

## Election Process for SASW Council Positions

At the 2009 Annual General Meeting (AGM) a set of new By-law provisions were approved. Included was a revised process for electing members to serve on Council. These provisions can be found at Section 25 of The Social Workers Administrative By-laws (see the SASW website under the tab "SASW By-laws").

The key differences are:

- Members may directly nominate a member for an open position on Council
- Timelines are established for nominations to be made
- All of those nominated will be identified to the membership in advance of the AGM
- Voting will still occur at the AGM, but there will no longer be nominations from the floor
- Term of office changes for all but the president, from one to two years

Members of Council to be elected are the president, secretary, treasurer and three members at large. Also sitting on Council are two public representatives appointed by the Minister of Social Services who carry responsibility of providing oversight to our work in the interests of the public. The term of a president is four years, the first as president-elect, the second and third as president and the fourth as past-president. Jim Walls is in his second year as president and will become past-president next year when Carole Bryant moves from the president-elect role to president role.

Currently, all of those elected to other positions serve for one year. New By-law provisions will change that to two years. So, for all but the president position, those elected at the next AGM will serve for two years.

The new rules are:

- When a vacancy on Council will occur at the next AGM, a notice shall be sent out by November 30th to the voting members of the Association to advise of their right to nominate licensed members to fill identified vacancies for the coming year.
- The notice will state the date by which any nominations are to be sent to the SASW Office.
- Nominations shall be made by three licensed members and shall include background information on the nominee, according to form that follows this article. The form is available for download from the SASW website.
- Any nominations from the Volunteer Development Committee shall be in the same form as other nominations.
- The Volunteer Development Committee is required to present all nominations to the membership in advance of the annual general meeting.
- At the AGM, the voting members present shall vote to elect the members of Council where positions are to be determined.

The intent of proposing this revised approach was to move the nomination process well ahead of the AGM and improve transparency of the nominations process. It is further intended to gain experience with this framework, then consider whether further amendments to it may be helpful.

To assist those considering filing a nomination and those considering accepting their name being filed, included below after the nomination form is the recently revised Terms of Reference for Council. Call for Nominations for SASW Council.