was presented to Angie Pollom, Saskatoon.

After the meeting, there was a social with appetizers and beverages which provided an opportunity to acknowledge award recipients and connect with colleagues.

Provincial Conference Highlights

Keynote speaker Wendy Edey, Director of Counselling at the Hope Foundation of Alberta, gave conference participants an overview of hope and hope tools to integrate into our lives. Throughout the inspiring workshop, Wendy emphasized the positive association between hope and success at resolving grief, coping with illness, and overcoming life challenges of all kinds. Wendy's use of her three passions—hope, humour and storytelling—had all of us on our feet, laughing many times during the workshop, with exercises including "My name is Joe" and the "Comb & Tissue" orchestra. There was time for small group discussion where participants went to different tables and worked on the various hope tools. It was a very interesting, inspiring, and hope-filled presentation. Wendy left conference participants with new optimism and ready to face the challenges of work and our lives. There was a table with a variety of Wendy's books and resources available to the conference attendees to purchase.

Left: Eileen Zarowny, Yellowhead East Branch President, introducing the keynote speaker, Wendy Edey (right). In the background is Arlene Tanjgerd, Yellowhead East Conference Planning Committe.

Donna Harpauer, Minister of Social Services, flew into Yorkton to attend lunch and speak to conference attendees. The Minister had many good things to say about social workers and the important role they play in society.

On the Thursday of the conference, from 4:00 to 11:00 p.m., a self-care room was available with many local self-care practitioners able to offer compliment-

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

SASW AGM and SASW Provincial Conference 2009, continued

ary information and demonstrations for conference participants. Many people took advantage of the free demonstrations of different massages, acupuncture, Reiki, and other self care techniques and applications.

Kathleen and Rick Gibson were guest speakers at the dinner on Thursday evening. Their personal story with West Nile Virus was inspiring, touching and spiritual. Kathleen had her newly published and released book, *West Nile Diary*, available for purchase.

The Sacred Heart High School Rock Band "Channel 22" performed songs from the '70s up to recent hits after the dinner and kept us dancing until 10:30 p.m. They too inspired the group with their enthusiasm and an abundance of energy.

On the Friday morning, Noel Starblanket shared his life story through the video "Starblanket: a Spirit Journey." The presentation was spiritually inspired, educational, informative, emotional and healing. It was compelling and humbling to take this journey with him. The video received the award for "Best Documentary Film" at the NAIIA (North American Indigenous Image Awards) awards in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on April 23, 2009.

A round dance, with many conference attendees participating in the dance, created a wonderful end to a conference that flowed with themes so interrelated.

The Bear Clan Dance Troupe, drummers and singers completed the conference. They described the costumes and dances and told stories. Two of the young dancers received a prestigious eagle feather during the performance. A round dance, with many conference attendees participating in the dance, created a wonderful end to a conference that flowed with themes so interrelated. Hope, spirituality and self-care were shared by 94 conference attendees.

Respectfully Submitted by
Conference Committee Co-Chairs:
Joanne McCready BSW, RSW (Sask.)
Eileen Zarowny MSW, RSW (Sask.)

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

Make a meaningful contribution to the Social Work profession... Please donate to the SASW Scholarship Fund

The SASW Scholarship accepts donations from individual members, bequests from estates, fund-raising initiatives or anyone else who may wish to contribute to the fund. A receipt for income tax purposes will be provided by the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation, the administrator of the Fund. The SASW Scholarship is awarded each year at the Annual General Meeting in recognition of a student's contribution to his/her community. As the Fund grows, so too does the amount of the award. Please call the SASW office if you require more information.

Name of Donor: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____

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Amount of Donation to SASW Scholarship Fund: $ _____

Mail cheque to:
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With your consent, the SASW office will be informed of your name and amount of your donation. Do you wish to have the SASW office informed of your donation? Yes ___ No ___

President's Message

This report is given midway through my term on the SASW Council, and follows on the heels of our Annual General Meeting and provincial conference held in Yorkton. First, I offer, on behalf of the Council and members of SASW, our thanks and appreciation to the members of the Yellowhead East Branch for hosting the Annual General Meeting and for organizing and hosting the conference. Special thanks to Arleen Tangjerd and Tom Seeley, who co-chaired the conference, and to Eileen Zarowny and her very active committee who invested so much energy and time to ensure that the event was a success. It was just that—a success. Registrations exceeded expectations, participants were made to feel welcome, valued and cared for. The conference, titled, "Overcoming Life Challenges: Integrating Hope, Spirituality & Self-Care into Practice" was true to its theme, and members who participated seemed to come away feeling energized to continue the often difficult work they do. We were pleased to welcome the Honorable Donna Harpauer, Minister of Social Services, to the conference lunch on Thursday. The Minister made a particular effort to attend the conference and took the opportunity to speak to members about her commitment to listen to workers from the front line. About a month prior to the provincial conference, Kirk Englot of the Social Justice Committee, Richard Hazel and I met with the Minister to begin a dialogue on issues such as an anti-poverty strategy, a coordinated and comprehensive response to the *Children's Advocate's Report* (see page 17 of this newsletter), and our resolve to ensure accountability and protection of the public through the registration of qualified professionals.

