



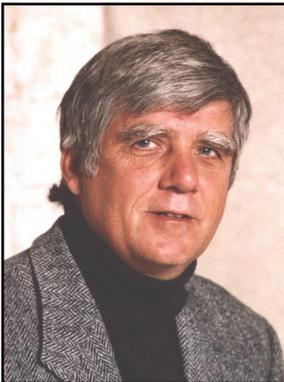
SASKATCHEWAN SOCIAL WORKER

Volume 17 Number 1

“Social Workers – Make a Difference”

February 2006 Edition

Message from the President



As with a number of other professions, social work will be experiencing the impact of the “baby boom” generation taking retirement in significant numbers. It is always important for a profession to keep fresh through welcoming new and dynamic members. However, for us this is more important than ever.

There is ample evidence that we have bright, energetic newcomers to our profession who are poised to tackle the serious social issues facing Saskatchewan residents. A good example is the work of the Students for the Ethical and Equal Development of Services (SEEDS), who last spring demonstrated to bring about changes in the policies and programs of the Department of Community Resources and Employment.

Our profession must take a very proactive role in nurturing those entering or about to enter the profession. An important development on this front has been the partnership between the Faculty of Social Work and SASW in delivering a three module certificate program for field supervisors of social work practicums. This initiative will further improve the high quality work of these dedicated volunteer practicum supervisors. There is a possibility that an association of social work practicum supervisors may evolve from this, which would provide further ongoing support to practicum supervisors.

Mentoring is an important way for SASW to wel-

come and support new members. Last year our association took steps to ensure we have a credible, consistent approach in mentoring those new to the profession. A new committee established by Council, the Mentorship Committee, has responsibility to oversee the rolling out of the mentoring process across the province. The Saskatoon Branch has developed an excellent mentoring program and interest has been shown by other branches in developing a formal mentoring program. Saskatoon has also participated in SWITCH (Student Wellness Initiative Towards Community Health) which brings together students from a number of professions to provide some services through the support of professionals. Even where there is no formal mentoring program, it is vital that we all seek opportunities to mentor new social workers.

An additional way to support potential newcomers to the profession is through donations to the SASW Scholarship Fund. I had intended to donate, but never seemed to get around to doing so. Finally last fall, I mailed in my donation and received my

receipt. Now I plan to donate on a more regular basis and I challenge all members to do the same. Once we get this fund built up, we can make a bigger difference for students struggling to complete their degree.*

So let us all make a commitment to contribute to the renewal process in our organization by supporting, mentoring and donating. When we do so, the odd thing is that we ourselves will feel renewed.

Tom Seeley, BSW, RSW (SK)

* See the Scholarship Fund Ad (p. 16) for details on how to make a donation.

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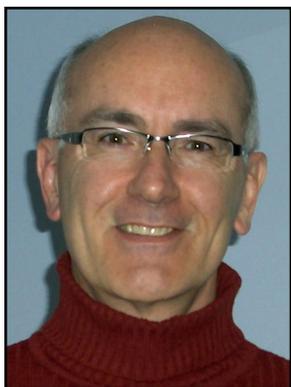
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Upcoming Conferences, Workshops & Educational Events

- **REGULATE** •
- **SUPPORT** •
- **PROMOTE** •
- **ADVOCATE** •

Executive Director's Message



Saskatoon Branch will host the 2006 provincial conference at the end of April. Mailed with this newsletter is a copy of the conference brochure—don't miss your chance to hear Dennis Saleebey, DSW, author of the book *The Strengths Perspective in Social Work Practice* (2002). No doubt you have already marked

your calendar for the AGM on April 26, with the conference to follow over the next two days.

Coming up very quickly is Social Work Week, nationally and provincially. The theme is "Social Work: Advancing and Strengthening Communities." The Honourable Joanne Crofford has again arranged for the week to be formally designated. Thank you, Minister!

For the purpose of considering whether to re-convene a Health Care Interest Group within SASW, Tracy Muggli and Margaret Woloshyn hosted a meeting of interested members on January 17 in Saskatoon. After some very good discussion, the conclusion reached was to develop terms of reference for an SASW Health Care Interest Group, then finalize the list of proposed members who would comprise the group.

This new Interest Group will be represented at the Advisory Board table along with other committees of SASW.

SASW's Legislative Review Committee continues its ambitious round of discussion with a set of stakeholders to determine how best to approach and plan for changes to *The Social Workers Act* that would see ownership of practice added to the existing ownership of title. By early spring, the committee will wrap up this work and report to Council and Advisory Board on its recommendations.

The Task Team looking into the implications of provisions within *The Psychologists Act* have resumed their work after a hiatus following the renegotiation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the College of Psychologists. The MOU provides protection to social workers about whom there may be a complaint that they are forming and communicating diagnoses. A key element of the MOU is that should there be any complaint to the College about a social worker, the complaint will not be actioned by the College; rather the matter will be referred to SASW for review by our Professional Conduct Committee. The Psych

Act Task Team is looking again at the issues to determine whether there are options to further assist members who are working in mental health settings.

You may also be interested in the creative work done by your Public Relations Committee in the fall when they tested an outreach approach to eligible but not-yet-registered staff at the Saskatoon offices of the Department of Community Resources and Employment and to a more limited extent the staff of Corrections and Public Safety. Coffee and conversation were offered and accepted. Every one seemed to feel this project had been very worthwhile. The committee would be interested in supporting this kind of event being done in other centres of the province, so are open to discussion on how they may be of assistance. A poster has been developed with the cooperation of DCRE that outlines the benefits of registration and notes that there is a plan of reimbursement for registration fees by the employer.

As spring approaches, I hope you will all have your batteries recharged by the celebrations of Social Work Week, the provincial conference and the return of warmer weather!

Richard Hazel, MSW, RSW (SK)

**Wherever you go,
Whatever you do,
Say**

"I AM A SOCIAL WORKER"

You would be surprised at how often social workers say they work with alcoholics or they do therapy or counsel troubled children or direct an employee assistance program. There is nothing wrong with these statements, but preface each with "I AM A SOCIAL WORKER" and then add the statement "...who works with troubled youth." What you will be doing is performing an invaluable service to the education of the public which benefits the social work profession and ultimately yourself.

The best way to strengthen the image of the social work profession is for social workers to identify themselves as SOCIAL WORKERS.

Social Workers – Make a Difference

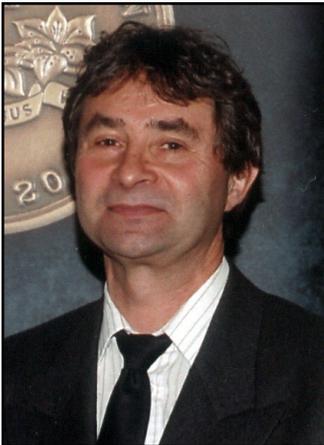
Social Workers Honoured

Centennial Medal Awards

The Saskatchewan Centennial Medal is an official honour of the Crown and part of the Saskatchewan Honours and Awards Program. It recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to the province and is a symbol of the pride and vision of

Saskatchewan and its people.

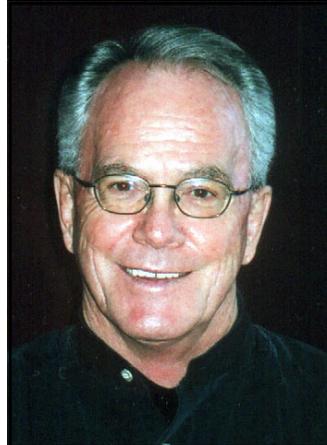
Congratulations to the following registered social workers who received the Commemorative Medal for the Centennial of Saskatchewan.



Cecil Gooliaff
Melfort, SK
Date Presented:
October 13, 2005



Irene Beck
Saskatoon, SK
Date Presented:
October 26, 2005



Bob Pringle
Saskatoon, SK
Date Presented:
September 9, 2005

Ruth Dafoe
Regina, SK
Date Presented:
October 2005



2006 SASW AGM and Provincial Conference

AGM: April 26, 2006

Conference: April 27 & 28, 2006

TCU Place – Saskatoon, SK

Presenter: Dennis Saleebey, DSW, Professor Emeritus, School of Social Welfare, University of Kansas and author of *The Strengths Perspective in Social Work Practice, 2002*

Topic: “Practicing the Strengths Perspective”

Overview: This workshop will give a thorough overview of the Strengths Perspective, including using this perspective in assessment and putting theory into practice in a variety of practice settings.

