

**Saskatchewan Association
of
Social Workers**

2006 Annual Report

Advocate
Promote
Regulate
Support



SASW Council/Advisory Board Listing

Council			
President	Debra Wiszniak Regina	Past President	Tom Seeley Yorkton
Treasurer	Frank Dornstauder Regina	Secretary	Maureen Kraemer Weyburn
Public Representative	Doug Stewart Regina	Members at Large	Susan Luedtke, Prince Albert Myrna Pitzel, Regina Joyce Reid, Regina
Council Appointments			
SASW Registrar	J. Rawdon Bieber Regina	CASW Board	Marlene Chatterson Saskatoon
Senate-University of Regina	Grace Jasper Regina		
Committee Chairpersons			
Advocacy Task Team	Don Ebert, Saskatoon	Psychologist Act Task Team	Vacant
Discipline Resource Pool	Don Stevenson, Regina	Public Relations	Roxane Schury, Saskatoon
Education Committee	Ray Pekrul, Regina	Standards of Practice Committee	Vacant
Health Care Task Team	Chris Mayhew, Saskatoon	Scholarship Task Team	Sandy Vaughan Hastie, Yorkton
Legislative Review	Geoff Pawson, Regina	Social Policy	Patti Cram, Saskatoon Nancy Carmichael, Saskatoon
Mentorship Committee	Myrna Pitzel, Regina	Volunteer Development Committee	Barb Church-Staudt, Regina
Practice Ethics Committee	Marcia Clark, Saskatoon Joanne Schenn, Prince Albert		
Professional Conduct	Susan Hetu, Regina		
Branch Representatives			
Battlefords	Jim Walls	Moose Jaw	Leann Keach
Prince Albert	Susan Luedtke	Northeast	Lucie Dmyterko
Regina	Dianne Allen	Saskatoon	Jean Wiens
Rural Social Work Group	Deborah Bryson Sarauer	Swift Current	Peggy Cunningham
Yellowhead East	Rick Yachiw		

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Report from the President

As the first year of my term as President draws to a close, I reflect with gratitude on the opportunity to serve the membership in this leadership role. The Annual Report is an opportunity to share the broad scope of the Association's work and to celebrate accomplishments. It is important to acknowledge that this would not be possible without the commitment, passion and knowledge of the volunteer members of Council, Advisory Board and Committees who embrace this important work throughout the year.

2006 has proven to be a very successful, challenging and exciting time for the Association. Our membership continues to grow, demonstrating the importance social workers are placing on being registered members of their Association, aligning the profession with the many other registered professions that social workers practice and consult with every day.

As President, I had the privilege of representing SASW at a national level. In June 2006, I attended the National Conference, Presidents' Meetings and joint meetings of the Presidents, provincial CASW representatives and Executive Directors in Halifax. These meetings afforded the opportunity to share successes, challenges and creative strategies for social work across all borders as well as providing input regarding the strategic direction and priorities for CASW.

In September 2006, SASW successfully hosted the National Registrars' Meeting and Mutual Recognition Agreement Meeting (MRA) involving the national group of social work regulators and representatives of the federal Labor Mobility Coordinating Group. Council must now approve the MRA with the goal of all provinces signing off by March 31, 2007, supporting practice mobility for social workers across the country. Thanks to the concerted efforts of Rawd Bieber, Debb Fisher and Richard Hazel, many positive comments were received from our guests about the efficiency of the meetings, hospitality of the Association and wonderful events planned for attendees.

SASW continues to maintain collaborative working relationships with key stakeholders in the professional community including the College of Psychologists, the Registered, Psychiatric and Practical Nurses and the University of Regina, Faculty of Social Work. As President, I meet regularly with David Schantz, the new Dean of the Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina. Various committees have established other key linkages with community groups to work collaboratively on social justice issues and promotion of the profession. CASW has signed a one-year agreement with the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) to make selected public education campaign materials available to members of CASW for promotional use in the Canadian provinces. One of these promotional advertisements was circulated in November 2006 and published in several newspapers across Canada, including the Saskatoon and Regina dailies. This is an important avenue to promote and educate the public about the profession of social work.

SASW continues to work on key priorities including continued discussions with the College of Psychologists regarding restrictions on social work practice due to provisions within *The Psychologists Act*. Our work toward mandatory registration continues, including an important meeting with government representatives responsible for our legislation. The development of a strategy for the Code of Ethics training for the membership has been an important focus. The tragic death of Beverley Antle in the fall of 2006 was a significant loss to colleagues and to the profession. Negotiations had commenced with Beverley regarding the code of ethics training. SASW has now engaged in negotiations with a new consultant/trainer to deliver our envisioned strategy.

An important focus in the fall of 2006 was working toward the strategic planning workshop set for January 12 and January 13, 2007. I believe that developing an action plan and setting priorities is critical in an organization that remains primarily volunteer driven. A steering committee was established and Valerie Sluth, the consultant who led the 2003 strategic planning process, was

engaged. Improvements to the governance of SASW, clarity of purpose and increased transparency were several important outcomes from the 2003 strategic planning exercise. The 2003 action plan allowed the Association to set goals and priorities to focus our energies in the right areas and to track recommendations. This resulted in a high level of achievement in all areas of emphasis: to regulate, advocate, promote and support. The 2007 workshop will now build on the foundation of the previous process and identify priorities and strategies for implementation over the next four years.

In closing, I would like to thank all SASW members for your genuine caring about the well-being of individuals, families and communities and your commitment to the profession of social work and to SASW. Thanks to Debb Fisher and Richard Hazel for your efficient management of the important administrative obligations of the Association and your support to Council, Advisory Board, Committees and members in general.

As my second year as President approaches, I look forward with much anticipation to the challenges, opportunities for growth and to venturing forward with a renewed set of directions for the Association.

Respectfully submitted: Debra Wiszniak, MSW, RSW (Sask.)

Report from the Executive Director

It is important to first recognize the commitment and creativity of the many volunteers that make SASW what it is, and provide for its responsibilities to be carried out. Time is precious to everyone, and sharing it is a selfless act. Particular thanks go to all of those who make up our Advisory Board - Council members, Branch Representatives, Committee Chairs and our CASW Board Representative. SASW carries serious responsibilities and 2006 was not different from other years in terms of the ambitious agenda we had. Other pages in this annual report, highlight the fine work that has been achieved, and I believe it is an impressive story.

As Debra Wiszniak has noted in her report, the action plan for the association that was developed in 2003 has carried us a great distance. It was intended as a four year development. At its planning meeting in late August, Council directed that we initiate a renewed process to revisit strategic issues and renew our action plan for the next four years. The plan for renewal kept the same set of volunteers noted above, from the Advisory Board table, central to the development of proposed plans and goals for Council's consideration. It is anticipated that once the set of proposals from the workshop on January 12 and January 13, 2007 are reviewed and priorities set, we will have a new action plan by the end of the summer, 2007.

The Editorial Board of SASW continues its work on the newsletter. As the year ended, this work was being carried by Brenda Stinson, Ailsa Watkinson, Lorelee Manning, Ruth Mireau and Rick Yachiw. Debb Fisher continues to provide strong support to the receiving and organization of the information presented, and I continue to coordinate the committee. There has been such a strong response to the Family Tree Section that we now have a wait list of members and former members to be profiled.