The Annual General Meeting is an integral event in the year of SASW, and affords an opportunity for the membership to guide and direct the organization. Important information was provided about what SASW has done during the previous year; how your money was spent; what issues confront us as a profession; and how we plan to govern ourselves. Following an earlier review of both the Administrative and General By-laws, a large number of amendments were proposed by Council. The amendments were made to conform to legislative changes and to simplify and more clearly express existing By-laws. Significant changes were introduced in the process by which members of Council are nominated and elected. Prompted by the initiative of individual members, Council proposed changes to our Administrative By-Laws that will encourage members to nominate candidates for vacant Council positions prior to the AGM. The November issue of *The Saskatchewan Social Worker* will provide details on how to make nominations for Council positions. The AGM rejected Council's proposed amendment which would have removed the right to vote at annual or special meetings from student members.

My thanks to all who took part in the debates. Member participation is a cornerstone of transparent democracy. I would urge all who were not able to be at the AGM to read the Annual Report which has been posted on the SASW website.

I am pleased to report that three new members of Council were elected at the AGM. Carole Bryant was acclaimed as President-Elect. Carole is the Vice President of Administration at Ranch Erlo, and has served as Chair of the Professional Conduct Committee. She will bring extensive administrative and social work experience to the presidency, and I look forward to working alongside her for the next two years. Leann Keach joins Council as treasurer. Leann is the Director of Social Work at Providence Place in Moose Jaw and has represented the Moose Jaw Branch on the Advisory Board for many years. Finally, Julie Stocki, a social worker in Mental Health Out-Patients in the Prince Albert Parkland Health Region, is a new member at large. Julie is an active member of the Prince Albert Branch. Welcome to all three!

I want to acknowledge and thank members who have completed their terms of office. Debra Wiszniak has served her final term as Past President. It is not possible to detail all of Debra's contributions over the past four years and certainly prior to that as a member of Council. As I mentioned at the AGM, Debra has invested much in her leadership of SASW and has been willing to accept additional responsibilities when asked. I am grateful for her leadership, her passion for professional excellence, her openness and friendship. Susan Luedtke has completed her term as a member at large this year. Susan will continue to serve the SASW as chair of the Education Committee, with a particular focus on the continuing training on the Code of Ethics. Susan has been a thoughtful and valued voice on Council. Finally, Marlene Chatterson has completed three two year terms as our representative on the Canadian Association of Social Workers Board. Marlene has been thorough and conscientious in her role as our representative. She

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Executive Director's Message

Well, it is now mid-June and it may be safe to say that we are done with snow for now. As this was being written in late April, the high was 4 degrees and there was a foot of snow forecast for areas south of the #1 Highway!

In his report, Jim outlined some of the main points from the AGM held in Yorkton. What I will do here is to add some wider background on changes that were approved to the two sets of By-laws that, along with *The Social Workers Act*, govern the organization. In the General By-laws (these could be called the "Regulatory" by-laws, given their content and the fact that they require the approval of the Minister after they have been approved by the AGM), a complete re-writing of the membership and registration sections was approved which clearly sets out the categories of membership and licensure along with the registration requirements for each. There is also a sharper distinction between licensed members who are practicing and those who are non-practicing. Several changes were made to bring us into compliance with the labor mobility requirements of the *Agreement on Internal Trade*, and the need for these has been expressed in earlier reports in this newsletter. Finally, there is a new section on the role and function of the Professional Conduct Committee that reflects its distinction as a group, like any Discipline Committee that is established in The Act, rather than being the creation of Council as a Standing Committee.

In the Administrative By-laws, changes in addition to what Jim has outlined include:

- Adding clarity around the December 1st time-line for registration renewals, and that they are to include both the fees and documentation required.
- Changing the term for those elected to serve on Council from one year, renewable twice; to two years, renewable once. The idea here was to improve continuity around the Council table.
- New provisions for standing committees so that there is additional distinction between these and the statutory committees mentioned above, and so that Council may establish terms of reference and the term of service for these committees, as well as the term of service for members appointed to serve within them.
- Provisions for a nominating committee were renamed to reflect our existing Volunteer Development Committee, and expanded to give more detail on its operation.

In Canada we have been without a national body to lead and to coordinate the regulatory efforts of our profession. To meet some of this need, all 10 provinces have joined the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) which operates within Canada and the U.S.

For some years, the national group of registrars and their presidents have discussed the formation of a Canadian organization to deal with those national issues for which we cannot rely upon ASWB. This group is now being formed and will be called the Canadian Council of Social Work Regulators. At its meeting on March 9, the SASW Council decided to accept the opportunity of joining this group and participate in the forming and shaping of its purpose and function. Once incorporation has been achieved, we will be able to share more on this significant development. At this point, it is looking as though all jurisdictions will be represented.

Beginning May 1, Kirk Englot, co-chair of the Social Justice Committee with Judy White, began an eight-month part-time Masters practicum with me here at the SASW Office. During this time, Kirk will look to building skills around organizational capacity-building, community development and social policy development centred around SASW's intent to develop a provincial anti-poverty strategy.

On page 11 you will see the second of three summaries by David Macknak and Frank Dornstauder of their article on the recent recognition of 100 years of child protection legislation and services in this province. The full version of the article will be available on our website by the end of this month.

Congratulations to the diligent members of the Yellowhead East Branch who did such a wonderful job of hosting the conference April 23 and 24 in Yorkton. The program was thoughtfully constructed and the entertainment was great fun. Oh, and the food was good, too! Thanks to Eileen and her crew of sunflower-clad co-hosts.

I do hope that you all have the opportunity of a break from your duties in the coming summer months.

Submitted by:
Richard Hazel, MSW, RSW (Sask.)

Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food

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CASW National Distinguished Service Award Recipient: Dr. Judy White, Saskatoon, SK

Dr. Judy White was born and raised in Trinidad. She obtained a BA from the University of West Indies and was a school teacher in Trinidad before moving to France. While in France, she obtained diplomas in French Language, Social Work Administration, and Social Work and Social Research from the universities of Bordeaux, Lille II, and Montrouge. Judy also completed both BSW and MSW degrees at the University of Regina, in Saskatchewan, and earned a PhD in Social Work in 2007 from the University of Manitoba. She worked for the Ministry of Social Services, Family Service Saskatoon, and joined the University of Regina Faculty of Social Work in 1999 where she is currently an Associate Professor.

Judy is well respected as a colleague, teacher, and advocate. She is currently working with other scholars across disciplines and across the country on a number of community-based research projects and initiatives. She is also a Commissioner for the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, a director for the Canadian Research Institute for the advancement of Women, a member of the Board of Governors of the Prairie Centre of Excellence of Research on Immigration, President of International Women of Saskatoon, and the Saskatchewan representative to the Vanier Institute of the Family. As well, Judy is also highly respected for her ongoing work with immigrant and refugee communities. Judy is the co-chair of the SASW Social Justice Committee.

Judy was unable to attend the AGM to receive the award due to other commitments. Arrangements have been made for the presentation at another time.

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, 2009.

Critical Social Work

An interdisciplinary journal dedicated to social justice.

Call for Submissions

Special Issue: Indigenous Peoples Winter 2010

Critical Social Work is currently seeking submission of manuscripts on theoretical, research, practice, and pedagogy developments in Indigenous social work. Manuscripts are welcome on the development of qualitative or quantitative methods, outcome or evaluation research of indigenous social work interventions, practice or pedagogy; exemplary practices with and for indigenous people; interventions, practice or organizational models based on traditional knowledge; as well as theoretical and conceptual manuscripts regarding indigenous social work practice, research or pedagogy. Submissions from indigenous social work students are encouraged.

Submission deadline September 1, 2009

Submission of Manuscripts: A hard copy and an electronic copy should be submitted in Microsoft Word format. Please see http://www.criticalsocialwork.com/ for more information on manuscript submission.

Interested candidates please contact:
Raven Sinclair, PhD, Guest Editor
E-mail: raven.sinclair@uregina.ca

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SASW Distinguished Service Award Recipient: Terri Woods, Saskatoon, SK

Terri Woods has been supporting children and families in Saskatchewan through her role as a social worker since 1975 when she received her BSW at the University of Regina. She graduated with her MSW from the University of Toronto in 1979. In her various roles as a counselor, mediator, supervisor, manager, consultant, educator and mentor, Terri has provided exemplary service to the people and organizations she has worked with. She is known as a hard-working and thoughtful person who thrives in complexity and fosters collaborative solutions.

Terri began her career as a child protection worker with the Department of Social Services. With experience in child protection, foster care and the Unifed Family Court, she became a family services supervisor. Terri joined the Department of Health, MacNeill Clinic, in the mid-80s, working in child and youth mental health services. During this time, she also did private counseling and mediation. Terri became a sessional lecturer with the Faculty of Social Work in 1984 and went on to teach the "Social Work with Families" class for almost twenty years.

Terri is strongly committed to the vital work of the nonprofit sector. She joined Family Service Saskatoon in 1992 and spent 14 years as Clinical Director and a year as acting Executive Director. Her work there promoting parent education, the FAST program, Wraparound, the Action Circle on Youth Sexuality/Youth Launch, and her contribution to the national Family Service Employee and Family Assistance Program earned her a Leadership Award from Family Service Canada in 2004. During these years, Terri continued to be an inspiring and respected teacher, workshop leader and board member. She has been a member of the Board of Governors of St. Thomas More College at the University of Saskatchewan, the boards of the Saskatoon Sexual Assault and Information Centre and YWCA Saskatoon and a member of the Saskatoon Family Therapy Institute.

Terri was the recipient of a Muttart Foundation Fellowship in 2004 and wrote *Untapped Potential: Fostering Organizational Social Capital in the Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector.* She is currently a program manager with Community Adult Mental Health & Addiction Services, Saskatoon Health Region. Whether working in the public, private or nonprofit sector, Terri encourages competent, creative, reliable and ethical practice.

Terri has been a member of the SASW Discipline Resource Pool since 2000 and the Mentorship Program since 2006. She was previously a member of the Education Committee and a member at large on the provincial council. She is currently chairperson of the Discipline Resource Pool.

Terri Woods was unable to receive her award at the SASW AGM as she was attending another conference as requested by her employer. Terri prepared the following words of acceptance:

I am deeply honoured to have been nominated for this award. As you know, I have been a practicing social worker in Saskatchewan for over thirty years. While the work is sometimes difficult, it is important and meaningful work. After all these years, social work continues to engage, challenge and reward me.

I want to express my appreciation to the many clients, students, and colleagues who have been and continue to be my teachers. I have been fortunate to work with many caring, committed and competent individuals in a variety of different contexts.

I also want to acknowledge my life partner, Bryan, a talented social work clinician and manager and a steady and supportive partner. My two children, now young adults, have taught me more than they will ever know about the human spirit and relationships and I thank them too.

It is an honour to be recognized in this way by my colleagues. I am very grateful.