The core values of a Strengths Perspective explore the following in collaboration with individuals, families and communities:

C: Competence, capacities, courage

P: Promise, possibility, positive expectations

R: Resilience, reserves, resources

The central dynamic is the “rousing of hope” which is founded on the idea of possibility, choice, commitment, action. As a perspective, it addresses:

Accomplishments over failure

Health over disease

Resources over deficits

“The strengths perspective is about the revolutionary possibility of hope.” (Saleebey, 2002)

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Phone: (306) 655-8864

Crowning Achievement Awards

Two social workers have received an Alumni Crowning Achievement Award which honours graduates of the University of Regina who are making tremendous contributions to communities, advancing their professions and making the world a better place. The awards are co-sponsored by the University of Regina and the University of Regina Alumni Association.

Pamela Lynn Ait-Allaoua Young Alumni Award



Pamela Ait-Allaoua has built her successful enterprise, Tot's Café, from the ground up in Regina. Tot's Café is a children's play centre, a restaurant, a childcare service and the delivery point for important family programs. Ait-Allaoua has received many accolades including a YWCA Women of Distinction Award, a Paragon Business Excellence Award, and a Saskatchewan

Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs Award. Since starting, Tot's Café has increased its customer base by 400 per cent and has exceeded its business goals by almost 200 per cent. Ait-Allaoua sponsors many deserving children in Tot's Café programs, donates to charity and non-profit organizations and en-

courages her staff to actively volunteer. She also sponsors business fairs to help women promote their home-based businesses.

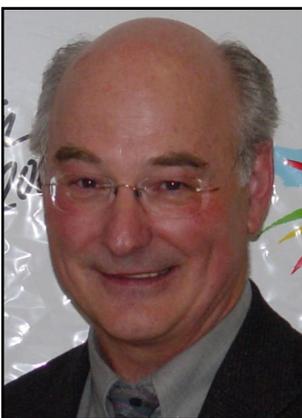
Roxane Schury Distinguished Alumni Award Humanitarian/ Community Service



In Roxane Schury's eyes, children are gifts to the world and every childhood should be a safe, healthy, protected and loving experience. Schury has dedicated her entire adult life to those ideals. Since 1998, as an advocate for the Saskatchewan Children's Advocate Office, she has protected the interests of Saskatchewan young people and to give a voice to

children who might not otherwise be heard. She also serves on numerous boards and committees and continues to work to oppose harassment and racism. In the summer of 2005 she participated in the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child liaison unit at the United Nations in Geneva, contributing to the work of the International Focal Point Programme on Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Violence. She was a participant at the Defence for Children International Kids Behind Bars Conference in Palestine.

Saskatchewan Centennial Leadership Award



Dennis Chubb

Saskatoon, SK
Presented on:
November 16, 2005

The Centennial 2005 office launched the Saskatchewan Centennial Leadership Award as a way to recognize those who have contributed and those who will continue to contribute to the future of organizations throughout the province. This award commemorates and celebrates the contributions of people who have shaped Saskatchewan into the vibrant prov-

ince it is today.

ince it is today.

Dennis Chubb was nominated for the Saskatchewan Centennial Leadership Award by the Leadership Saskatoon Board of Directors in recognition of his contribution to the success and development of the organization both locally and nationally. Dennis is currently the Board Chair of Leadership Saskatoon and is also the Co-Chair of the national organization, Leadership Canada.

Dennis has more than 30 years of experience in public service and community development including management in public welfare, young offender programs and adult corrections, as well as experience in school social work, organizational development, staff training and development and social work education.



Articles Section

ADAPT: A Multidisciplinary Initiative for Educating and Supporting Individuals Waiting for Elective Joint Replacement Surgery

ADAPT (Arthritis, Diet, Activity, Pain and Therapy), established by Carol Melymick, Nursing Manager, SCH Orthopaedics, with Suzanne Sheppard, Professional Leader, Physical Therapy, is working together with Telehealth Saskatchewan to improve the health and well-being of individuals waiting for elective hip or knee replacement surgery.

ADAPT is a new multidisciplinary initiative of health care professionals in the Saskatoon Health Region (SHR) to give support and information to patients waiting for elective joint replacement surgery. Disciplines include client patient access services, nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, pharmacy, nutrition and dietetics, clinical health psychology, social work, recreation therapy and older adult wellness.

The aim of the program is to improve the physical health (through diet and exercise), the well-being (through better pain control, and improved function with or without aids), and the mental health (an in-

creased positive outlook and decreased anxiety) of participants as they wait for surgery. It is hoped that participants will leave with the simple take-home message of “this is what you need to do in order to be better prepared for your surgery.”

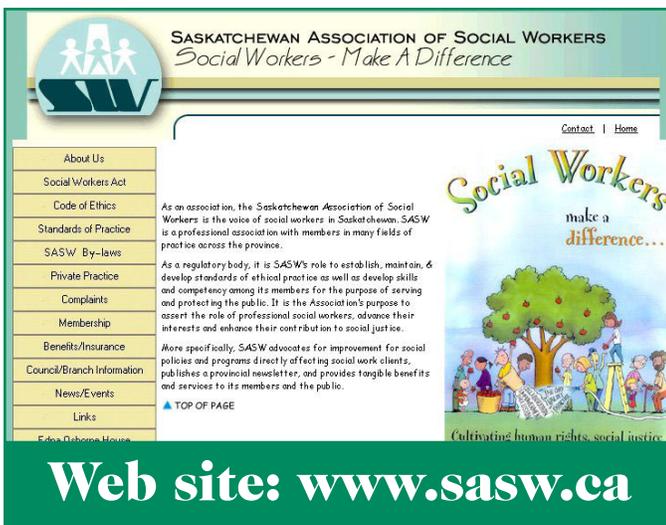
Since April 2005, ADAPT has hosted five sessions in Saskatoon, with up to sixteen Telehealth sites participating across the province. Individuals on the SHR elective joint replacement surgery waiting list are invited to attend at no cost, along with a support person. The session is a forum for the multidisciplinary team to provide relevant information related to what to do while waiting for surgery, as well as an opportunity for participants to ask questions. To date, over eight hundred participants (people waiting for surgery, support people, and staff) have attended one of five education afternoons, either in person or via Telehealth. The sessions have been enthusiastically received. According to a Telehealth coordinator, one participant summarized the afternoon when they said, “Now we know what to do.... Now we just have to do it!”

Future education programs are scheduled for November 22, 2005, as well as being planned for 2006. For further information contact the ADAPT Program at (306)-655-7916.



Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food

FARM STRESS LINE
1-800-667-4442
www.agr.gov.sk.ca/saf/



SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
Social Workers - Make A Difference

As an association, the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers is the voice of social workers in Saskatchewan. SASW is a professional association with members in many fields of practice across the province.

As a regulatory body, it is SASW's role to establish, maintain, & develop standards of ethical practice as well as develop skills and competency among its members for the purpose of serving and protecting the public. It is the Association's purpose to assert the role of professional social workers, advance their interests and enhance their contribution to social justice.

More specifically, SASW advocates for improvement for social policies and programs directly affecting social work clients, publishes a provincial newsletter, and provides tangible benefits and services to its members and the public.

Web site: www.sasw.ca

INVITATION TO SOCIAL WORKERS EMPLOYED IN THE RQHR

We are developing a social work practice council within the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, Inter-Professional Practice Advisory Committee.

All social workers employed in RQHR are welcome to participate in the social work practice council. For more information, contact Marlene Glettler, Acting Manager, SWADD – 766-7151

Why Do We Hurt Those We Love?

Terry Garchinski is a therapeutic counselor and workshop facilitator with Life Works Counselling Services Inc. (www.lifeworks.cc).

Family violence and abuse begin with not dealing with our own hurtful thoughts and feelings.

If we don't take responsibility for our own thoughts and feelings, then it is a short but pain-filled step to blame others: "You made me feel this way! It is your fault! You are to blame for my hurt and pain!"

If we use this unhealthy pattern to avoid our own hurt, then we are setting ourselves up, and those closest to us, to experience even more hurt. This crazy-making merry-go-round is like a hurricane increasing in intensity, just waiting to hit something and release its pent-up, destructive force. From this comes the choice, "I hurt, so now, I am going to hurt you!" In an attempt to get control of ourselves, we act out by trying to control others—usually those closest to us.