In 2006, Council delivered on its commitment to find accessible space for the SASW Office. The space was found where we were already living! The decision to stay was based upon a re-evaluation of the options for going elsewhere, and a closer look at the cost and benefits of becoming accessible. The result has followed quickly. By September, the old porch to the west end of our building was removed and replaced by new construction containing an interior wheelchair lift and another office. Now the Registrar and I can each have our own offices and there is adequate room for files and printed materials. We also have an accessible washroom, a renovated kitchen, an energy-efficient furnace and a new air-conditioner.

As a regulator of professional practice, SASW has benefited over the last two years from its affiliation with the Association of Social Work Boards. The ASWB is a collaborative group of social work regulators from the U.S. and Canada, and our membership will become more valuable as we move toward the goal of mandatory registration. From our connection with ASWB, we see a couple of interesting trends. The first is that in most American jurisdictions there are examinations for entry to practice. These are developed and managed by ASWB. In addition, while in Canada we have a mix of models for social work regulation; in the United States most jurisdictions have separate regulatory and membership/practice support organizations. In the future, this may present challenges to SASW and our strongly held view that professional self-regulation goals are best met by a unified approach.

SASW has asked that the Department of Community Resources consider an employer-driven requirement of registration for its eligible staff. This request was formalized in November, and we hope to have a response that will take us into further discussion on how best to achieve this goal.

SASW now has a good set of policies on membership registration, and a section of personnel policies is under development. Work will soon begin on updating operational policies for key functions like discipline and our management of complaints and investigation.

Thank you, Debra Wiszniak, for your energy, creativity and committed leadership throughout 2006. I also continue to appreciate the hard work and dedication of Debb Fisher and Rawd Bieber here at the office. In addition, I offer my thanks to Marlene Chatterson of Saskatoon, our representative at the CASW Board table. SASW is very well served by these colleagues.

Respectfully submitted: Richard Hazel, MSW, RSW (Sask.)

Report from the Registrar

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is always an exciting time for the Registrar.

Membership

The membership breakdown for the past nine years is as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Associate</i>	<i>Full Time</i>	<i>Non Practicing</i>	<i>Part Time</i>	<i>Student</i>	<i>Total</i>
1998	1	608	69	127	44	849
1999	1	658	90	126	44	919
2000	4	660	83	138	58	943
2001	3	682	87	155	48	975
2002	3	736	105	135	68	1,047
2003	4	767	109	124	73	1,077
2004	3	781	108	132	79	1,103
2005	2	797	140	129	93	1,161
2006	2	828	138	154	103	1,225

National Registrars' Meeting

The year of 2006 was a special year for the Registrar. It is a tradition that the National Registrars' meet once a year alternating between Eastern and Western Canada. SASW was very pleased when the National Registrars accepted Saskatchewan's invitation to meet in Regina in September 2006. All Registrars attended this meeting with the exception of Suzanne McKenna from New Brunswick who had other commitments. As a special guest for one day we had Roger Kryzanek, President of the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB), of which SASW is a member.

This meeting was immediately followed in Regina by the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) meeting which was attended by the Registrars, and Presidents of all the Canadian Social Work Regulatory Bodies. Also in attendance were Federal and Provincial government representatives.

At the National Registrars Meeting the agenda comprised a number of issues important to regulation. These topics included standards, pardons, criminal record checks, in-province applications for registration, out-of-country applications, investigations, discipline, continuing education standards, and the consideration of acceptable continuing education to name a few.

The National Registrars' entire time of meetings was not only consumed with work. They had the opportunity to meet and stay at the Hotel Saskatchewan and were able to dine at some of Regina's finer eating establishments. Last but not least, SASW hosted a Wine and Dessert Reception at my home to which an invitation was extended to SASW Council and Advisory Board Members. As Registrar, I extend many thanks and praise to Debb Fisher for making all the desserts for this function. As well, thank you to both Debb and Richard Hazel for assisting in helping to arrange the National Registrars' Meeting and to Debra Wizniak for welcoming the Registrars to Saskatchewan. The National Registrars were very impressed with our setting, the dessert reception and SASW's organizational skills.

Respectfully submitted: J. Rawdon Bieber, BSW, RSW (Sask.)

Report from CASW Representative

The past year has been a busy and productive one for the Canadian Association of Social Workers. I will outline some of the highlights relating to the CASW strategic plan.

Pursuit of Social Justice

CASW continued to advocate for women in poverty. The Declining Health and Well Being of Low Income Women in Canada: A Preventable Tragedy paper was released. In response to the 2006 Budget, the paper Focusing on Priorities: An Evaluation of the 2006 Budget was released. Numerous opportunities were taken to issue press releases to highlight the needs of the most vulnerable in our country. CASW Board members and staff are involved in coalition work and in the areas of mental health, primary health, end of life care, AIDS and others, joining with other professional organizations to promote better services.

One significant example of coalition building involved CASW inviting together the National Antipoverty Organization, the Canadian Nurses Association, the National Council of Welfare, and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and the Canadian Council on Social Development. Agreements for collaboration resulted in CASW, CAN and NADO issuing a press release on International Human Rights day. The release highlighted limited access to nutritional food as a compromise of basic human rights.

CASW participated in the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' (CCPA) roundtable discussion for the development of its 2007 Alternative Federal Budget. CASW also supported the National Council of Welfare in publicizing their anti-poverty questionnaire and in providing statements of support for the project. I represent CASW on the Coalition to Promote Senior's Mental Health and this coalition is actively promoting national guidelines developed by the coalition around best practices and treatment of seniors' mental illness.

Promotion of the Profession

A very successful National Conference was held in Halifax in June, 2006. Several social workers from Saskatchewan were among the presenters and are to be congratulated for their contribution. The next national conference will be held in Toronto in 2008.

The Social Work themes for Social Work week were established as follows:

- 2007 - Social Workers Making a Difference in Children's Lives
- 2008 - Social Workers Make a Difference in Women's Lives
- 2009 - Social Workers Make a Difference in Senior's Lives.

CASW now has three interest groups which are conferencing regularly; the Children's Issues Group, the Health Interest Group and the Aboriginal Social Workers Interest Group. All the groups have representatives from across the country and are focusing on various issues including the conditions in which social workers are working. The Health Interest Group has issued papers and these are available on the CASW web site as well as the work on the Children's Issues group. Representing SASW, Margaret Graham-Woloshyn participates in the Health Interest Group, Dave Macknak on the Children's Issues Group and Hazel Berg on the Aboriginal Workers Group.

CASW has signed a cooperative agreement with the National Association of Social Workers to use their media ads which promote the social work profession. In the meantime, ads developed by the Alberta College of Social Workers have been adapted and were circulated across the country in December, 2006.

A Memorandum of Agreement has been signed with CASSW (Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work) to work more closely together, communicating regularly, issuing joint statements, and joining together for projects of mutual interest and benefit. CASSW has offered to co-host the 2008 Conference.

Tracy Muggli, Saskatoon, has agreed to sit on the CASW Editorial Board representing Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Enhance Excellence in Regulation

CASW has provided funding to member organizations that are planning training for their members around the **Code of Ethics**. SASW has received funding and training is planned. Bev Antle who developed the Code of Ethics (2005) and was to deliver the training, died in a car accident in Toronto in November, 2006. Many of you will remember Bev from our conference in Nipawin. Her death has been a great loss to the profession.

The CASW strategic plan will be reviewed in April with input from all member organizations. Serving on the CASW Board has been interesting, challenging, rewarding and time consuming. It has been a pleasure representing SASW on the CASW Board.