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

SASW Student Scholarship Recipient: Angie Pollom, Saskatoon

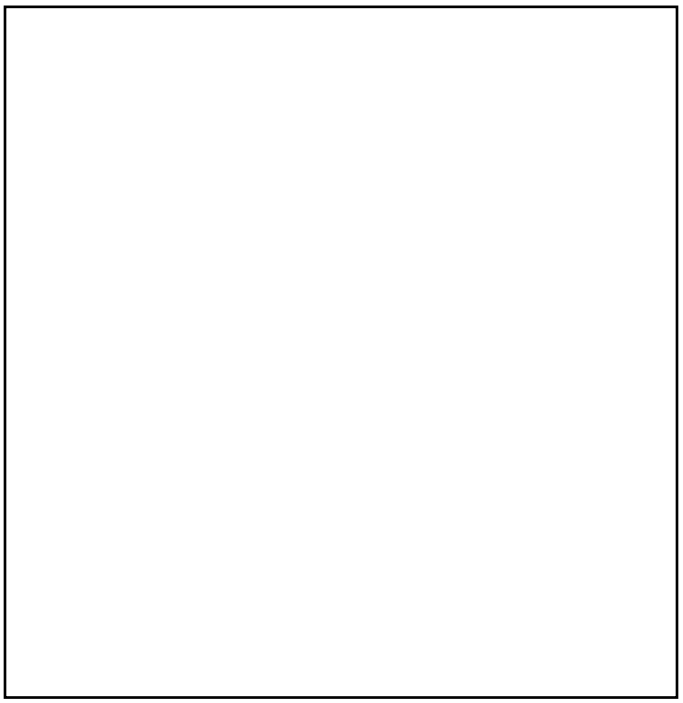
When the scholarship task team reviewed the applicants, the team looked at all aspects of volunteer involvement, length of membership with SASW and financial need. This year there were strong applicants for the student scholarship and they were all worthy of receiving the scholarship. The committee selected Angie Pollom as the recipient of this year's student scholarship. Angie will complete her BSW through the Saskatoon Campus, University of Regina, and will convocate this month. She has already attained her BA in psychology and an advanced certificate in sociology.

The scholarship task team selected Angie's application based on a number of factors including her two-year membership as a student with SASW and her involvement with the Saskatoon Social Work Students society, including the position of vice-president.

Referring to her volunteer work with the SW students society, Angie states in her application: *"We promote professional development and training outside of the general course work load. This term alone, between January 2009 and April 2009, I will be participating in roughly 50 hours of different professional development and training experiences."*

Angie volunteers at SWITCH (Student Wellness Initiative Toward Community Health). Her reference states: "Angie engages clients, volunteers and professionals alike with integrity, respect and the utmost regard for equitable treatment, collaboration and excellence…. She has a firm grasp of social work ethics and professionalism and has the ability to see issues clearly and concisely."

Angie traveled throughout the UK, Spain and Italy for a year on a working visa. She refers to this as a good opportunity to experience other cultures and gain "insight into social welfare issues that other countries are facing and the development of globalization. It was also a great networking experience because as a budget traveller your best resource is other travellers you meet."



Marlene Glettler, Chair of the Scholarship Task Team (left) presents Angie Pollom with the award at the AGM.

Congratulations, Angie. You have already shown a commitment to your community. All the best in completing your degree this year and entering the social work profession.

President's Message, cont.

made it her mission to ensure that SASW was always aware of what the national body was planning and doing, and was able to employ her considerable experience and collaborative style to represent us well.

Finally I am pleased to congratulate the recipients of the awards which were announced or presented at the AGM. They were all most deserving and once again demonstrate the depth of commitment of our social work colleagues. Upon hearing the history of service and accomplishments of the CASW Distinguished Social Work Award winner, Dr. Judy White (Saskatoon); the SASW Distinguished Service Award Winner, Terri Woods (Saskatoon); and the SASW Student Scholarship Award, Angie Pollom (Saskatoon), I was humbled and felt proud to be their colleague. Congratulations again.

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

2009 Provincial Conference Highlights

2009 Provincial Conference Highlights

Article Section

100 Years of Child Welfare Services in Saskatchewan

This is the second of three abridgements of the complete historical survey, which will be available on the SASW website later in June.

Annotated Time Line

Note: In reporting events of the past we have chosen, in most cases, to use language of the period rather than translate terms into current "politically correct" usage or convert to the new acronyms. We think this helps convey the spirit and thinking of the time.

1867 - *The British North America Act* assigns exclusive powers to provincial legislators in the establishment, maintenance and management of hospitals, asylums, charities, eleemosynary (services supported by charities), for the province and generally in all matters of a merely local or private nature. This implies provincial responsibility for social welfare programs beyond those supplied by private charity and municipal organizations. The Dominion government retains jurisdiction over Indians but assumes no responsibility for public welfare.

1893 - Ontario passes "*An Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to and Better Protection of Children*" — becoming the first province with Child Welfare legislation. The Act stressed punishment for abusive and neglectful parents.

1908 - Three years after joining Confederation the newly formed province (population approximately 270,000) enacts *The Children Protection Act*— "an Act for the Better Protection of Neglected and Dependent Children." The following year S. Spenser Page is appointed the first Superintendent of Child Welfare.

1908 to 1911 - Children's Aid Societies are established in Regina (1908), Saskatoon (1909), Moose Jaw (1912), Humboldt, Kamsack, Moosomin, North Battleford, Prince Albert, Qu'Appelle, Maple Creek, Weyburn, Yorkton, Indian Head, Melville, Estevan and Carlyle. Simultaneously, the Bureau of Child Protection is formed to serve those areas of the province not served by private societies. Additionally, Regina, Saskatoon and Moose Jaw establish and operate children's shelters.