We may explode outwards through anger, yelling, swearing, pushing, punching, judgements, manipulating, sexual assault, spiritual abuse, or put downs: "You are not worthy of my love. You are nothing."

Or, we implode inwards through depression, isolation, high-risk behaviour, cutting ourselves, hitting

But the need to control others is nothing more than an outer false sense of safety, which disregards our own responsibility and authority to first create inner safety, make responsible choices and take appropriate action.

walls, alcohol or drug abuse, suicide attempts, compulsively playing bingo, not valuing ourselves as precious human beings, or put downs. "I am not worthy of being loved. I am nothing."

As human beings, we need to protect ourselves and keep ourselves safe from hurt. But the need to control others is nothing more than an outer false sense of safety, which disregards our own responsibility and authority to first create inner safety, make responsible choices and take appropriate action.

As adults, regardless of how we were hurt or who hurt us, we are each responsible for our own healing, safety, and choices. When we are hurt, or when we are reminded of the hurt from our childhood, it is more

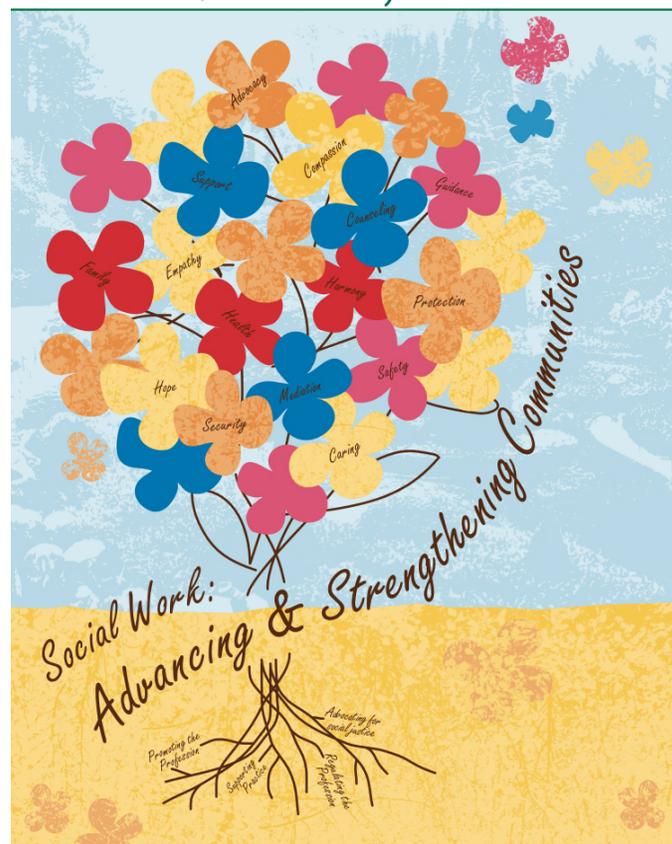
helpful to respond to that hurt in responsible ways and with good words.

Here are some of suggestions of some good words that we might say to ourselves or to an abusive family member: "I am worthy. I don't deserve to be hurt. I love you but not your behaviour. I love you but not your drinking. I will support your good choices but not your bad choices. I will not carry your pain any longer. I forgive you. If you hit me again, I will charge you. Hitting is not love. Your hurtful words are not funny. When you put me down, you are being disrespectful to yourself and to me. You are responsible for your behaviour and choices and I am responsible for mine."

When a family member continues to refuse to take responsibility for his or her violent behaviour, sometimes, the most loving word we can say to that person is "Good-bye."

*Submitted by
Terry Garchinski, BSW, RSW (SK)*

*Celebrate Social Work Week in Saskatchewan
March 5 - 11, 2006*



Self-regulation: What does it Mean to Us?

What are the responsibilities and goals of SASW?

SASW is a professional association which is both a regulatory body and one involved in membership support, social justice advocacy and professional education. This combination of responsibilities can be referred to as “professional self-regulation,” and there is reflection of it in our Act and in our vision and mission statements. The four key purposes being served in our vision and mission statements are regulation, support

of practice, promotion of the profession and advocacy. In this and the next three editions of our newsletter we will present some perspectives on each of these four elements of our vision and mission. The first of these is regulation and there are two articles: one on professional conduct investigation and another on the general responsibilities of any regulatory body, including some discussion on how disciplinary matters are to be managed.

Facing Complaints

What would you do if someone complained about you to the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers?

According to Jim Casey, L.L.B., a leading Canadian authority on professional regulation, you should remain calm and not panic. Gather all information and documentation pertinent to the complaint. If the complaint is based on facts, try to gather all the evidence that exists. Remember that it is your professional obligation to cooperate.

Governments make the choice to permit professions to regulate themselves. The responsibility of any Profes-

sional Conduct Committee and Professional Discipline Pool is to balance the needs of the public and the needs of the members of the profession. This involves an inherent conflict of interest that raises questions about the effectiveness of regulation. A client who has a complaint may feel the profession is protecting its members; a member of the profession may feel that only the client's views are considered.

From the government's perspective, however, the choice is grounded in the serious consequences to clients and third parties that may result from incompetent provision of services; it is also the least costly, yet effective form of regulation and professions have a culture of group standards and structures that can be utilized.

From the profession's perspective, maintenance of professional standards is in the client's best interest and protects public confidence in the use of professional services. A client needs recourse if services are unprofessional or incompetent. The Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers has developed a process for investigating complaints, making recommendations if appropriate or, if necessary, referring to the Professional Discipline Pool for a hearing.

What does The Social Worker's Act say about professional misconduct?

Section 30 of *The Social Workers Act* states that: “(1) Professional misconduct is a question of fact, but any matter, conduct or thing, whether or not disgraceful or dishonourable, that:

- a) is harmful to the best interests of the public or members of the association;
- b) tends to harm the standing of the profession of social work;
- c) is in breach of this Act or the bylaws; or
- d) is a failure to comply with an order of the Professional Conduct committee, the Discipline committee or the Council;

continued on page 9

Dave Pelzer
Award Winning Author of

A Child Called "It"
And
Help Yourself

At TCU Place, Saskatoon
Thursday, Sept. 21, 2006
2:00 p.m.

A tribute to "the Real Heroes"
who saved him — social workers,
teachers and police.

For info www.iawp2006.com
(public sessions)
Tickets at www.ticketmaster.ca

Don't miss this opportunity!

Facing Complaints, continued

is professional misconduct within the meaning of this Act.

(2) Professional incompetence is a question of fact, but the display by a member of:

- a) a lack of knowledge, skill or judgement; or
- b) a disregard for the welfare of members of the public served by the profession;

of a nature or to an extent that demonstrates that the member is unfit to continue in the practice of the profession is professional incompetence within the meaning of this Act.

What are some of the causes of unprofessional conduct?

A commitment to professionalism is a “life long commitment.” It is important to be aware of some of the most common causes for complaints. The following is a list of the top eleven:

1. Lack of respect for “boundaries.”
2. Failure to maintain currency of professional knowledge and competence.
3. Failure to seek assistance or make appropriate referrals.
4. Difficulties in a professional’s personal life that affect their work life.
5. Alcohol and drug addiction.
6. Poor communication between the professional and

the client or the professional and their colleagues.

7. Failure to appropriately address client concerns.
8. Environmental factors—factors such as excessive work demands, lack of supervision or consultation, inappropriate work practices and assignment of tasks the professional does not feel competent to do because of lack of training or experience.
9. Personality conflicts that escalate to unprofessional conduct.
10. Complacency about professional standards.
11. Lack of professional documentation.

If someone complains and there is no incompetence/misconduct found, how does it affect the professional’s future?

The Professional Conduct Committee’s records of investigations of complaints is maintained in a locked confidential file for 15 years. If there are no further complaints, they remain in the confidential file until it is time for them to be destroyed.

Prepared by Marlene Chatterson, MSW, RSW (SK) Member of the Professional Conduct Committee with permission to use material presented by Jim Casey, L.L.B. and the College of Dietitians of Alberta and reference to Section 39 (1) and (2) of The Social Workers Act.