Submitted by: Marlene Chatterson, MSW, RSW (Sask.)

Report from the Auditor

NIGEL A. CROOK

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

*124-2001 Cornwall Street • Regina, Saskatchewan • S4P 3X9
Phone (306) 352-3920 Fax 352-3931*

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers:

I have audited the statement of financial position of Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers as at December 31, 2006 and the statements of operations and unrestricted net assets and changes in financial position for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the organization's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many non-profit organizations, the Association derives revenue from various programs and activities the completeness of which is not susceptible of satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, my verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Association and I was not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to revenues, increase in fund balance, assets and fund balance.

In my opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which I might have determined to be necessary had I been able to satisfy myself concerning the completeness of the revenues referred to in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at December 31, 2006 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Nigel Crook

Nigel Crook FCA
March 7, 2007



Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Saskatchewan

SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
December 31, 2006

	2006	2005
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank accounts	\$ 48,205	\$ 47,715
Short term deposits	<u>290,534</u>	<u>328,053</u>
	338,739	373,768
Accounts receivable	<u>2,343</u>	2,618
Prepaid expenses	<u>500</u>	<u>2,700</u>
	341,582	379,086
CAPITAL ASSETS - Note 3	<u>166,787</u>	<u>78,841</u>
	<u>\$ 508,369</u>	<u>\$ 457,927</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 2,524	\$ 2,977
Deferred revenue - Note 2	<u>264,299</u>	<u>248,962</u>
	266,823	251,940
MORTGAGE PAYABLE - Note 4	<u>-</u>	<u>5,340</u>
	<u>266,823</u>	<u>257,279</u>
NET ASSETS		
Net assets invested in capital assets - Note 6	166,787	73,501
Unrestricted net assets	<u>74,759</u>	<u>127,147</u>
	241,546	200,648
	<u>\$ 508,369</u>	<u>\$ 457,927</u>

**SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006**

	2006 <i>Actual</i>	2006 <i>Budget</i>	2005 <i>Budget</i>
REVENUE			
Membership Fees	\$ 293,275	\$ 290,155	\$ 269,560
Conference	34,240	14,000	16,911
Interest	5,257	3,500	3,339
Workshops	-	2,000	-
Provincial Golf Tournament	-	7,500	7,520
Newsletter, Website	1,940	1,200	1,270
Mailing fees	1,680	240	240
Other fees and revenue	<u>21</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>21</u>
	<u>336,413</u>	<u>318,655</u>	<u>298,861</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Audit and accounting	1,505	1,700	1,436
Awards, honoraria	5,333	5,200	5,094
Bank charges	1,087	2,000	1,462
Branch payments	4,038	4,020	4,100
CASW fees	44,872	45,760	42,093
Committee: meetings and travel	28,409	30,300	22,728
training and planning	1,669	3,200	2,250
Conference and workshop	18,701	14,000	10,164
Courier	599	850	764
Copier	1,925	1,900	1,893
Depreciation	5,657	4,200	4,444
Insurance	3,473	3,500	3,339
Legal	11,075	20,000	6,286
Miscellaneous	586	600	788
Mortgage interest	169	-	658
Newsletter	9,086	9,500	8,808
Office supplies/equipment	4,085	4,000	3,693
Postage	9,615	9,300	8,936
Printing and stationery	9,594	10,500	10,394
Property taxes	4,333	-	4,300
Provincial golf tournament	-	7,500	7,520
Special events	1,211	2,000	350
Renovations	2,713	-	-
Repairs and maintenance	6,363	7,000	10,312
Salaries and benefits	107,405	112,270	103,406
Staff training	856	-	302
Telephone	8,107	13,000	10,135
Utilities	3,047	3,500	3,332
Workshop	<u>-</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>295,515</u>	<u>317,800</u>	<u>278,987</u>
EXCESS REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	40,898	<u>855</u>	19,874
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>200,648</u>	<u>180,774</u>	
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 241,546</u>		<u>\$ 200,648</u>

**SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006**

	2006	2005
OPERATIONS		
Excess of revenue over expenditures	\$ 40,898	\$ 19,874
Items not requiring the use of cash:		
Depreciation not affecting cash	<u>5,657</u>	<u>4,444</u>
	46,555	24,318
Changes in non-cash working capital items		
Accounts receivable	275	524
Prepaid expenses	2,200	-
Prepaid conference expenses	-	(500)
Accounts payable	(452)	245
Deferred revenue	<u>15,336</u>	<u>15,841</u>
	<u>63,914</u>	<u>40,428</u>
INVESTING		
Acquisition of capital assets	<u>(93,603)</u>	-
FINANCING		
Repayment of long term debt	<u>(5,340)</u>	<u>(6,514)</u>
(DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH	(35,029)	33,914
UNRESTRICTED CASH, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>373,768</u>	<u>339,854</u>
UNRESTRICTED CASH, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 338,739</u>	<u>\$ 373,768</u>

SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006

1. DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS

Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers (SASW) is a corporation dedicated to the protection of the public and to the strengthening and unifying the social work profession through professional standards, education, and addressing issues of social welfare. SASW continues under *The Social Workers Act* and has accordingly claimed exemption to any income taxes that may be payable on the reported income.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and include the following significant accounting policies:

- a) Fixed assets are stated at cost and are depreciated on the diminishing balance basis at the rates indicated (½ in year of purchase).
- b) Revenue recognition
 Membership revenue is allocated to the year it relates to. All other revenue is recorded in the fiscal period it is received. Membership revenue received relating to the next fiscal period is shown as deferred revenue.

3. CAPITAL ASSETS

	<u>Rates</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated depreciation</u>	<u>Net book value</u>	
				<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Land	--	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Building	4%	169,559	28,339	141,220	51,551
Office equipment	20%	22,781	19,630	3,151	3,939
Computer equipment	30%	16,472	14,612	1,860	2,657
Furniture and fixtures	20%	<u>5,916</u>	<u>5,361</u>	<u>555</u>	<u>694</u>
		<u>\$ 234,728</u>	<u>\$ 67,942</u>	<u>\$ 166,786</u>	<u>\$ 78,841</u>

4. MORTGAGE PAYABLE

The mortgage secured by the real property at 2110 Lorne Street, Regina was repaid in full to Conexus Credit Union during the year.

5. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain of the comparative figures have been restated to conform to current year's presentation. The budget information as provided by management of the Association is included solely for informational purposes.

6. NET ASSETS INVESTED IN CAPITAL ASSETS

Net assets invested in capital assets consists of:

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Capital Assets (net)	\$ 166,786	\$ 78,841
Mortgage payable	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,340)</u>
	<u>\$ 166,756</u>	<u>\$ 73,501</u>

Report from Advocacy Task Team

Committee Members

Chairperson: Don Ebert

Klaus Gruber	Ruth Mireau	David Macknak
Ben Webster	Elliot Paus-Jensen	Ron Pollock
Warren Postlewaite	Rita Herperberger	Tammy Enns
Richard Hazel (ex-officio)		

Committee Purpose

The purpose of the Advocacy Task Team is to address issues of social justice and human rights and to respond to misconceptions in the media that are of concern to social workers and the people they serve.

Even with advertising in the newsletter, the Advocacy Task Team did not receive issues from the membership that they wanted the association to address. Richard Hazel wrote an extensive article on advocacy in the June issue of *The Saskatchewan Social Worker* and the procedure for contacting the task team was profiled again.