The Child Protection Act defines a child in need of protection: "A child who is begging; who is wandering about at night and sleeping in the open; who is associating with a thief or drunkard or vagrant and allowed to grow up without salutary parental control; who lives in any disorderly house or in the company of reputed criminal or immoral or disorderly people; who is a destitute orphan deserted by lawful parents or guardians; who is guilty of petty crimes and likely to develop criminal tendencies; who is habitually truant from school." A child is deemed to be any person actually or apparently under the age of sixteen years.

1913 - Child Welfare Expenditure totals $16,000. Of this, $8000 is used for services to children.

The government promotes foster care for children over institutional care. Foster care includes free homes for younger children (no foster care payments) and wage homes (where children work for a wage) for older children. Paying foster parents for care is still in the distant future. Exploitation of children for labor is a concern.

Application for foster care must be in writing accompanied by at least two references, one of which must be from a clergyman. Preference is given to childless couples or couples who have only one child who is lonely and in need of companionship. There is a written agreement which requires regular school attendance for the foster child, inspection of the home and right of the Superintendent to remove the child without notice. The lack of agency in-person contact with the home is evident, but not surprising given the state of transportation at this time.

As of December 31, 1913, 457 children are in care of the Superintendent or a Society.

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100 Years of Child Welfare Services in Saskatchewan, continued

294 of these are placed in foster homes. Additionally, 47 are in homes outside the province, presumably with relatives. The remaining are likely in shelters or industrial schools. During this time, 222 visits are made to foster homes and it is found not practicable to visit 72 cases. Many of these are apparently out of province, married or have absconded and not been located. Out of the 457 children in care, 106 children are placed with relatives. Protestant children are placed in Protestant homes and Roman Catholic children in Catholic homes.

By 1915 the staff employed by the government to administer the Child Welfare program includes the superintendent, an assistant superintendent, an inspector, four stenographers and one clerk.

1917 - Juvenile court is established to hear cases under the *Juvenile Delinquents Act*.

1918 - The *Mothers' Pensions Act* is passed and first Mothers' Allowance payments are made under the administration of the Superintendent of Child Welfare.

Unfortunately, the legislation contains phrases such as "fit and proper mother," and "permanently incapacitated father." This leads to varied interpretations, particularly if the mother has an illegitimate child or is addicted to alcohol. These criteria lead to decisions laden with negative judgments and provide the municipal councils with a way to punish what the community deems to be immoral behavior. During the Depression years there is a significant increase in the number of mothers receiving the allowance.

Website: www.sasw.ca

A Federal Family Allowance Program will be established in 1944 and during 1945-46 the Department will reorganize the Mothers' Allowance program and transfer it from Child Care Branch to the Social Aid Branch.

1918 (circa) - Social Aid, Family Allowance and Aid to Dependent Families Allowance are other early financial assistance programs that have as their main objective a contribution to the care and safety of children in impoverished circumstances.

1926 - By this year, six men and three women are employed in the field. The foster boarding home is used for the frst time. By 1930 the number of these placements will double.

1927 - *Children's Protection Act, The Mother's Pensions Act, The Adoption of Children Act* and the *Juvenile Courts Act* are consolidated into *The Child Welfare Act*. Additionally the Act makes provision for care of "feeble-minded" and "mentally defective" children and a better provision for the children of unmarried parents.

1927-28 - The use of the term "family casework," in the yearly report of the provincial Bureau may be the first recorded reference to social work as a profession.

1929 - The Child Welfare budget is $106,000. Total number of children in care in 1930 is 1565.

1930s - The Great Depression has a brutal impact on welfare services in Saskatchewan. By 1937 seventy percent of the population is on relief. Government programs are curtailed and budgets slashed, Child Welfare programs among them. The Prince Albert Children's Aid Society is incorporated in 1931 and the Yorkton Society in 1934. Many of the Societies established in 1908 become completely inactive, the Bureau assuming direct responsibilities for providing services to children.

At this time Child Welfare legislation stipulates that all cities with a population of 10,000 or more shall have Incorporated Children's Aid Societies. Child Welfare committees are formed in the towns of Biggar, Assiniboia, Estevan, Humboldt, Melfort, Melville, North Battleford, Shaunavon, Swift Current, Tisdale, and Weyburn. The Child Welfare committees act as probation officers when juveniles are in court, provide used clothing to families in need and attempt to build informed public opinion on Child Welfare matters.

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100 Years of Child Welfare Services in Saskatchewan, continued

1931 - In the early 1930s the Bureau adopts a policy of family support to avoid the removal of children.

1940 - The Bureau operates throughout the province with 14 field staff carrying generalized caseloads. six or seven of these are based in Regina and work on Child Welfare cases exclusively. At this time the Bureau is administered by the Minister of Highways. The CAS in Yorkton disbands due to the lack of funding, while the CAS in Prince Albert is operating poorly and is not able to hire a director.

1943 - The Regina CAS is the frst to employ a trained social worker. The Bureau hires a trained worker later that year. Most appointments to the Bureau over the previous 30 years have been made through political patronage. The University of Manitoba offers a one-year course in Social Work.

1940s - During WW II, attention to families of service personnel creates a new burden on the Bureau. Additionally the Métis population is increasing and the number of Métis children coming into care is of mounting concern. During the war years there is an increase in the number of paid boarding homes. There is an accumulation of wards who are considered not suitable for adoption placement, and the number of homes in other categories diminishes because employment opportunities offered in war industries are more lucrative for caregivers. Additionally, the administration raises rates in order to maintain its cadre of homes. The lack of psychiatric care for children, child guidance services, training and correctional services for girls are concerns.