EARN 180 CEC’S! PLAY THERAPY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The Canadian Association for Child and Play Therapy

What? A six-week training program in the theory and practice of play therapy

When? Offered annually in May and June

Where? University of Western Ontario, London, Canada

Introductory level: Play Therapy Process, Theoretical Frameworks, Assessment, Family Play Therapy

Intermediate level: Sandtray, Puppets, Storytelling, Group Play Therapy, Filial Therapy, Theraplay

Advanced level: Treating Trauma, Abuse, Grief & Loss, Learning Disabilities, ODD, Anxiety

Additional Benefits

- **180 CEC’S fulfills all educational requirements for Play Therapy Certification**
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- **Take two weeks at a time or complete the entire program at once**
- **Sign up for individual courses for 6 hours each of CEC’S**

Join The Canadian Association for Child and Play Therapy and receive newsletters, specialized training, discounts on resources and more! Cite ad #SW1 to get 10% off membership!
For further information visit www.cacpt.com or call 800-361-3951

***CEC=Continuing Education Credits**

The Discipline Process

Given the requirements of *The Social Workers Act*, and our vision and mission statements, there is an obvious need to find a balance that preserves our ability to serve the general interests of the membership and our responsibility to protect the public through regulatory responsibilities. In many ways, it can be said that everything SASW does is aimed in the direction of protecting the public, and that is the way it should be in a professional self-regulation environment. However, it is the specific regulatory functions for which this and other professional regulatory bodies have responsibility that must be carried out so there is an appropriate level of independence from the rest of the activities of SASW. Accordingly, we must ensure that investigation and discipline processes operate without interference from the other elements of our mission.

In order to preserve independence for investigation and disciplinary functions, some other regulatory bodies have chosen to operate as separate organizations. An example is the social work profession in British Columbia. The British Columbia Association of Social Workers carries the membership support, professional education, and social and professional advocacy roles, while the British Columbia Board of Registration for Social Workers carries the formal registration, conduct and discipline roles.

At SASW, investigations into complaints are conducted by the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC). PCC members conducting investigations carry a significant responsibility on behalf of the profession. Decisions about whether an investigation should be referred to a Discipline Committee are made after the PCC has concluded it is justified to do so. The decision to refer is made only after the Code of Ethics and SASW Standards of Practice are applied to investigation findings and professional misconduct and/or unprofessional behaviour is indicated.

Discipline Committees are specifically appointed by Council to hear individual discipline matters. In making these appointments, Council selects from members of our Discipline Resource Pool which is composed of members who have been prepared to serve in this way. Always a part of any Discipline Committee is the “Public Representative” the member of Council appointed by the Minister of Community Resources and Employment.

The general authority for a Discipline Committee is set out in *The Social Workers Act*, Section 29. There are additional powers and provisions outlined within The Social Workers General By-laws, which is the set of by-laws requiring the approval of the Minister of Community Resources and Employment. Section 8 of these by-laws contains these additional provisions:

- Discipline hearings shall be open to the public.

- All evidence presented at a hearing shall be recorded by any method that the Discipline Committee determines.
- The Discipline Committee may, as it determines, provide written notice regarding the findings of a hearing to:
 - (i) the general public, and/or
 - (ii) other professional associations.
- The Association shall, at the request of the Discipline Committee, publish the findings of a hearing in the Association’s newsletter as a means of educating the association’s membership.
- Where the Discipline Committee determines the need to protect the identity of the parties to a hearing, the findings of a hearing may be published without identifying information.

In light of the provisions noted above, SASW, and other social work and non-social work regulatory bodies, start with the premise that findings of a Discipline Committee will be published, at least in the newsletter of the regulatory body. The same presumption would be made about the identity of the member.

However, there may be instances in which publication of findings or identity is not appropriate. The member whose practice is in question is served with notice of the hearing and is entitled to representation by counsel. The member or the member’s counsel may question whether there should be publication of the decision the committee intends and whether the member should be identified within the publication. The Discipline Committee would consider the member’s argument in its deliberation and reflect its conclusions in the order.

This element of the work of any Discipline Committee is legalistic in nature as is the entire hearing process. This is typical of such processes in all regulatory bodies and the reasons are to ensure the rights of members are protected and that due process is followed. These are legal processes, and they are driven by a uniform structure within all regulatory legislation.

One of SASW’s key responsibilities is to ensure a well-prepared and independent complaints, investigation and discipline process. With protection of the public as the centre of any self-regulating profession, obviously this formal part of our make-up is a critical area. The protection of the public is also served by supports for good practice such as the requirement of 40 hours of continuing professional education each year and the services provided by the Practice Ethics Committee, among other things SASW does. These less formal elements will be explored in coming editions of the newsletter.

*Submitted by
Richard Hazel MSW, RSW (SK)*

Medication Alone Is Not Enough to Ease Depression

December 23, 2005

Letter to the editor of the Saskatchewan Social Worker

Re: the article "Depression and the fight for inner space," November 2005

We are writing to thank Mr. Postlewaite for opening up a discussion on the role of mental health social workers working with people who have depression. We are in agreement with his analysis that an individualized, pharmaceutical approach to mental health issues is not helpful to clients, and we try to counter balance this in a number of ways.

In response to Mr. Postlewaite's article, we would like to offer information about our approach to the issue of depression. We believe that a holistic approach takes into account all aspects of the person, considering the social, emotional, spiritual and physical aspects of one's being as well the sociocultural location of our lives.

Social workers have been writing about and practising a model of intervention, which focuses on client's social situations since the inception of the profession. Current writing by authors such as Dennis Saleeby, suggest intervention with individuals, families, groups and communities that utilises a strengths perspective,

grounded in the ethical stance of social justice. This is not simply rhetoric.

In our agency, we respond to the individual requests of hundreds of clients every year for assistance in coping with life circumstances that may lead to an experience of depression. We do not refer for medication rather than working with clients to support them in difficult circumstances. We respect the context of their lives and the strengths that allow them to survive through very difficult situations. We are advocates in our daily work with these clients, in an effort to change the circumstances that lead them to struggle. Sometimes we advocate for them individually. Sometimes we take on the structures of oppression. We participate in community development projects that seek to alter the structures of society and we educate those with whom we work including management systems, and the medical profession.

Our team (which includes psychologists and psychiatric nurses) works together to offer a group program for people living with depression that is holistic. Clients receive a thorough screening prior to joining the program, to insure that the symptoms that they display are not indicative of other issues that may require alterna

continued on page 12

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We are currently recruiting qualified Social Workers with a sense of adventure to cover short and long term positions throughout England, Scotland and Wales. The greatest specialty of demand is for children and families Social Workers. However, we also have positions in other areas including addictions, mental health and elderly care services.

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Medication Alone Is Not Enough to Ease Depression, continued

tive interventions. The group program provides information on depression, the connection between trauma and depression, complimentary therapies (such as naturopathy, yoga, meditation), techniques for managing moods (exercise, healthy relationships, spirituality, balanced lifestyle, and evaluation of personal strengths) and the biochemistry of depression. Long-term members of the group program have created their own self-help program which they find helpful because it allows them to continue to connect with and to support each other, to talk openly about the experience that they call depression and to be friends.

Some members of our team work with women who have suffered childhood trauma. Many of these women have been diagnosed and are on medication. Our role with these women is to support them as they make their own decisions around the need for medications, but more importantly to find alternative ways to deal with the memories. The medicine wheel is helpful in this work, considering the mental, physical, spiritual and emotional needs of clients. Creative therapeutic techniques such as psychodrama, art therapy, and yoga have also been helpful.

And yes, sometimes we refer clients for medical assistance when we believe that medication may be helpful in their struggle. It would be unethical of us not to provide information that would give relief. We similarly would not counsel individuals with diabetes to rely on social support alone, to alter their blood sugar levels.

We would be interested to hear feedback and discussion from other social workers working in the mental health system.

*Submitted by Social Workers in
Adult Community Mental Health Services –
Saskatoon Health Region
Della Yaroshko, MSW, RSW
Victoria Walton, MSW, RSW
Lori Lefaivre, MSW, RSW
Kim Einarson, BSW, RSW
Terri Mooney, BSW, RSW
Terri Pederson, BSW, RSW
Tanis Walmsley, BSW, RSW
Krista Whittard, MSW, RSW
Tammy Ens, BSW, RSW
Ruth Mireau, MSW, RSW*

BELL, TEMPLE
Barristers & Solicitors
IMPORTANT NOTICE



Legal Advice for Members of the Canadian Association of Social Workers

To reduce the risk of civil claims or disciplinary complaints against social workers, **Aon Reed Stenhouse Inc.**, in co-operation with the **Canadian Association of Social Workers** and your insurer, **Halifax Insurance**, have arranged for pro bono summary legal advice service to be provided by **Bell, Temple, Barristers & Solicitors**. Bell, Temple, in consultation with Halifax Insurance, will arrange for the appropriate referral to legal counsel in provinces other than Ontario.

