



2010 CASW Distinguished Service Award Recipient **- Debra Wiszniak, BSW, MSW, RSW (SK)** **Regina, SK**

We all know Debra for her high energy, sense of humour, and strong commitment and dedication to the profession of social work. Debra displays a 'get it done' mentality regardless of the barriers, inviting others along for the fun of planning and the challenge of getting it completed. SASW has benefited from these character strengths when Debra was:

Member at Large on SASW Council from 1998 – 2002;
Member of Legislative Review Committee from 2002 -2003
President Elect and the President from 2005 – 2007
Past President and Treasurer from 2008

Debra provided leadership and relationship building during the discussions leading to what has become the Canadian Council of Social Work Regulators when hosting the national social work regulatory organizations in Regina in Sept 2006. Debra continued after her term as president to volunteer with SASW providing continuing support in development of the Quality of Life Survey.

Debra has worked her entire career as a social worker in health care. She started in term positions covering emergency, the burn unit, women's health and family medicine from 1994-1996. She moved to be the medical social worker on Palliative Care from 1996 to 2003 with Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region; and then moved to SWADD as Quality, Performance and Education Manager concerned with program development, evaluation and training of staff to meet best practices and outcome measures. From Nov 2005 to February 2008 Debra was the Bereavement Centre Project Manager which has come become the Greystone Bereavement Centre. During this time the centre was moving to become an independent entity from the RQHD; with its own community board, looking to become a center of excellence in research and in practice along with an Aboriginal component. Debra is currently a client representative with the RQHD, a position demanding both advocacy and strong diplomatic skills to aid clients in accessing services and addressing issues as they arise. Debra has also been a sessional lecturer with the University of Regina on Dynamics of Death and Dying .

Besides all these professional work activities Debra is a certified fitness instructor and

International Stott Pilates Instructor explaining her high energy and fueling her commitment and determination. Debra is a deserving social work practitioner of the CASW Distinguished Service Award.

Congratulations!