1940 - The Federal Government passes the *Unemployment Insurance Act*. As Canada moves out of the depression this is viewed as a move to further safeguard the future of families and the well-being of children.

Residential Schools

1892 to 1969 - Residential Schools are established by the Federal Government to deliver education to Indian children. These are operated by underfunded religious institutions that emphasize discipline and religious training and often have the avowed goal of "taking the Indian out of the child." It is discovered in later years that they were too often cruel and abusive and had the effect of alienating children from their families and culture. Several generations of children grow up in residential schools and return to their communities and to the cities without having experienced strong parenting models. As a consequence they fail in their own parenting, a situation that perpetuates itself over the ensuing generations and is generally considered to be a major reason for the large number of First Nations children in care.

Submitted by:
D. Macknak, MSW, RSW (Sask.) and
F. Dornstauder, MSW, RSW (Sask.)

SASW welcomes responses to the abridgments that appear in the newsletters and to the completed article that will be published in June 2009 on the Association's website. All responses will be published—with the writer's permission—on that same website. The authors may comment on the response where it is appropriate to do so. We especially welcome input that corrects or adds significantly to the record.

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.

Value 6: Competence in Professional Practice

Social workers respect a client's right to competent social worker services. Social workers analyze the nature of social needs and problems, and encourage innovative, effective strategies and techniques to meet both new and existing needs and, where possible, contribute to the knowledge base of the profession. Social workers have a responsibility to maintain professional proficiency, to continually strive to increase their professional knowledge and skills, and to apply new knowledge in practice commensurate with their level of professional education, skill and competency, seeking consultation and supervision as appropriate.

Principles:

- Social workers uphold the right of clients to be offered the highest quality service possible.
- Social workers strive to maintain and increase their professional knowledge and skill.
- Social workers demonstrate due care for client's interests and safety by limiting professional practice to areas of demonstrated competence.
- Social workers contribute to the ongoing development of the profession and its ability to serve humanity, where possible, by participating in the development of current and future social workers and the development of new professional knowledge.
- Social workers who engage in research minimize risks to participants, ensure informed consent, maintain confidentiality and accurately report the results of their studies.

A key feature that separates professional social work education from academic programs like sociology or psychology is the requirement to develop professional skills in a practicum placement. The integration of textbook learning and research with practical experience helps students to incorporate the knowledge, skills and abilities that enable social workers to apply social work ethics, standards and judgements in the field. Practicums also provide an opportunity for both the student and the profession to assess the fit: to see if social work is the profession the student anticipated and wants, and to see if the student has an aptitude and attitude suitable to join our noble profession.

Practicums are also one of the things that almost all social workers remember. When we get together in groups, it is not uncommon to hear social workers talking about their student placements, even if they took place many years ago. There are many great ones; there are also many horror stories. Those stories also come from both sides of the experience: the student with the unreasonably demanding supervisor and the supervisor with the ill-suited student. For most of us, however, the good stories outweigh the bad.

In the past few years social work education programs across Alberta have expressed concern about a shortage of good quality practicum placements available to host students. There are several reasons for this. One is the requirement under the *Health Professions Act* that all first time registrants have 1500 practice hours under the supervision of a Registered Social Worker. This poses a limitation for students who may be interested in a non-traditional placement or those who wish to go to a small agency that may not employ any social workers. Another reason is that taking a student adds to the social worker's workload. While a student may be able to take on some tasks that appear to relieve some of the burden, the supervisor needs to take the time to teach, review and assess the student's work. Many of us are so overloaded at work already that the thought of taking on a student is more than we can manage. There are also more social work education programs in more sites now than ever before, so the demand for placements has increased.

While not all of us have suitable opportunities for students, there are close to 6000 RSWs in Alberta. Consider what you have done in the past few years to "contribute to the ongoing development of the profession." Do you have some practice wisdom that you could pass along to students? Would you work site be a good place for someone to lean about social work practice and develop social work skills? Are there projects at your workplace that would provide a learning opportunity for new social workers? Have you been thinking about taking on a student but just haven't made the move? If you answered "yes" to any of these question, please contact the program nearest you to express your interest.

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Alison MacDonald, MDipl, RSW (AB)
Associate Registrar,
Alberta College of Social Workers

Acknowledgement of Article

The SASW Newsletter Committee would like to acknowledge Noela Crowe Salazar's contribution to the February 2009 edition of the *Saskatchewan Social Worker*. She is the author of the article "Considering Jordan's Principle and Our Role as Social Workers in Saskatchewan." Our apologies to Noela for not including her name as the author. We thank her for her valuable contribution.

"A Day in the Life of a Social Worker"

It all started with that relentless Catholic conscience and a comment by that woman in Vermilion who said it was now my turn to give back to society. I might have pursued a career in something a little more exotic, more straight-forward, prestigious, or maybe even better paid.... However, that's not the case. Some altruistic values were tickled years ago and social work is what I chose. I made that bed and now I have to lie in it.... Well, at least those are the thoughts that often go through my head as I grumble at the alarm clock each morning.

The snooze button pushed to the limit, I slowly stumble into the kids' rooms and wake them up one by one. Soon after a shower, a short speech on the fact that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, a few goofy faces at the newborn, a humour-laden "Have a good day, monkey butts!" to the 6 and 8 year olds followed by two returned smiles, and I'm off to Child & Youth Services for another day as a Clinical Social Worker.