Bell, Temple will provide confidential advice by telephone to all social workers participating in the **Professional Liability Insurance Program** administered by **Aon Reed Stenhouse Inc.** and co-sponsored by the **Canadian Association of Social Workers**. **Bell, Temple** will provide advice on questions regarding potential civil claims or disciplinary complaints including:

- ◇ Confidentiality – client files/records ◇
 - ◇ Release of information ◇
 - ◇ Response to a subpoena ◇
 - ◇ Conflict of interest ◇
 - ◇ Custody and access ◇
- ◇ Sexual involvement with a client ◇
 - ◇ Incompetence ◇
- ◇ Other professional misconduct issues ◇

ABOUT BELL, TEMPLE

Bell, Temple is a litigation law firm that has been involved in malpractice liability and health discipline matters for many years on behalf of many professional groups. Cameron C.R. Godden and Lisa E. Hamilton lead Bell, Temple's Health Discipline Group. They are well versed in the regulations, standards of practice and the ethical obligations of social workers. They have represented regulated professionals at every stage of discipline and civil matters, including assistance in the preparation of responses to complaints from the various Colleges, representation before discipline tribunals and the Health Professions Board, and related appeals. They are both available by telephone to provide free, confidential legal advice to avoid or reduce the probability of a claim or complaint.

Each telephone consultation is limited to 30 minutes per inquiry. The lawyer may consider it appropriate to review the issues and jurisprudence, and then call you back. The advice given will rely upon the accuracy and completeness of the information you provide.

Please be prepared with the following information:

- ◇ Your name, telephone number(s) and address ◇
- ◇ Your policy and certificate numbers ◇
- ◇ A concise summary of all relevant facts ◇
- ◇ Your specific question or concern ◇

Bell, Temple Barristers & Solicitors

393 University Avenue, Suite 1500, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5G 1E6

Toll Free 1-888-263-8600 Local (416) 581-8200

Cameron C.R. Godden – extension 8201 Lisa E. Hamilton – extension 8207

In the event of a formal claim or complaint, notify Aon Reed Stenhouse Inc.



CASW Section



CASW Board Member Report

In November, I attended the CASW Board meeting in Ottawa and there were some interesting developments that I thought our SASW membership would be interested in hearing about.

- The Enhancing Interdisciplinary Collaboration in Primary Health Care Principles and Framework were approved by the Board. You may remember reading about EICP in the last newsletter. I have suggested that our newly developing Health Care Interest Group review the document as well as all branches. Our profession needs to explore how we can position ourselves to offer the best that our profession has to offer and explore how we can take leadership as the interdisciplinary primary health care teams develop.
- The Board also approved the Canadian Collaborative Mental Health Charter and it is hoped that social workers working in the mental health field will review this document. Go to their website: www.ccmhi.ca to download a copy.
- CASW is developing a closer working relationship with the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work and are in the process of signing a memorandum of understanding with agreements to share information, identify issues for joint action, collaborate where feasible, offer consultation and feedback, exchange and share resources as appropriate, seek opportunities to develop joint statements, endorse each other's key documents and educate and encourage the wider membership of both organizations. They will seek opportunities to present workshops at each other's conferences. It is a welcome direction at the national level.
- CASW has completed a national survey of social workers and found that the work force is older and many members are intending to retire in the near future. They are wondering where the next generation of social workers is coming from. The same is true for doctoral students as there has been a decline in social workers pursuing a doctorate.
- CASW also met with NASW (the U.S. National Association of Social Workers) and we had a wonderful exchange of information and ideas. They share many of the same concerns that we do. They are working with interdisciplinary teams (they call

them trans-disciplinary) and scope of practice issues as they are moving into primary health care teams. They expressed concerns that there is a movement to use volunteers to do some of the tasks traditionally done by social workers.

NASW is willing to share their promotional material. They raised \$1 million to promote their profession and they have some interesting material to share. They have copyright to the material.

Following the Katrina disaster, they realized that they needed an emergency plan for disasters. They found that social workers were regarded as very helpful in the disaster situation but the infrastructure was not in place to get social worker volunteers where they needed to be. A large number of social workers volunteered to assist but only a few were utilized.

- CASW continues to advocate for those in poverty as one of their major thrusts in the social justice area. In terms of support to the profession, they are supporting a Health Interest Group, a Child Welfare project and a newly formed Aboriginal Workers group as well as encouraging these interest groups to form in each province.
- CASW meets twice yearly and has one meeting by Conference Call. I also attended a Seniors Mental Health Conference on behalf of CASW and I will report on the Conference in the next newsletter.

Submitted by

*Marlene Chatterton, MSW, RSW (Sask.)
SASW Representative on CASW Board*

Accessing the CASW Website – members site

Effective April 1, 2006, the password for Saskatchewan social workers to access the CASW website will change to **yellow06**.

The user name remains **Saskatchewan**.



TRANSFORMATION:
CHARTING OUR COURSE

TRAÇONS NOTRE VOIE À
L'ÈRE DES TRANSFORMATIONS

www.nsasw.org

Professor David Divine

The James Robinson Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies, Dalhousie University.

Dr. Maureen MacDonald

Member of the Legislative Assembly, Nova Scotia politician, social work educator and an activist in the area of health, mental health, and labour.

Dr. Dennis Raphael

Associate Professor, School of Health Policy and Management, York University.

Judy Rebick

Social justice expert and Past President of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women.

Dr. Susan Sherwin

University Research Professor in Bioethics and Philosophy, Dalhousie University.

**NATIONAL SOCIAL
WORK CONFERENCE**



2006

**CONFÉRENCE NATIONALE
DES TRAVAILLEURS SOCIAUX**

June 17-20 2006 / Du 17 au 20 juin 2006

Westin Nova Scotian Hotel
Halifax, NS



Committee, Branch & Task Team Section

A Day in the Life...



Kelly Karius is in private practice (Karius and Associates, Conflict Resolution Consultants). She assumes various professional social work roles, including counselling, conflict resolution, adoption studies, and custody and access assessments. She earned a Bachelor of Social Work

from the University of Regina in 1998 and is the author of This is Out of Control! A Practical Guide for Managing Life's Conflicts and The Brief Book of Parenting: a Helpful Guide for Real Parents with Real Children. She has generously provided details from one day in her life as a social worker.

- Woke up this morning. Good, that's a good start! Out of bed by 6:00 a.m. Check my Day Planner first. What do I have to do today?... Interview for an adoption home study, then to the courthouse to meet parents for a custody and access assessment, later some counselling and then free hours to get some seminar writing done. Lunch? Probably a grab and eat.
- Wait...don't forget the family! Soon alarms start buzzing and teenagers move from their rooms. Slowly plans for the day are communicated, permissions are granted, cautions given and bloodcurdling screams are loosed as I try to get the kids to give me a kiss goodbye. They threaten to program the Kids Help Line phone number into the phone. Out the door they go, and away I go... usually not at the same time.
- First, the Adoption Home Study. Have I remembered everything? I've got the DCRE guidelines; I've got the forms. Ready. Oops...forgot the address. Okay...now I'm ready. Adoption home studies involve being a bit of a devil's advocate so that people are aware of the challenge they face. There is a balance between letting them know how uncomfortable this may be and making them comfortable while they are being made uncomfortable. The appointment is concluded and the notes are transcribed on my computer.
- I move on to the Custody and Access Assessment interview. Talk about conflict! Everyone has his or her own perception of what is happening. I feel myself starting to think about recommendations that will help them to have less conflict. "Not yet," I think. "This just started, you need more information before you start thinking about recommendations." Later in the meeting, the release of information form is signed so I can start gathering information from others. The appointment concludes. My notes are only handwritten.
- Back to the office for counselling appointments. A lot of my counselling involves helping people to understand their automatic thoughts and how those thoughts affect their moods and their actions. Today, the focus in both appointments is a thought record. Teaching clients how to balance their automatic thoughts assists them to learn to think critically about automatic thoughts and ask themselves "What is true about that thought? What is not true about that thought? What is a more balanced way of thinking about it?"
- The appointments are concluded and notes handwritten. Client work is done for today but my work is not done! I have a seminar coming up called "Children Experiencing the Divorce and Separation of their Parents: A Seminar for Adults Working with Children." I've written the seminar with a school focus and I need to revise it, making it less specific to schools and more applicable to any organization providing helping services to children. It will teach adults to facilitate groups for children whose parents are separating or divorcing.
- As I write, the kids come home from school. I know that unless I am stern, I won't get much more work done until after supper...today I am not stern. We talk about their day, new braces, and how glad one child is to have her braces off. I make an easy supper.
- I finish a little later today...I can be stern tomorrow.