In the fall of 2006, it was decided that the Advocacy Task Team should hold a joint meeting with the Social Policy and Public Relations Committees in order to clarify overlapping roles. At that meeting held on November 30th, it was suggested that the Advocacy Task Team and the Social Policy Committee should be merged. This was taken forward to the strategic planning meeting in January 2007 and was approved.

It is believed that this will be more efficient and will more coherently address the needs of the association.

Respectfully submitted: Don Ebert, MSW, RSW (Sask.)

Report from Discipline Resource Pool

Committee Members

	Don Stevenson, Chairperson	
Kerry Lapointe	Harriet Greenhow	Terri Woods
Pamela Ait-Allaouna	Katherine Potts	Glenda Risling
Murray Wotherspoon	Dan Fofonoff	Audrey Zwack
Doug Stewart (public representative)		

Committee Purpose

The Social Workers Act requires the establishment of a Discipline Committee to hear complaints referred to it by the Professional Conduct Committee. In order to ensure that there are sufficient members to establish a Discipline Committee as the need arises, SASW Council has established a Discipline Resource Pool. Discipline Committees are created from the Discipline Resource Pool to hear and adjudicate complaints against a member brought by the Professional Conduct Committee.

There was one discipline hearing conducted in 2006. On November 27, 2006, the Discipline Committee held a hearing with respect to Evelyn Mary Hynes. The Committee's decision was issued December 22, 2006 and found Ms. Hynes not fit to remain a member of SASW. The Committee ordered that she be expelled from the Association, that the national social work regulatory bodies in Canada be notified of the expulsion, and that this information be published in *The Saskatchewan Social Worker* and, in summary form, in the Saskatoon and Regina daily newspapers.

As 2006 came to an end, recruitment of new members has begun, as well as an assessment for further training regarding the responsibilities that the Discipline Resource Pool carries.

Respectfully Submitted: Don Stevenson, MSW, RSW (Sask.)

Report from Education Committee

Committee Members

Chairperson: Ray Pekrul

Bernie Zaharik

Grace Jasper

Sharon McKay

Susan Luedtke

Joyce Reid

Lorraine Vandall

Richard Hazel (ex-officio)

Committee Purpose

The purpose of the Education Committee is to address the educational needs and requirements for quality professional practice. The Education Committee shall promote continuing education for members, and provide support and input to the Faculty of Social Work – University of Regina regarding the design and delivery of the Social Work Degree programs.

Members of the Education Committee served on the University of Regina - Faculty of Social Work Committees - Grace Jasper on the Faculty/Student Council as well as SASW's representative to the Senate of University of Regina, Susan Luedtke on the MSW Committee, and myself on the Undergraduate Studies Committee. As well, I served on the University of Regina - Admission Committee revising the admission process for the Faculty of Social Work. The new application forms and paneling process began in January 2007 with 250+ applications to be rated by SASW member(s). We are hopeful the new admission process will reduce the number of difficulties which seemed apparent in the old process.

The Education Committee has been primarily engaged in furthering our partnership with the University of Regina - Continuing Education Department. Three workshops were planned and marketed - a workshop on Mindfulness in Practice for January 2006, a workshop on Self Care for June 2006 in three locations and a workshop in October 2006 with Dr. Martin Brokenleg in Regina. The two earlier workshops were cancelled due to insufficient numbers. While the October workshop had 168 registrants, it had to be cancelled due to the sudden illness of Martin Brokenleg. We were all very disappointed, but recognize these things cannot be prevented.

For the 2007 calendar, the Education Committee is looking to train members to instruct and facilitate workshops on applying the Code of Ethics (2005). To this end, SASW has secured a grant from CASW and a new presenter to replace Bev Antle who died in a tragic automobile accident on November 11, 2006. We are soliciting nominees from the branches and to have the selected trainers trained in May/June/07. It is hoped to have Code of Ethics workshops for SASW members planned for the fall of 2007. As well, the Education Committee did another survey on continuing education which was sent with November 2006 issue of the *Saskatchewan Social Worker* and which received 110 responses. The responses will be analyzed and a report prepared to help the committee design continuing education opportunities for the next 1½ years.

The Education Committee is looking forward to an infusion of new members and will be reviewing the volunteer list. We wish to have representation from all regions of the province and from diverse areas of practice.

Respectfully submitted:

Ray Pekrul, MSW, RSW (Sask)

SASW 2006 Annual Report

Social Workers - Make a Difference

Report from Health Care Task Team

No report submitted.

Report from Legislative Review Committee

Committee Members

Chairperson: Geoff Pawson

Carole Bryant
Ray Pekrul
Tracy Muggli

Klaus Gruber
Frank Dornstauder
Richard Hazel (ex-officio)

Rawd Bieber
Ralph Aman

Committee Purpose

The purpose of the Legislative Review Committee is to address the association's goal of achieving ownership of the practice of social work and, therefore, mandatory registration. The committee will also determine the need for other amendments to The Social Worker's Act to ensure it is appropriately updated and consistent with the needs of the association. This work will be done in collaboration and close communication with SASW Council.

An important milestone was reached in the work of this committee in 2006. A third version of our proposed scope of practice for inclusion in *The Social Workers Act* was developed out of discussion and review of the earlier versions. It was presented to Advisory Board at its September meeting and was favorably received. With the acknowledgement that it will require refinement, this version was formally presented to the Deputy Minister of Community Resources in November for detailed consideration by the Department.

The current situation is that SASW has protection of the title "social worker", but not protection of practice. Consequently, an individual may do what we would describe as social work so long as they do not use the title. We are working through the Department of Community Resources as we seek ownership of practice because it is the Minister of that department who holds responsibility for our *Act*. It is our view that the public deserves to have the assurance that all those in active practice are fully accountable, so SASW proposes that the *Act* be amended to include definition of the scope of social work practice. This would have the result that all who have the necessary credentials and practice social work would have to become registered and accountable to code of ethics and practice standards. The motivation for doing this is to further advance the protection of the public that professional registration affords.

The following is the draft which was presented to the Department of Community Resources:

- (1) *No person, other than a social worker, shall engage, with or without hope of reward, in the practice of social work.*
- (2) *Subsection (1) does not apply to:*
 - (a) *the provision of services by social work students enrolled in a social work education program where the services are provided under the supervision of a social worker as part of that program; and*
 - (b) *any person who practices the profession, trade or calling that they are licensed or authorized to practice pursuant to any other Act.*

(3) *The practice of social work includes the assessment, remediation and prevention of social problems, and the enhancement or restoration of social functioning of individuals, families, groups and within communities by means of:*

- (a) the provision of direct counselling services;*
- (b) the development, promotion and delivery of human service programs, including that done in collaboration with other professionals;*
- (c) the development and promotion of social policies; and*
- (d) any other activities consistent with the objects of the association;*

and which requires or utilizes the application of specialized knowledge, values and skills in the field of social work.

The draft says that those who are practicing what we would call social work without a social work credential are not our responsibility. The inclusion of the past phrase, “and which requires or utilizes the application of specialized knowledge, values and skills in the field of social work”, achieves this. Also exempted are those who are doing some of what we would call social work, but who are regulated by other professional bodies such as the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association. Students in social work who have not yet obtained a social work credential would not be included. We have been clear that defining requirements for positions in the workplace is now and would remain the responsibility of the employer.

This draft is derived from similar statements in social work professional legislation in Alberta, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland. Sections (1) and (2) are patterned on Section 24 of *The Registered Nurses Act* of Saskatchewan.