> *Adolescents in general, let alone high-risk youth, live in the moment and two days from now many refuse the services that were so desperately desired today.*

Living in North Battleford, my home town, I often think how fortunate I am to be doing what I do as I was once told a BSW typically would not be hired to do clinical counselling. However the reality is that in places other than Saskatoon or Regina, MSWs can be hard to recruit. I've been here seven years now in a program entitled the School Retrieval Project. This position grew out of the Integrated School-Linked Services movement which gained momentum through the '90s and eventually evolved into the more commonly known initiative "SchoolPlus."

This three-year pilot project created by a partnership involving the Public School Division, the Catholic School Division, Social Services, and Prairie North Health Region's Child & Youth Services was designed to provide support and services to at-risk students in three alternative schools. Manacowin (12 students), Phoenix (30 students) and Avalon (60 students) were the original three school sites I was to visit throughout the week. Avalon, a high school for students who were unable to succeed in regular high schools for a variety of reasons ,eventually was absorbed by an innovative one-of-a-kind partnership between both school divisions and the Battleford's Tribal Council. The Battleford's First Nation High School, now known as Sakewew High School (250 students), came into existence in August 2002. For more information on Sakewew High School you can check out the following link: http://www.cityofnb.ca/cityhall/education.html.

Manacowin School, a school for students ranging in ages from 13 to 21, provides education and programming for those who have demonstrated behaviours that pose a risk of violence and/or sexual intrusiveness to students and staff in regular schools. It has one teacher/principal and one educational assistant as well as an educational liaison to help with students' academic transitioning to and from the school.

Phoenix School takes students ranging in age from 10 to 15 who continue to demonstrate extreme behavioural challenges that cannot be accommodated in regular school settings. Phoenix has two teachers, two educational assistants, a community liaison worker funded by both the school division and social services, and a part-time principal shared with the neighboring school.

The two latter schools receive applications that are reviewed by the Alternate Schools Admissions Committee, of which I am a member. This committee was the result of the original interagency partnership and has representatives from each agency as well as from the Drumming Hill Youth Center, whose open-custody boys are often needing the more intensive programming provided at Manacowin or Phoenix. A truly enlightened director of student services, who was formerly the sole decision-making power in deciding if a student went to these special programs, decided that interagency feed-

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"A Day in the Life of a Social Worker" continued

back was exactly what she had been looking for to help ensure appropriate placements for these high-needs students.

Working with at-risk youth makes appointments almost impossible as attendance is always unpredictable. That absent student's missed appointment time could be filled with paperwork, but I am reminded of the power of play when that simple hour spent with some students in a basketball game can give you several hours of open communication in counselling sessions over the next few weeks. However, challenges are numerous including students who seem to have been through each and every school program, mental health therapist, and social services worker employed in the community prior to you.

The fact that I have four work sites makes scheduling an ongoing challenge. It became quickly apparent that it was necessary to have a lot of flexibility, a reliable vehicle, a cell phone, e-mail, and a good understanding of when the best times to meet with staff at all four sites were. Almost immediately apparent was the fact that too long of an absence from any one site and you quickly realize that you are left out of the proverbial loop. Out of sight, out of mind the saying goes, and that just will not do when interagency work with high needs students requires constant communication and coordination with the team.

With the end of Avalon's 60 students and the introduction of Sakewew's 250 students, this of course led to an increased amount of crisis situations to respond to, which certainly has presented a challenge, but does add to the variety and excitement of the position as well. Challenges are numerous and I could go on, but I've been to enough conferences, in-services, workshops and journal clubs to know that a strength-based approach is simply a better way to go.

Integrated School-Linked Services is alive and kicking in North Battleford. An amazing team approach has developed with my inter-agency partners. This has been made possible by a common understanding that agency turf wars, rigid confidentiality rules, and bureaucratic referral procedures limit timely and accessible services to the people who need them quickly. I could insist that that referral form be completed down to the last letter or I could talk to the teacher in person and find out what this kid needs and do something about it today. Adolescents in general, let alone high-risk youth, live in the moment and two days from now many refuse the services that were so desperately desired today.

I have gained a lot of respect for teachers who plan their daily agenda down to the minute. It's 3:30 p.m. now and I could use some of those time management skills that they have because management says I'm behind in my paperwork. Back to the home base at Child & Youth Services I go for a coffee and some paper pushing. Can't stay past 5:30, I tell myself, because I need at least 15 minutes to force down some quick and easy supper before the evening recreational commitments begin. You need exercise to reduce stress, you know. Bedtime stories, a quick speech on the importance of brushing your teeth, and three kids tucked into bed. Perhaps I should have been a teacher, I think as I finally get into bed two hours later than I had wanted. Maybe then I'd have more time.

Submitted by:
Alan Corbeil, BA, BSW, RSW (Sask.)

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.

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.

Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers

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MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

March 4, 2009

Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers advocates for collaborative process to utilize community resources

In light of the recent report by the Saskatchewan Children's Advocate Office and the subsequent response from Saskatchewan Ministry of Social Services, the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers (SASW) is advocating for a province-wide collaborative process that will look beyond the current challenges in Saskatoon and develop a wider discussion on reconfiguring the system to ensure it utilizes key community resources.

"The Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers believes that child welfare workers and foster families working within the child welfare system have very challenging jobs to do and deserve the interest and support of the commu government. We need to develop a system in which key service providers offer well-connected services that families and help prevent children and youth being diverted into the core child welfare system," said SASW Walls.