SASW Practice Ethics Committee

The purpose of this committee is to provide timely consultation to SASW members on ethical issues.

Process: Request for consultation should be made to the SASW Provincial Office by letter, e-mail, telephone or fax. It should be concise and contain a clear expression of the ethical issue being posed to the committee. Sufficient detail should be provided to ensure the committee can make an informed response.

The member can ask that his or her identity be kept confidential by the chair, SASW office or the executive director, but the committee requires that someone be able to contact the caller for clarification if required and to provide a written response to the enquiry. Members can also ask that specific committee member(s) receive no details of the enquiry and not be involved in the consultation. Anyone desiring one of these options should state it in their initial contact with the office.

The chair will receive the request from the SASW office. Any committee member may be assigned the task of researching the concern, organizing a discussion with the rest of the committee—usually by e-mail—and framing the response. The response is usually made in writing, sometimes by phone or both within a few days of receiving the question.

The committee reviews responses at their monthly meeting to ensure consistency and improve the quality of future responses to similar inquiries.

Responses will be governed by the CASW Code of Ethics, and SASW Standards of Ethical Practice for Professional Social Workers in Saskatchewan.

The committee aims at providing members with a studied, yet timely response, containing alternate ways of viewing and acting on ethical issues. The committee does not offer “the answers.”

Requests for consultation may be made through the SASW office by mail at:

2110 Lorne Street, Regina, SK, S4P 2M5;
by phone to 545-1922; by fax 545-1895; or
by e-mail to sasw@accesscomm.ca

Copies of the responses are retained by the committee and submitted to the SASW office annually. The committee and the Provincial Office protects the confidentiality of all correspondence and documentation regarding the inquiry. The committee is responsible to the SASW Council. An annual report containing non-identifying information is presented at the SASW Annual General Meeting.

Make a meaningful contribution to the Social Work profession – Please donate to the SASW Scholarship Fund –

The SASW Scholarship accepts donations from individual members, bequests from estates, fund-raising initiatives or anyone else who may wish to contribute to the fund. A receipt for income tax purposes will be provided by the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation, the administrator of the Fund. The SASW Scholarship is awarded each year at the Annual General Meeting in recognition of a student's contribution to his/her community. As the Fund grows, so too does the amount of the award. Please call the SASW office if you require more information.

Name of Donor: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code _____

Phone: _____ Amount of Donation to SASW Scholarship Fund: \$ _____

Mail donation to:

South Saskatchewan Community Foundation
#2 - 2700 Montague Street, Regina, SK S4S 0J9

With your consent, the SASW office will be informed of your name and amount of your donation.

Do you wish to have the SASW office informed of your donation?

Yes ___ No ___

Advocacy Task Team Process

SASW established the Advocacy Task Team to address issues of social justice and human rights and to respond to misconceptions in the media that are of concern to social workers and the people we serve. This will be done by:

- preparing well thought out comments on developing policy;
- speaking in response to emerging public cases involving the rights and interests of individuals involved;
- speaking up in defence of the profession where it is maligned.

Members of this committee are: Don Ebert, chair, Saskatoon Branch; David Macknak, Klaus Gruber and Warren Postlewaite, Saskatoon Branch; Sandy Vaughan Hastie, Yellowhead East Branch; Ben Webster, Prince Albert Branch; and Richard Hazel, ex-officio.

Anyone wishing to bring an issue forward to the committee may do so by contacting in writing or by email the SASW office in Regina. Your request should

include the following information:

- a clear statement of the issue
- why are you concerned about this issue
- how the issue impacts social workers or the people we serve
- who the target of our response would be
- what outcome you expect from the committee's deliberations
- what your involvement could be in our response to this issue

As you may appreciate, the Advocacy Task Team may not be able to respond to all issues brought to their attention and issues will need to be prioritized. We hope over time, our Team will be able to be proactive as well as reactive.

Currently, the team is looking at the issue of elder care.

*Submitted by
Don Ebert, MSW, RSW (SK)*



SASW

Distinguished Service Award

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Outstanding contribution in any area of social work practice.
2. A high degree of professional commitment and contribution to the furthering of the work of SASW in the Province.
3. Current/valid registration with SASW.

Procedure for Nomination:

Names must be submitted for nomination and must have written support of at least three (3) registered members of SASW. A brief biographical sketch must be included.

Selection Process:

Selection will be made by a majority vote of SASW Selection Committee prior to the Annual Meeting.

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MARCH 15, 2006.

Please mail or fax nominations to:



SASW Selection Committee
2110 Lorne Street
Regina, SK S4P 2M5
(306) 545-1895 (fax)

Name of Nominee:

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____

Nomination Supported by:

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____



SASW Student Scholarship

The SASW Student Scholarship is an award from SASW presented to a social work student, enrolled in the Faculty of Social Work—University of Regina and taking classes at any one of the education centres in the province, or in a social work program outside of Saskatchewan which is recognized by the University of Regina, Faculty of Social Work.

Purpose of the Award

The SASW Scholarship Fund is made in recognition of a student's contribution to his/her community. The community service is to be given of one's self, beyond the immediate requirements of education/employment. Activities related to the professional association, group and volunteer work are the main criteria upon which the selection is made.

The Award

The awarding of the scholarship monies is in accordance with the policy of Canada Customs & Revenue Agency and will vary from year to year, depending on the amount in the fund.

Eligibility

- The eligible student must be enrolled in the Social Work Program at the University of Regina or must be a Saskatchewan resident attending an accredited social work program outside of Saskatchewan.

- The award will be made to a student admitted to the Faculty of Social Work—pursuing a Certificate, Bachelor's or Master's Degree. Proof of admission to the program is required before the scholarship is given.
- Involvement in community service
- The Scholarship Task Team may consider financial need as additional criteria

Guidelines

- Description of community service is to be included with the application. Community service is to have happened within the preceding five-year period. Information on the service must include factual information regarding:
 - a) the place and activity of the community service
 - b) objectives
 - c) process and effect of the work
 - d) interests and motivation for doing the community service
 - e) reference from an individual who knows of your involvement
- Community involvement must be based outside normal requirements of employment or educational activity.
- A curriculum vitae/resume must be provided with application.
- Written statement as to financial need is optional.

Application for SASW Scholarship

Name of Applicant: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ PC: _____

Documents to be included with application are as follows:

- Verification of Enrollment
 - confirmation that indicates applicant is enrolled in social work program through the University of Regina or accredited social work program outside Saskatchewan
- Description of Community Service
 - Description must include:
 - a) the place and activity of the community service

- Reference Letter
 - letter should be from individual who knows of applicant's involvement in community service
- Curriculum Vitae/Resume
- Written statement as to financial need (optional)

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Deadline for applications is March 15, 2006.

Award will be presented at the SASW Annual General Meeting to be held April 26, 2006 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.



Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina Section

Message from the Dean

Greetings from the Faculty of Social Work early in the Winter Semester, 2006. We, in the Faculty of Social Work, had a great Fall Semester which was full of interesting student, faculty and staff initiatives in Social Work practice, research, education and policy. We were energized by these Social Work activities, but it was wonderful to have a break over the holiday season to focus on family, friends and spiritual connections related to the season. On behalf of all students, staff and faculty members of the Faculty of Social Work, I hope (belatedly) that all of you had a wonderful and restful holiday season.