Some employers who require the social work credential for particular positions stipulate registration with SASW for those seeking these jobs. The Health Regions would be an example. SASW has asked that the Department of Community Resources institute this employer-driven requirement for those positions currently requiring the social work credential.

Thanks are due to Geoff for his leadership and dedication to this task, and to the committee members for their time, interest and support.

Respectfully submitted: Richard Hazel, MSW, RSW (Sask.)

Report from Mentorship Committee

Committee Members

Shelina Bhatia-Merali	Chairperson: Myrna Pitzel	
Carol McInnis	Sandy Vaughan Hastie	Dianne Allen
Kendra Sedley	Darlene Chalmers	Tom Seeley
	Sophie Grahame	

Committee Purpose

To promote professional practice with students entering the field of social work by matching registered social workers in Saskatchewan communities with students attending the Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina.

The Mentorship Committee had its first provincial meeting to determine the work that was accomplished this past year, to discuss how we want to reach out to the 100 student members of SASW, expand the mentorship program and promote mentoring within the membership.

Shelina Bhatia-Merali, chair of the Mentoring Committee in Saskatoon, and Sandy Vaughan Hastie, chair of the Mentoring Committee in Yorkton, reported that both centres have matched their students with mentors. There are 19 matches in Saskatoon and 10 in Yorkton. Regina planned a luncheon in November but it was cancelled due to weather conditions and low interest in the event. Dianne Allen of the Regina Branch is working on recruiting members for the Mentoring Committee in Regina and another event is anticipated in the spring.

Reaching out to student members in Saskatchewan may entail using technology more than we have in the past, thus truly making this a provincial program. One of the goals of the provincial Mentoring Committee is to explore how this will occur.

Promoting mentoring in the province through the newsletter and offering to attend branch meetings to introduce a mentoring program are two ways we hope to inform and motivate those who may be interested in starting a mentoring program within their branch. The committee will also work on the specifics to starting and maintaining a mentoring relationship for both the student and mentor. We anticipate that reaching out to the student members will become part of the expanded provincial program.

Respectfully submitted: Myrna Pitzel, MSW, RSW (Sask.)

Report from Practice Ethics Committee

Committee Members

Chairperson: Joanne Schenn/Marcia Clark

Michelle Sims	Melissa Flowers	Raven Sinclair
Evelyn Weeks	Jennifer Schenn-Visentini	Curtis Mills
Darlene Chalmers	Nadia Stadnyk	Danny Yee

Committee Purpose

The purpose of the Practice Ethics Committee is to provide timely consultation to members of SASW on ethical issues.

Our gratitude and acknowledgement are extended to Victoria Walton, Norlane Jenson, and John Nicholson who left the Practice Ethics Committee after fulfilling their full terms. Victoria Walton is to be especially commended for her four years of chairing the committee. This committee has attempted to maintain a diversity of gender, experience, culture and location on the committee. We also thank Katherine Bird who resigned due to scheduling conflicts.

The Practice Ethics Committee has responded to eight requests for ethical consultations during 2006. These requests concerned issues of confidentiality, boundaries, advocacy and liability. The number of consultation requests is significantly down from the 21 received in 2005. We are concerned about the decline in requests. We wish to communicate the role of the committee to the SASW membership and provide assurance that our responses are timely and confidential.

Practice Ethics Committee members were requested to make presentations about the work of the committee and about the Code of Ethics (2005). In 2006, presentations were made to social work classes in both Regina and Saskatoon and to in-service sessions. We look forward to future ethics training which will provide trained social workers throughout the province to assist with these presentations.

Respectfully submitted: Joanne Schenn, MSW, RSW (Sask.)
Marcia Clark, BA, RSW (Sask.)

Report from Professional Conduct Committee

Committee Members

Chairperson: Susan Hetu
Gayle Fulton Robert Twigg Marlene Chatterson
Joan Hergott Jennifer Cohen Rawd Bieber (ex-officio)

Committee Purpose

The Professional Conduct Committee was established under Section 25 (1) of the Social Workers Act (May 4, 1993) which states that the committee shall “consist of at least three persons appointed by the council, a majority of whom shall be members.” The duties of the committee are to consider a complaint against a member when requested by council and to receive written complaints against members alleging they are guilty of professional misconduct or professional incompetence. The committee reviews and investigates the complaint and a report is sent to the Discipline Committee recommending that the complaint be heard and determined or no further action be taken. In essence, the Professional Conduct Committee along with the Discipline Committee is the arm of the Association charged with the protection of the public.

Complaint Activities in 2006:

# opened in 2005	6
# closed in 2005	5
# referred to Discipline for hearing	1
# reported “no further action”*	4
# remaining open on December 31, 2005	3
Total # of cases handled during 2005	8

*“No further action” may be due to insufficient evidence, the alleged act did not constitute professional misconduct or incompetence or the complaint did not concern a member.

The nature of complaints investigated varied widely including:

3 - Custody and access complaints 3 – Professional Misconduct
1 – Professional boundaries 1 – Criminal Code conviction

Other Activities of the Committee

- The chairperson of the committee sits on the SASW Advisory Board.
- Robert Twigg, conducted an in-depth orientation of Code of Ethics (2005) to members of the Professional Conduct Committee
- With the assistance of a sub-committee, the Professional Conduct Committee completed an environmental scan on the benefits of a paid investigator acting as a resource to the committee for the investigation of complaints of misconduct and incompetence.

- The committee has recommended to Council that the Standards of Practice Committee complete a review to ensure SASW Custody and Access Standards minimally comply with the Model Standards of Practice for Child and Custody Evaluations developed by the Association of Family Conciliation Courts.
- The chairperson of this committee completed National Certified Investigator Training with the Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR).

I would like to thank the members of the Professional Conduct Committee for the countless volunteer hours they spent on investigations (interviewing complainants, members and others involved, traveling to do so, reviewing documentation material, writing letters and reports and other miscellaneous work), on other committee work listed above and attending Professional Conduct Committee meetings. I would also like to thank Darcia Schirr, counsel for the Committee, for her valuable counsel and advice.

Respectfully submitted: Susan Hetu, MSW, RSW (Sask.)

Report from Psychologists Act Task Team

Committee Members

Chairperson: None
Maureen Kraemer Klaus Gruber Lorne Sier
Dan Fofonoff Myrna Rhinas Kathy Willerth
Richard Hazel (ex-officio)

Committee Purpose

This task team was formed to respond to limits placed on the practice of social workers by Section 23 of The Psychologists Act. This provision permits "authorized practice" by a limited range of psychologists and duly qualified medical practitioners. Social Workers in private practice and members employed by Mental Health Services have been left in the position of being unable to diagnose or communicate a written diagnosis. Analysis and development of solutions is required.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the College of Psychologists continues in place and it is intended that there will be an extension of it when it expires in May of 2007. It provides that should there be a complaint about a social worker using the provisions of the DSM4 to develop and communicate a diagnosis; such a complaint would be referred to SASW for response. Our process would be to pass the complaint to our Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) and, as in any such matter; there would be an evaluation by PCC as to whether there should be an investigation.

Council continues to evaluate progress on our on-going attempt to address the implications for social work, of the changes to Section 23 of *The Psychologists Act*. Although there has been little progress, Council continues to support that there should be further exploration to see if there can be a way found to address the fundamental issue. For discussion with the College of Psychologists, the Psychologists Act Task Team developed an approach to diagnosis that limited the diagnoses that would be used to 'lower level' diagnosis options within the DSM4, and that specified the group of social workers to include only those within the Health Regions. The discussion with the College did not yield agreement, but there was a significant acknowledgement that our profession had been damaged by the change to their *Act*, and that they are interested in working through the issues to find a solution.

