



Tom Seeley, BA, BSW, RSW
Yorkton, SK

**CASW National Social Work Distinguished Service Award
2008 Recipient**

Tom was raised in Grand Coulee, Saskatchewan and attended school there and most of his high school at Luther College in Regina. He attended the University of Regina obtaining his B.A. in 1971 and a B.S.W. in 1982. Tom completed his practicum in Nambour, Australia.

From 1971 to 1989, Tom worked for the Department of Social Services in Yorkton ending his career as a Child Protection Supervisor between 1985 and 1989. Following his resignation from the Department, he worked for Big Brothers of Canada from 1989 to 1995 and then took over as Executive Director of S.I.G.N. (The Society for the Involvement of Good Neighbours). He has been there until the present with the exception of one year when Tom received a Muttart fellowship and focused this year on outcome evaluation. S.I.G.N. is a unique multi-disciplinary agency and acts as an umbrella for many services in the City of Yorkton. A recent donation by Remail Investments of a hotel provided many new challenges for Tom and his Board of Directors and they have created a viable service which combines social and economic development. During his tenure, the budget of S.I.G.N. has increased from \$500,000 to \$750,000 to \$2.75 million and his staff has increased from approximately 30 to 65.

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

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