Now we are all back in our professional environment in which we continue to work to improve the social conditions of life for all residents of Saskatchewan. We are doing some amazing work here in the Faculty of Social Work in this context (as I am sure

you are in your work), and we will continue to strive to improve all our social work efforts by attempting the lofty, but achievable, goal of actually changing the world. We are very excited about our undergraduate courses in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Whitehorse, Yorkton, Moose Jaw and other areas of the province; we are very pleased with the quality of our field placements for students; we are also excited about our faculty and graduate student research initiatives on numerous projects related to reducing poverty, child welfare, rethinking productivity, social work mentoring, rural and northern social and health issues, human rights, life-long learning, palliative and end-of-life care, injection drug use, student retention issues, immigrant women issues, foster care, immigrant seniors, domestic violence, community development and social

continued on page 20

Intermediary E-Training Guide for Youth Justice

This free resource includes...

- ⇒ an overview of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* and other laws that affect young people
- ⇒ checklists
- ⇒ resources
- ⇒ interactive quizzes
- ⇒ take-away information for your clients

Available April 2006
To view online, go to
www.plea.org

This project funded by the Department of Justice Canada - Youth Justice Policy. Photo courtesy of DesignPics Inc.

Designed for professional and volunteer groups that deal with young people who may be involved in the youth criminal justice system, this online training resource provides...

- ⇒ an overview of our legal system, and
- ⇒ detailed information about the youth criminal justice system.

Whether you deal with youth in conflict with the law on a regular basis or only through incidental contact for unrelated reasons, this training guide can provide you with the necessary background knowledge, resources and skills to assist young people and their families to...

- ⇒ understand the youth criminal justice process, and
- ⇒ take steps to protect their rights.



Message from the U of R Dean, continued

economy issues, among others; and we are also very pleased with the joint initiatives we have with SASW as an Association and with you as individual members of SASW. Your contributions to Social Work education and mentoring through supervising students in your agencies is very significant for the continued development of a strong professional association in the province. We, in the Faculty of Social Work, very much appreciate your excellent contribution in this regard. We are also always interested in additional ways we can work in partnership with SASW as an Association or with individual members so please feel free to contact me if you have ideas and interests in this respect.

There are three significant initiatives that we will be working on during the Winter semester, in addition to our regular university-based work and working with SASW colleagues in planning the annual conference in Saskatoon in April, 2006. We invite your participation in each of these three initiatives to the extent that you

can become involved in the interest of making social work education in Saskatchewan as strong as it can be. The three initiatives are:

- 1) Social Work Week: We have had great success in the last couple of years working in partnership with SASW to promote the diverse aspects of the profession in Saskatchewan. We are especially active in these partnerships with SASW on Social Work Week initiatives in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert so we encourage you to participate in activities in any way you can in order to show the significant contribution that all of us in the SASW and the Faculty of Social Work make to social justice issues provincially, nationally and internationally. We look forward to working with you in this excellent opportunity to showcase our strengths as a profession.
- 2) Strategic Plan for 2006-2011: We are in the process of developing a Strategic Plan for the Faculty of Social Work for 2006-2011 by July 2006. We have a draft that we will be using to consult with many people throughout the province, including the SASW Council and many SASW members. We look forward to your contribution to this initiative as we develop a Strategic Plan for the next 5 years in the Faculty of Social Work.
- 3) Dean's Search: As you probably know, my term as Dean of the Faculty of Social Work finishes as of June 30, 2006. This is my sixth year as Dean and it is an excellent time to turn over the position to a new Dean to implement the Strategic Plan for the next five years. A Search Committee has been established for this work and Grace Jasper is the SASW representative on this committee. We encourage you to make your views known to Grace about what characteristics you would like to see in the next Dean of the Faculty of Social Work.

In closing, I would like to say, as I always do in these brief messages, that it is a pleasure for us in the Faculty of Social Work to be working with all of you in the interests of improving social conditions for all people in the province and in contributing to an expanded Social Work profession in Saskatchewan. It is great to work with the SASW Council on many of the issues mentioned above and it is wonderful to work with you, as individual members of the Association, in the pursuit of our Social Work goals. We look forward to continuing to work together to promote the excellent social work practice, research, education and policy that we are all doing in Saskatchewan.

*Dr. Michael MacLean, Dean,
Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina*

Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome.

Read any good books lately?
Working on an interesting project?
Have an area of interest that you would like to share with other people?
Write to SASW Editor and see your name in print!

Deadline for the next newsletter is April 30, 2005.

The following Standards of Practice are available from the SASW Office and our Web site:

Standards of Ethical Practice for Professional Social Workers in Saskatchewan, Revised January 2001.

Standards for Social Work in Schools, October 1999.

Standards in Child Protection Services for Registered Social Workers in Saskatchewan, October 1999.

Standards in Health Care for Registered Social Workers in Saskatchewan, March 2001.

Standards for the Private Practice of Social Work, Revised 1999.

Standards in Custody/Access for Registered Social Workers in Saskatchewan, March 2001.



Family Tree Section

Peter Griffiths: A Lesson in How to Manifest Peace, Love, Hope and Joy



Peter Griffiths was born on December 13, 1938, in Montreal, Quebec. His maternal grandmother, Elizabeth Lloyd, was a devout Catholic who worked as a housekeeper for priests and in convents. She married a widower who had no children and together, they had one child, Frances. Elizabeth's husband died when Frances was very young

and she raised her daughter alone, instilling a strong Roman Catholic influence along the way.

Peter's paternal grandparents, Richard and Annie Griffiths, emigrated from Wales to Canada at the turn of the 20th century. Their son, David Cecil Griffiths met Frances at a social gathering in the Laurentian Mountains. The fact that Frances was Catholic and David was Methodist (Protestant) initially created tension, but the two married. The Griffiths loved Frances and treated her as the daughter they never had. Peter was their only child.

Peter grew up in Montreal in the 1940s and 1950s. Inevitably, the turbulent politics of those times, which

were grounded in the policies of the Union Nationale Party (UN) under Premier Maurice Duplessis, shaped his worldview. The UN party identified with conservative French Canadian nationalism and was strongly aligned with the Roman Catholic clergy. The resulting social policy has been described as repressive. Peter identified with those who were marginalized. He learned that in Quebec, during the 1950s, there were no easy answers to sociopolitical problems. For example, Peter recalls working at the CPR in the Montreal office with French speaking co-workers who were forced to speak English at work while he spoke no French at all. He sympathized with those men while also feeling mounting

He felt during those days that he “had no place in Quebec” although it was the only home he had ever known.

anxiety. He felt during those days that he “had no place in Quebec” although it was the only home he had ever known. For any social worker, it would be an invaluable lesson in analyzing the role of church and state in society, in analyzing separatism in the context of nationalism, and in placing all of these developments in the context of the Quebec and Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Eventually, Peter's father decided to move the family to Calgary and Peter also transferred within the CPR. So it was that Peter worked in the Data Centre while his father worked in the Freight Claims Department at the same company, from Montreal to Calgary and finally to Vancouver during the years 1955-1960. Peter indicates that living in Calgary as a teenager was a joyful period in his life.

This was enhanced by involvement in the United Church youth group. He notes that the United Church focused on social policy, which assisted him to critically analyze competing social forces.

Still working at the CPR, he took night classes to earn an equivalent of first year Arts and Sciences. He

continued on page 22

It is time to thank those who have offered valuable feedback about this feature. Please continue to do so.

Life lived as a social worker in Saskatchewan is unique, not only because we share the experience of work and practice in the same province, but also because the essence of each individual's personal history (including culture, race, gender, ability, sexual orientation and age) coalesces with professional practice. The result is great and rich diversity in our SASW Family Tree.

Thank you everyone for reminding us that the essence of the SASW membership is such that “the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.”

Brenda Stinson, MSW, RSW (SK)

Peter Griffiths: A Lesson in How to Manifest Peace, Love, Hope and Joy, cont.

then entered the University of British Columbia (UBC) in 1960 and completed a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Economics in 1963. In 1964, he completed a Bachelor of Social Work with a Major in Casework and received a best social work student award. Jack Shaver, a United Church UBC Chaplain, was an important role model. Summer student work included Toronto (1961-1962, Christian Movement Work Camps) and Winnipeg (1963, Orderly at Winnipeg Municipal Hospital, post-polio ward). Peter notes that work on the post-polio unit was an important contributor to his professional development.

This time, he was working as a social worker delivering new, divergent mental health programs. This included the policy of “deinstitutionalization” of psychiatric patients.