Armed with this acknowledgement as the year ended, it was the intent of the task team to look at a wider scope for our negotiations and define the full impact of the change to legislation that we are seeking.

Respectfully submitted: Richard Hazel, MSW, RSW (Sask.)

Report from Public Relations Committee

Committee Members

Chairperson: Roxane Schury

Don Ebert	Rick Kuckartz	Maria Badrock
Shirley LeClaire	Jeanne Beaudoin	Allan Corbeil
Norine Shewchuk	Kathy Willerth	Pamela Goulden McLeod
Richard Hazel (ex-officio)		

Committee Purpose

The purpose of the Public Relations Committee is to enhance public awareness and knowledge of the social work profession within the Province of Saskatchewan.

The Public Relations Committee continues the process of researching, advocating and promoting insurance coverage for private practice social workers through EAP and insurance programs. Given the magnitude of this work the next step is to look at what the CASW is doing on a national level. Committee members from Saskatoon have partnered with social workers from Regina and contact has been made with GMS, Blue Cross, Sun Life and others. The University of Saskatchewan EAFP external reviewer recommended that Master level Social Work services be covered.

In preparation for Social Work Week, a list of activity ideas were created and placed on the SASW Website with a link to the CASW website. A letter will be sent to the Branches encouraging them to take on activities around Social Work Week.

Three Saskatoon Social Workers provided public presentations entitled "The Family Series". The three presentations focused on: 1) marriage 2) step-families 3) adolescents. Plans are underway to provide something of this nature again.

The committee sought new membership within government departments by holding informational sessions about SASW with the enticement of coffee and donuts. Coffee breaks were set up at four worksites with the SASW display, information and application forms. The informal welcoming atmosphere of meeting over coffee received favorable response; so much so we ran out of application forms. Another membership informational was at the Sturdy Stone in November 2006 in conjunction with the viewing of the documentary "Wards of the Crown". This was very well attended. The committee is hoping to promote this practice in other regions.

New members receive an orientation package from the SASW Office and are being welcomed by their branch via a letter. The idea is for branch representatives to contact the SASW office regularly for a list of new members in their area that need welcome letters. A Public Relations Committee member wrote a sample introductory letter that branches can use for new members.

The Public Relations Committee is in the process of reviewing a Power-Point presentation to be placed on the SASW Website for all to use. A call has gone out for pictures to update the Display Board and to use on this Power-Point presentation.

The Public Relations Committee is looking for new membership and has interest from Swift Current and Regina.

Respectfully submitted: Roxane Schury, MSW, RSW (Sask.)

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Social Workers - Make a Difference

Report from Standards of Practice

Committee Members

Chairperson: Vacant

Curtis Robertson

Rawd Bieber (ex-officio)

Richard Hazel (ex-officio)

Committee Purpose

The purpose of the Standards of Practice Committee is to develop and maintain standards for social work practice which will ensure the quality of professional social work for the consumers of social work services.

No report as committee has been inactive during 2006.

Report from Social Policy Committee

Committee Members

Chairperson: Nancy Carmichael/Patti Cram
Noella Crowe-Salazar Kirk Englot Pat Erhardt
Cec Gooliaff Brian Howell Mildred Kerr
David Macknak Richard Hazel (ex-officio)

Committee Purpose

Recognizing that social policy is in place to provide guidance for social work practice, the purpose of the Social Policy Committee is to work toward ensuring social work values and ethics are well reflected in emerging & existing social policy.

The Social Policy Committee had another very busy year. We continued with the foci of working on Income Security and Child Welfare areas and have turned our sights towards future work on the promotion of an “all-party anti-poverty strategy” for the province.

In terms of the work with Income Security issues, the committee met three times during the year, along with representatives from the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association (SRNA) and with a group of Department of Community Resources policy makers in Regina. The committee continued to express concerns around the administration of TEA, troubles people are having with the Rental Supplement initiatives, adequacy, and the treatment of people needing to rely on assistance. We also presented concern about the deskilling of workers who are providing service in these areas. We applauded the increase in rates and bus subsidies this government has initiated, while at the same time expressing concern that even with these moves in the right direction, far too many people do not receive adequate incomes or access to appropriate services.

In terms of the child welfare issues, the committee met three times during the year with the Children’s Issues Partnership, which continues to struggle somewhat with membership, role clarity and “terms of reference” issues. Organizations represented to date have included: SASW, First Nations School of Social Work, University of Regina - Faculty of Social Work, Prince Albert Grand Council, Yorkton Tribal Council, Ranch Ehrlo Society, Children’s Advocate Office and the Department of Community Resources. The main focus seems to be to educate the public, as best we can, about the issues surrounding child welfare in the province and the needs of children.

In addition, the committee has met once with SRNA to discuss development of a joint position paper on poverty, which is a task that is now underway. We also discussed the possible broadening of this partnership to include other professional associations who are concerned with social justice issues. With SRNA, a joint statement for release to the press was made supporting a statement made by a national coalition, which included SRNA’s national association and CASW, about the importance of access to nutritional food for everyone.

On November 30, 2006, the Social Policy Committee met with the Advocacy Task Team and Public Relations Committee. At this meeting, the committee discussed the idea of amalgamating the Advocacy Task Team and the Social Policy Committee, and perhaps calling ourselves “The Social Justice Committee”. The possibility of having three main areas of focus

(Child Welfare, Elder Care, and Income Security) was also discussed. These ideas were then to be taken forward to the strategic planning workshop held in Regina on January 12th and 13, 2007.

The Social Policy Committee met three times on its own as a whole committee in 2006 where the committee updated itself on the work that the committee is doing and made plans for ongoing work. In addition, the committee also provided Debra Wiszniak, SASW President, with a press release and "letter to the editor" applauding the health disparity study done by Saskatoon Health Region, and encouraging from government "a high level of response, [to the findings] such as the creation of an all-party, non-partisan poverty reduction strategy...[that would] include a stronger attempt to co-ordinate and integrate services based on measurable outcomes."

In all areas of the committee, the Social Policy Committee has been turning toward a relationship-based partnership approach to the influencing of policy and to educate the public about the issues around poverty and service provision in the areas outlined above.

Respectfully submitted: Patti Cram, MSW, RSW (Sask.)

Report from Scholarship Task Team

Committee Members

Chairperson: Sandy Vaughan Hastie
Marlene Glettler Richard Hazel (ex-officio)

Committee Purpose

The purpose of the Scholarship Task Team was to develop a name for the Scholarship Fund, determine the requirements to meet the CCRA obligations, examine the feasibility of a link to the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation and to develop a plan to encourage SASW members to make ongoing contributions to the scholarship fund.

During 2006, the Scholarship Task Team met on one occasion via telephone in March. Unfortunately, the task team did not have any applicants for the 2006 Student Scholarship Award; therefore we decided that we would not present it and instead double the amount for 2007. The task team received approval from the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation, the administrator of the Fund, to do so. In previous years, Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) stipulated, the task team could award 3.5% of the Fund balance, which amounted to about \$200.00. The task team agreed that by today's standards, an award of \$200 is miniscule. Therefore, a continued focus on promoting donations to the Fund seems critical for the maintenance and more importantly, meaningfulness of the Fund.

