



2010 SASW Distinguished Service Award

- Norma Rohatyn, BSW, MSW, RSW (SK)
Regina, SK

The recipient of the SASW Distinguished Service Award for 2010 is Norma Rohatyn. It is fitting that Norma receive the award this year as this summer will mark 35 years of human service work by Norma.

Norma obtained her Bachelor of Social Work degree in 1993 and her Masters of Social Work in 2000. She has been a member of SASW for the past 17 years. She has served in the position of Registrar (1994-1996) and was president and past president from 1998-2000. Norma also served as a representative to CASW from 2001 – 2002. Norma has always conveyed her pride in the social work profession and continues to support and promote our association and its contribution to the field of social work.

This summer will mark 35 years of service to the Ministry of Social Services. Norma began her career with Social Services in August of 1975. She has worked in both Income Assistance and Child and Family Services programs in various locations and in various roles. After working in both Swift Current and Saskatoon offices, Norma took a supervisory position in La Loche, Saskatchewan, in October, 1979. She then moved into the Acting District Director role in La Loche before becoming the Program Manager in La Ronge in 1983. In October, 1984, Norma relocated to Regina and became a Program Consultant at Central Office. She remained in that position until accepting a Supervisory position with Income Security in the Regina Region office in February, 1986. Norma continued in this role for the next fourteen years. In January 2001, Norma accepted the Area Service Manager position in the Moose Jaw Service Centre. She commuted from Regina to Moose Jaw for the next two years. From January, 2002 to May, 2003, Norma was A/Regional Director for Moose Jaw/Swift Current/Kindersley/Rosetown offices. She returned to the Regina Regional Office in May 2003 as the Area Services Manager in Child and Family Services. In April, 2004, Norma accepted the position of Regional Manager for Child and Family Services for Regina/Moose Jaw/Swift Current. In 2009 Norma returned to Central Office, Child and Family Services Division, to become Program Specialist, Program and Service Design Branch. The title of Program Specialist truly fits the level of knowledge and expertise that Norma has developed in her years of service.

In October, 2008, Norma organized a celebration for Regina Social Services to recognize 100 years of child protection services in Saskatchewan. She researched the history of child protection services in our province and spoke about this history at the event. As

with everything that Norma organizes, the small details and elegant touches were well taken care of.

Norma's dedication to improving the outcomes for children and families in this province has been inspirational. Her commitment to the Ministry and to the larger community of social work continues to motivate and influence others. In each and every role that she has served in, Norma has conducted herself with the utmost of professionalism and respect. She offers encouragement and mentorship to staff and colleagues. She has promoted ongoing education and has strived to remain informed about best practices. Norma was always able to challenge those around her to seek excellence in practice and to constantly seek ways to improve our knowledge as social workers. She demonstrates great leadership to those around her and has been a mentor to many of us.

Her focus in her work remained on the individuals she served and she provided that service with respect and integrity. Her genuine, caring attitude comes through as she listens to clients and co-workers alike. She always has the ability to see the strengths; whether it be in clients, colleagues, or difficult situations. She never expected more from anyone than she did for herself. Those around her were often hard pressed to keep up with her energy and enthusiasm. Even when faced with challenges herself, she kept her spirits high and always was the first to reach out to others. She also doesn't forget about the need to have fun – and so was able to create that atmosphere in the workplace.

Norma embraces and encompasses what social work and social workers strive to be and offer – courage, a kind heart, fairness, belief in goodness of people, belief that people can change with the right tools and support, caring, pride, professionalism, respect, being a change agent for policy and practices, and being human.

Congratulations Norma!