Peter came to Saskatchewan in May 1964, where he would work for 16 months in the Moose Jaw area before returning to UBC to complete a Master of Social Work. When he returned, he would work his way through significant social policy shifts. He moved first to North Battleford and then Prince Albert, where he would spend the rest of his career and raise his family. This time, he was working as a social worker delivering new, divergent mental health programs. This included the policy of “deinstitutionalization” of psychiatric patients. Peter worked to mediate the worst elements of that policy and began one of the first residential group home programs (Town and Country Boarding Homes). This program began in North Battleford and Prince Albert, but was a model for other communities. One client who was placed in a community home could go out on the trap

line for beaver and other animals, skin the animals, and prepare them for eating. With the support of the community home, he achieved a good quality of life. Peter was pleased to see him at the wedding of Peter’s sister-in-law, playing in the dance band. Client-centred homes were Peter’s objective.

Peter married Ruth in August 1969. They have two children, Greg (age 30) and Gwyn (age 27). In recent years, he has had his share of health problems. In 1990, he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, which was treated successfully.

Peter and Ruth recently completed building a one-level home designed to accommodate the aging process. It provides a refuge for rest, contemplation, and is fully accessible. This has become particularly important since he was diagnosed in 2005 with thymic carcinoma.

Peter’s contribution to social work in Saskatchewan has been a genuine act of devotion to those less fortunate. Along the way, he has identified program gaps and developed resources that would be easily available in the community. This includes Anger Education, New Choices for Men (1975), Getting Up From Depression (co-developed with Ted Kolber, United Church, 1980), and Anger Education for Men or Women (2000).

Peter’s message: “Life is not permanent. Chemotherapy did not work, now it’s on to radiation therapy. This is a condition that I will not survive. The key is not how much time I have left, but that the time that is left will be the best.”

Reference: Personal Communication with Peter Griffiths, January 2006.

Attention:

Social Workers in Private Practice

Are you interested in having an opportunity to promote services offered by private practice social workers?

We are interested in your ideas regarding how SASW and private practitioners can educate the public about the work that you do. Please contact Maria Badrock, SASW Public Relations Committee member, with your ideas –(306)244-6637 or email them to innersource@sasktel.net.



SASW

Toll Free Number

(outside Regina)

1-877-517-7279

HealthLine, Saskatchewan

New province wide

24-hour telephone advice

**service under the management of
Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region.**

1-877-800-0002



Resource Box Section

Love, Families and Parenting

The Resource Box became a regular feature of this newsletter two years ago. I hope the resources I have shared have been of interest to members and helpful in their personal and professional development and in the provision of services to our clientele.

Three of the four books I mention here are published by Hazelden, a non-profit corporation that specializes in books on the theme of addiction—not just to substances, but also to habits, people and rigid, unfeeling ways of living. Their website is www.hazelden.org and their toll free phone for Canada and the US is 1-800 257-7800.

Is It Love Or Is It Addiction by Brenda Schaefer, (Hazelden, 2nd Edition, 1997, US \$15.95) looks at the dynamics of relationship addictions. It covers many psychological dynamics we as social workers know, but she explores characteristics of addictive love with true case vignettes that help people see themselves, stages of moving from addiction to love, and a number of action oriented exercises. One-page handouts of some of her material, which most publishers will approve on asking if credit is given as it publicizes their book, would be of immense value to help people take a more objective look at themselves, and temporarily lift off the blindfold of addictive love. It is an excellent adjunct to counselling people in such situations.

Wisdom To Know, a book of daily meditations for men (Hazelden, 2005, US \$12.95), is by the same author as *Touchstones*, published almost 20 years ago, excerpts of which I used for years in the New Choices For Men Program. Used as a short one-minute reading, or as a handout, many of these short thoughts have a big impact on some men.

Taking Care of Parents Who Didn't Take Care of You by Eleanor Cade (Hazelden, 2002, US \$16.00) combines practical issues on caring for elderly parents

This column needs suggestions and input from you. If you discover a good resource, whether in print or on the Internet, please advise me (petergrif@sasktel.net) so I can include it in future newsletters. Brief guest evaluations of resources are also appreciated.

with insights into the emotional tensions that result when the caregiver has many unresolved pains and issues with the relationship. I wrote two columns on this book, one on the sensitive issue of persuading an older person to give up driving when they have lost the abilities to do so safely.

Note: If you check Hazelden's website they often have special sale prices on many books.

Dad's Under Construction. Adventures in Fatherhood, by Neil Campbell (Dundurn Press, 2003), is the most interesting book on fathering I've read. Neil Campbell recounts trials and pranks he used to pull on his father as a child, and shows how his father handled discipline without blowing up, and was also able to laugh when his children pulled pranks on him. He then shares his parenting experiences with his two girls, from their infancy to their teens. Campbell's recipe for fatherhood is to have fun with your children, and see the world from their view, usually with a good sense of humour. This is a book which teaches by sharing and is the best gift I can suggest for either a new father, uptight father or any man. Campbell runs classes for new dads in London, Ontario. His website www.dadscan.ca also contains helpful tips and creative tips on fathering.

Other Resources

If any social workers are in Prince Albert on a Monday to Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., the resource collection that I have attempted to maintain is located in the lower level of Victoria Square, the building just east of the Victoria Hospital.

I will continue with my regular two weekly columns which are initially posted on www.sasktelwebsite.net/petecope and then transferred every few months to the permanent site: www.lib.sk.ca/booksinfo/dailyherald/intro.html

Next Issue

Next issue of Resource Box will focus on grief issues. Please pass on the names of any resources you have found helpful so they can be shared with colleagues.

Peter Griffiths, MSW, RSW (SK)

UPCOMING CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

*Spring 2006 - Moose Jaw, SK
Beginning Level Training
Somatic Experiencing: A Naturalistic
Approach in Healing Trauma*

Website: www.healingtrauma.com

For more information contact:

Susan Fryklund, RSW

Phone: (306) 691-6491

SASW Saskatoon Branch Workshop

March 9, 2006

Parktown Hotel, Saskatoon, SK

Morking keynote speakers:

Michelle Buglas & Anjeanette Corbeil

*“Social Workers: Advancing and Strengthening
Ourselves”*

Afternoon keynote speaker:

Dr. Lewis Williams

*“Landscapes of Self-Determination: Power,
Culture & Equity”*

(SASW members \$50; non-members \$55; students \$30)

Contact: Ruth Mireau (306) 655-8864 or

Darlene Chalmers (306) 664-7379

*Level 2: Solution-Focused Counselling with
Children and Teens*

March 14-15, 2006

Edmonton, AB

Focused Counselling Groups

March 16-17, 2006

Edmonton, AB

Contact: Nancy McConkey

Phone: (403) 216-TALK (8255)

E-mail: soltalk@telusplanet.net

Violence in the Lives of Children & Families

March 19-22, 2006

Banff, AB

Contact: Jennifer Root

(416) 923-6641, Ext. 6531

Email: jroot@oise.utoronto.ca

Website: www.banffbehavsci.ubc.ca

SASW Annual General Meeting & Conference

“Practicing the Strengths Perspective”

Conference Presenter: Dennis Saleeby

April 26 - 28, 2006

Saskatoon, SK

Contact: SASW Office

*“The Race/Culture Divide in Education, Law
and the Helping Professions”*

5th Annual Conference of Researchers and
Academics of Colour for Equality (R.A.C.E.), in
conjunction with the Centre for Social Justice
and Anti-Oppressive Education

May 4-6, 2006

University of Regina, Regina, SK

Contact: Carol Schick

Email: carol.schick@uregina.ca

*“Bridging the Gap: Stalking and the Crime of
Criminal Harassment”*

Learning and Networking Event

May 10-12, 2006

Regina Travelodge South, Regina, SK

Contact: Deb George or Shellie Pociuk

phone: (306) 757-6675 or e-mail: fsr@sasktel.net

2006 National Social Work Conference

June 17-20, 2006

Westin Nova Scotian Hotel, Halifax, NS

Contact: Nova Scotia Association of Social Workers

Phone: (902) 429-7799; Fax: (902) 429-7650;

E-mail: nsasw@nsasw.org

Web site: <http://www.nsasw.org/>

*International Association of Women Police
Annual Training Conference in Saskatoon*

Centennial Auditorium – Saskatoon, SK

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Tickets: Centennial Auditorium Box Office

Contact: Shelley.Ballard@Police.Saskatoon.sk.ca

Website: www.iawp2006.com

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Upcoming events, news and workshops are regularly posted on the SASW web site.
Please visit the web site for more information.