As of January 1, 2006, the Fund's balance was \$7,253.24. During 2006, donations of \$350 were made to the Fund and it earned income of \$466.23. Administration fees (1%) of \$72.52 were paid on December 31, 2006, with a remaining balance of \$7,996.95. It is our understanding that this balance can change once the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation is audited in May, 2007.

A report to Council on the status of the Fund was made in September, 2006. It suggested that SASW strive for a \$15,000 balance in the Fund, which would enable us to award \$500 annually based on the CCRA rate from years past.

The following is a summary of the activities in 2006 to promote contributions to the Fund:

- an article and advertisements in the Saskatchewan Social Worker newsletter
- a leaflet made available at the Annual General Meeting and conference, and at the SASW office and other functions
- described in the "Climb on Board... and be a Student Member of SASW" leaflet and ad
- advertised in the Awards, Bursaries, and Scholarships section on the SASW website.

For 2007, SASW must consider a renewed focus on the value we place on students entering the social work profession and promoting contributions to the Fund as an effective way to support our student body and the profession as a whole.

Respectfully submitted: Sandy Vaughan Hastie, MSW, RSW (Sask.)

Report from Volunteer Development Committee

Committee Members

Chairperson: Barb Church-Staudt

Rick Kuckartz

Lucie Dmyterko

Krista Olson

Committee Purpose

- 1. Review the offers of service by members on their annual renewal forms;*
- 2. Respond to those who have made an offer for service;*
- 3. Develop a meaningful program of volunteer recognition;*
- 4. Provide support and advice to local branches regarding volunteer recruitment, retention and recognition;*
- 5. Present names to the Annual General Meeting of those members who wish to stand for election.*

During 2006, the Volunteer Development Committee has monitored the volunteer recruitment process in SASW, reviewed the renewal forms for those who volunteered for committee work, supported the existing committee chairs and other Council members, continued to assess the process for the identification of vacancies on SASW Council and committees, and provided a slate of potential candidates for election at the Annual General Meeting in April, 2006.

It is the Committee's continued commitment to develop:

1. an effective way to respond to SASW volunteers with information regarding their expressed area of interest, and link them when vacancies are identified, and
2. implement a program for volunteer recognition.

Members of the Volunteer Development Committee appreciate the ongoing patience demonstrated by the SASW office, Council, and committee chairs, as it continues to tackle the challenging tasks of developing the committee.

We look forward to serving our professional organization in 2007 with renewed vigor and expanded membership.

Respectfully submitted:

Barb Church-Staudt, MSW, RSW (Sask.)

Report from Battlefords Branch

Branch Executive Members

President: Alan Corbeil

Vice President: Rick Felix

Secretary: Sharon Moravec

Treasurer: Dianne Lauritzen

Branch Rep: Jim Walls

Member at Large: Faith Nash

The Battlefords Branch has held regular meetings throughout the year. We were very pleased to have SASW Executive Director, Richard Hazel, join us at a meeting to share SASW plans and meet members of the Branch.

During Social Work Week 2006, the Branch recognized Antonia Gossner for her contribution to the profession throughout her career. Antonia was featured in the November 2006 issue of the *Saskatchewan Social Worker*. The Branch has decided to create an annual Award of Recognition, to be presented to a social worker chosen by his/her peers. The award will be presented at the branch Social Work Week Luncheon.

Branch members have continued to submit articles for publication in the weekly paper, describing their role in their agency and community. These articles are also being printed in *The Saskatchewan Social Worker*. It is another method of informing the public of the varied roles social workers have in the community, and the branch thinks it may provide a glimpse into the lives of social workers.

The Battlefords Branch is very excited about the prospect of hosting the 2007 Annual Meeting and Conference from April 25 to April 27, 2007 at the Gold Ridge Conference Centre in North Battleford. The theme of the Conference is "*Collaborating for a Just Society: Maintaining Our Commitment to Anti-oppressive Social Work in the 21st Century*". Dr. Bob Mullaly, Dean of the Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba, is the keynote speaker. Local projects that employ a collaborative approach will also be featured. Our thanks goes to Dianne Lauritzen and the organizing committee for all the excellent preparations.

Respectfully submitted: Jim Walls, MSW, RSW (Sask.)

Report from Moose Jaw Branch

Branch Executive Members

Chairperson: Gwen Knoll Secretary: Judy Vermette
Branch Representative/Treasurer: Leann Keach
Member at Large: Gisela Hall

For 2006, the Moose Jaw Branch was still in a hiatus position with no activities having taken place except for the potluck supper for students and their supervisors during Social Work Week. The branch will be having another potluck supper during 2007 Social Work Week if there are enough students and social workers able to attend.

The Moose Jaw Branch will be convening a meeting of the Executive before the end of February 2007 and set a date for a regular meeting. Judy Vermette, the branch secretary, will be putting out a letter of invitation to the registered Social Workers in Moose Jaw to notify them of the meeting date.

The Branch Executive will make a decision on the future of the Branch following the regular meeting and based on the interest shown by attendance at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted: Gwen Knoll, BSW, RSW (Sask.)

Report from Northeast Branch

Branch Executive Members

President: Lindsey Bruce Vice-President: Heather Reese
Branch Representative/Secretary: Lucie Dmyterko
Treasurer: Marylou Hamilton
Education and Membership Committee: Leslie Christianson

The Northeast Branch met twice during 2006:

January 24, 2006 – Three members and a guest were in attendance for a supper meeting at Sweet Aroma restaurant in Tisdale. Members heard a presentation about a research project that was taking a “snapshot” of children in kindergarten in the northeast region, to find out if other preschool supports are needed in the area.

May 29, 2006 – Four members were in attendance for a supper meeting at the Travelodge in Melfort. We discussed some ideas for possible branch conferences/workshops that could be co-sponsored with other organizations.

Respectfully submitted: Lindsey Bruce, BSW, RSW (Sask.)

Report from Prince Albert Branch

Branch Executive Members

Chairperson: Susan Luedtke
Vice Chairperson: Nicole Rancourt
Treasurer: Audrey Zwack
Branch Representative: Charlene Cameron

The SASW Prince Albert Branch continues to hold monthly meetings at noon, the first Friday of the month at the Salvation Army Board Room on Central Avenue. This years Branch Annual meeting was not held until December due to a lack of attendance from the membership. The Branch hosted a Pizza Lunch meeting on December 6th and the elections for the Branch executive were held at that meeting.

For 2006, the focus of the branch executive has been to strategize ways to increase the involvement of Prince Albert and area members in branch activities and meetings. The feedback we have received suggests that the membership would like the branch to offer members educational workshops and opportunities to network with other members and hear about the various programs and activities relating to social work in our community.

In the spring of 2006, the Prince Albert Branch and the University of Regina, Faculty of Social Work at the Prince Albert CEC, began a student mentorship program and one set of matches was facilitated. Given the discontinuation of the cohort program in Prince Albert, this program has been placed on hold. Further discussions between the branch and the faculty will occur to determine both the need and the feasibility of offering this program in Prince Albert. Another suggestion made at a recent branch meeting is to discuss the possibility of a partnership with the First Nations University to develop a student mentorship program in Prince Albert.

For 2007, the Branch has planned an event to celebrate Social Work Week and has invited members to come and have supper together and hear Saskatchewan's Child Advocate, Marvin Bernstein, speak about the work of his office and the importance of Children having a voice in Child Welfare planning and proceedings. The Branch is planning to have two or three evening sessions every year in hopes of increasing the participation of members.