The need to develop a comprehensive solution is becoming critical. It appears clear that children and youth e are staying in care for longer periods than would be ideal. The child-in-care caseload is estimated to continue growth.

There are several strategies that could be implemented to address these issues. The extent of poverty and mar in our communities should be addressed in a comprehensive way. The child welfare program should receive investment and accountability and mainstream programs be enhanced. New family support programs, parent and neighbourhood collaboration should be offered in addition to traditional child welfare programs. New st also required to address workforce and work environment issues.

The SASW is calling upon the government to begin a collaborative approach to address these issues. Initial st include a community-based organizational summit or a working group of key stakeholders, and ensure that and Metis concerns are included in the discussions.

"As social workers, we believe in the obligation of people, individually and collectively, to provide resources and opportunities for the overall benefit of humanity and to afford them protection from harm," said Walls. especially true for children - the most vulnerable members of our society."

For more information contact Richard Hazel of the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers at (306) 545-9155.

A Member of the Canadian Association of Social Workers

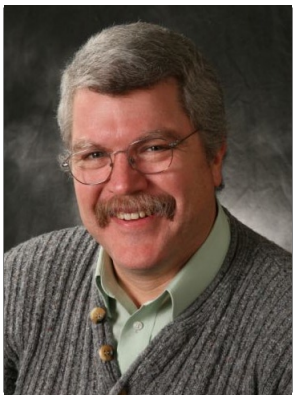
Chatter Box Section

Knowing where to go in your community for support and information is vital for both the client and the practitioner. This is especially true in a core neighborhood where access to services can be compromised by various factors.

In Regina, the Four Directions Community Health Centre, located in North-Central Regina, promotes individual, family and community health and wellness. The team at Four Directions provides a number of health-related support services and publishes a newsletter that can be accessed online through their website. They also produce the *Regina 2009 Street Survival Guide*, a pocket-sized guidebook for people who are homeless, at risk for being D0.5 3Dbbr(f)2(o)2(r)2(om(a)2h)72(b)2(o)2(r)2(p)72(b)2ompbbrwarnbbr(a)2hless,

Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina Section

Dean's Message



It was good to see many of you at the SASW conference and annual general meeting in Yorkton. Important policy and by-law amendments were enacted and new leadership elected during the meeting. It was personally rewarding to see democracy in action with the active participation of so many from such a broad range of practice orientations and generations. It is an honour to be a participant in this process.

By the time you read this, the Faculty of Social Work will be making offers to potential new faculty and welcoming them into our midst both in Saskatoon and Regina. We are currently in process of interviewing a number of outstanding candidates from across the Province and Canada. These individuals will make a significant positive contribution to the profession of social work as they engage as faculty members at the University of Regina. The future is bright. We in the Faculty wish to thank both SASW members Debra Wiszniak and Grace Jasper for assisting in the search process along with our MSW student, BSW student, and Joan Sanderson from First Nations University of Canada Social Work.

We have more good news to share. In a letter dated February 20, 2009, the University of Regina received notice of full reaccredidation status from the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE). The letter commends the Faculty of Social Work and observes that there is much to be proud of about the University of Regina program.

Over this next year we have a number of faculty members who will be on sabbatical. Many will be "in town" and around. The Faculty is pleased to be able to support these member efforts to grow professionally through study and research. To support the social work practicum program we welcome Ms. Erin Beckwell. She is stepping into the position of Practicum Coordinator for the Saskatoon area as Darlene Chalmers is away on sabbatical. Welcome, Erin. We also thank the many sessionals who will be working with us over the next year as we rely on community professionals to step into the classroom to share their wisdom and expertise.

Finally, please join the faculty in congratulating the new graduates in social work. I have personally met many of these fine individuals and admire their drive, enthusiasm, and willingness to engage in helping society address some of our most pressing issues. These excellent new professionals offer the promise of a bright future for our society and the profession. This is an exciting time to be a social worker and to work in social work education here in Saskatchewan.

Have a good summer.

For the Faculty of Social Work,
Dr. David Schantz, MSW, RSW
Dean, Faculty of Social Work

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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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AON ACTS/CASW ING HALIFAX

Upcoming Conferences, Workshops & Educational Events

"Canadian Domestic Violence Conference: Working with those who perpetrate abuse and their families"

June 18 & 19, 2009
Toronto, ON
Sponsored by: Bridges - a domestic violence counseling, research & training institute
Contact information: bridges@bridgeinstitute.org

Basic and Advanced Weeks in Reality Therapy/Choice Theory

August 10 - 13, 2009 in Regina
Contact: Carole Eaton at 569-1977 or Linda Routledge at linda@accesscomm.ca

Ethics in Practice: The Right to Live at Risk Social Workers in Medical Settings (SWIMS) Conference

November 5-6, 2009
Presenter: Dr. Eldon Soifer, BA Hons, MA (Toronto), DPhil (Oxon)
Location: Regina, SK
Contact: Marlene Glettler at marlen.glettler@rqhealth.ca

Aspirations: A Safe Place to Grow Workshops

Level 2: Development, Attachment, and Trauma Training.

February - October 2010
Edmonton, Alberta
Local organizer: Aspirations Inc (Lynne M. Kostiuk)
phone: (780)-953-1374
e-mail: aspirations@asafeplacetogrow.ca
info: http://www.asafeplacetogrow.ca/level2.pdf

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