



Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers

Dear SASW Members

Over the past several weeks, following the Stanley verdict, and more recently the Cormier verdict in Manitoba, we have all seen both public statements and social media commentary. Our province and country has become divisive and we have witnessed racism and a lack of understanding. We have also witnessed calls to end injustice and discrimination. Our hearts go out to all those who have been hurt by the words and actions that have occurred. The Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers, as a member of the Canadian Association of Social Workers, supports the CASW statement of February 14, 2018, calling for systemic changes and courageous conversations.

As social workers, we are guided by our core values of respect for the inherent dignity of all, pursuit of social justice, service to humanity, and integrity. We work to end racism and discrimination and to ensure equal access to resources for everyone. We are compelled to move forward in reconciliation. As stated by CASW President, Jan Christianson-Wood following the Stanley verdict “CASW has adopted a reconciliation focus; committing to amplify Indigenous voices, provide continuing education for social workers on cultural safety, and continuing to demand changes to the status quo. Social workers know Canada can do better.”

As we enter Social Work Month and Week in March, let us reflect on our theme “*Bringing Change to Life*”. We are compelled to consider change not only at the individual level, but in our communities, our province and country, and in our social structures. In the last few weeks, many of you have been involved in social justice activities in your communities and we encourage you to continue; it is through these actions that change occurs. It is a responsibility we all share.

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President, SASW Council