Respectfully submitted: Susan Luedtke, MSW, RSW (Sask.)

Report from Regina Branch

Branch Executive Members

Chairperson/Branch Representative: Dianne Allen
Treasurer: Pamela Ait-Allaoua Secretary: Adrienne Douglas
Members at Large: Colleen Larkin & Sophie Grahame

The following are 2006 highlights for the Regina Branch:

- SASW Regina Branch/University of Regina-Faculty of Social Work Annual Luncheon hosted during Social Work Week
- During Social Work Week, the Saskatchewan Children's Advocate presented to staff at the Department of Community Resources on the value and benefits of membership with SASW
- Annual Film Night
- Lunch and Learn Series

Respectfully submitted: Dianne Allen, BSW, RSW (Sask.)

Report from Rural Social Work Group

Group Executive Members

Chairperson/Branch Representative: Deborah Bryson Sarauer

Members at Large:

Jane Grieve, Gayle Hood, Barb Ulmer

Mandate of the Rural Social Work Group

The group officially formed in April of 2001 to address some of the unique challenges and to celebrate the innovative strategies of social workers working in rural environments throughout Saskatchewan. The Rural Social Work Group is aimed at reflecting the diverse and complex nature of social work in rural communities. It is also directed towards giving rural social workers an identity among their peers.

Goals of the Group

- To increase the knowledge and awareness of rural social work practice issues.
- To raise the consciousness of rurality as an issue in social work and service delivery to communities.
- To undertake rural social work research to enable the group to effectively manage social economic and political issues.

The Rural Social Work Group did not meet in 2006. It is felt that there is still interest in having a Rural Social Work Group in some format because it is an important part of our identity as rural social workers. If you are interested in this group, your input would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted: Deborah Bryson-Sarauer, MSW, RSW (Sask.)

Report from Saskatoon Branch

Branch Executive Members

Chairperson/Branch Representative: Jean Wiens

Past Chairperson: Ruth Mireau

Secretary: Nicole Ingenthron Treasurer: Melanie Grace

Education: Darlene Chalmers/Judy White/Sharon Acoose

Mentorship Representative: Shelina Bhatia-Merali

Anti-Poverty Coalition Representative: Sandra Goodman-Chartier

Community Development Representative: Gwendolyn Gresham

Members at Large:

Shirley LeClaire, Erin Scriven, Terry Lowe, Jill Christiansen, Tracy Muggli,

Carol McInnis, Richard Small, Michelle Buglas

In 2006, the Saskatoon Branch met for monthly meetings, except during the summer months, and has also presented and participated in several training, educational and social events. However, the highlight of the year, was hosting the SASW Provincial Annual General Meeting and Conference from April 26, to April 28, 2006. The conference co-chairpersons, Ruth Mireau and Darlene Chalmers, did an excellent job of planning the conference. There were over 200 participants attending the workshop to learn more about "Practicing the Strengths Perspectives" from keynote speaker, Dr. Dennis Saleeby.

During Social Work Week, a workshop was held on March 9, which provided three sessions on different aspects of "Advancing and Strengthening Communities". There were 83 participants at this one day workshop.

The branch held its Annual General Meeting on April 6th with 45 people in attendance for a pizza lunch and to hear Judy White's presentation on "Enhancing Mental Health Services for Immigrant and Refugee Women".

The Mentorship Committee was active and were able to arrange 25 matches between students and experienced social workers in the winter term (January to April); and 20 matches in the fall term. Mentorship lunches were held in January and in October for students and social workers. Thanks to Shelina Bhatia-Merali for her leadership on this committee.

In November, a luncheon and video event was held. The video entitled "Wards of the Crown" was shown to a group of 33 participants. Many of those attending were from Department of Community Resources - Child and Family Services. Information on membership with SASW, as well as registration forms were provided.

Social events included a BBQ in June, which was graciously hosted by Ruth Mireau, and our Annual Christmas Charity Luncheon held in December at the Parktown. Donations from the Christmas Social were again given to the Boys and Girls Mentorship Program at Nutana Collegiate, a program that Shirley LeClaire works with.

With 2006 winding down, planning is underway for Social Work Week in March, 2007, as well as our local AGM in April. It has been a busy and rewarding year for the Saskatoon Branch, and I would like to thank all the members for their commitment to our local branch, as well as the ethics and goals of the profession of social work.

Respectfully submitted: Jean Wiens, BSW, RSW (Sask.)

Report from Swift Current Branch

Executive Committee Members

Chairperson/ Branch Representative: Peggy Cunningham
Secretary: Loretta Rolf-Unger Treasurer: Debbie Bissonette
Program Coordinator: Corliss Schaan

The following are highlights for the Swift Current Branch for 2006:

- The Swift Current Branch continues to organize meetings and/or evening events approximately every other month between September and June. Generally, these events are lunch hour business meetings and evening social gatherings. Approximately 10 members participate on a regular basis.
- Social Work Week for 2006 was proclaimed by the City of Swift Current and included local newspaper publicity.
- The branch hosted an education event "Social Work and Primary Health Care" to celebrate Social Work Week.
- A donation of food and money was made to the local Food Bank on behalf of the Swift Current Branch.
- Annual General Meeting was held with all positions filled.
- Two branch members were financially supported to attend the SASW Annual General Meeting and Provincial Conference.
- A presentation was made to City of Swift Current elected officials regarding the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers and social issues impacting residents of this city. Communication channels were established to facilitate an ongoing dialogue as social issues arise.
- Swift Current Branch Representation was invited on the Action Swift Current Committee. The Action Swift Current Committee consists of community members interested in promoting economic and cultural development and could be a group instrumental in pursuing social planning and development.
- A Potluck BBQ was held in August.
- The branch purchased a "Social Work Week" Banner that will be updated and put up by the City of Swift Current annually.
- Presentations on a career in social work were provided to high school students at the Job Fair.
- A Christmas meeting/cookie exchange marked the end of 2006.

Respectfully submitted: Peggy Cunningham, MSW, RSW (Sask.)

SASW 2006 Annual Report **Social Workers - Make a Difference**

Report from Yellowhead East Branch

Executive Committee Members

Acting Chairperson: Kelly Stankewich
Vice President/Branch Representative: Rick Yachiw
Secretary: Kendra Sedley Treasurer: Linda Bulmer

One of goals of the Yellowhead East Branch at the beginning of 2006 was to look at both student mentorship and membership. A few members organized a Membership, Mentorship and Pizza Night during Social Work Week which, unfortunately, was poorly attended. The branch tried again by holding a mentorship luncheon on April 7th, which was paid for by the Branch. There were approximately 26 people attending, with the number of social work students equaling the number of social workers. There was also a mentorship wine and cheese pre-Christmas party at the home of one of our members, and it was also very well attended.

There was some talk about bringing a MSW Program to the college in Yorkton. The University of Regina was approached by the Parkland Regional College, but the University could not look at bringing the program to Yorkton at the time. The new Dean of Social Work at the University of Regina, David Schantz, has been approached since, and he seems interested in looking into the possibility of offering an MSW program at a distance. He will hopefully be coming to check out the Master's of Adult Education program that is now being offered in Yorkton. Dean Schantz is supposed to attend one of our Yellowhead East Branch meetings to discuss this possibility.

Respectfully submitted by: Kelly Stankewich, BSW, RSW (SK)