

SASW Annual Report - 2009

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President's Report

I am pleased once again to have the opportunity to speak to the members of SASW through this Annual Report. The Annual Report contains descriptions of the activities of the Association during the calendar year of 2009. The Annual Report is one of the ways the Association can be accountable to its registered membership. It provides a transparent view of the Association, for members, other social work organizations and the public at large.

The Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers is a member-based organization that supports, promotes and regulates the competent, ethical practice of social workers to protect the public, strengthen the profession and serve the public interest. SASW advocates for social justice and contributes to social policy.

If that paragraph sounds familiar to you, it's because it is our Mission Statement. At this time, I think it accurately describes who the Association is and what it does. In the 2008 Annual Report I employed the Vision Statement as a framework for my comments. It was a way to check whether our activities were in line with our aspirations as an organization. This year, I would like to use the Mission Statement as a template for my report.

“Member Based” - Membership in SASW continues to grow. The growth has been modest but steady and demonstrates continuing confidence in the Association and the benefits it is seen to provide. The Council of SASW is very much aware that for most, membership in SASW is voluntary. Council continues to encourage participation of members in every aspect of the Association. This is demonstrated by the change in the By-laws to allow nominations for Council positions directly from the membership prior to the Annual Meeting. Students are encouraged to be members of SASW and provisions are made to ease the transition to registered social worker status once their credentials are established. Student members can bring a lively and fresh approach to SASW. Branches are the places where most members get their first exposure to SASW. Council has attempted to listen carefully to the concerns and issues of the Branches through the Advisory Board. We have tried to be mindful of the advice which is expressed through that group which also includes representatives from committees.

“Supports and Promotes” - The Branches of SASW provide support to social workers and are a valuable resource for day to day practice, professional development opportunities, sharing collegial understanding and recognition, and in providing a platform to promote the profession. Branches have been very active in the past year. In particular I want to acknowledge the outstanding work of the Yellowhead Branch who hosted the 2009 Provincial Conference and Annual Meeting in Yorkton. The quarterly Newsletter which is provided to each member and is also available on line is an excellent source of information and opinion. My thanks to those who continue to edit and contribute. The SASW website

compares very well those of other social work organizations across the country. Current and archival material is available as well as valuable links to other social work resources.

I am very much looking forward to the 2010 Provincial Conference hosted by the Regina Branch. The Conference, "Social Justice Works: From Discourse to Action" will feature outstanding presenters and a great opportunity to learn and share. I hope to see you there. It is most exciting to see the Regina Branch "revitalized" and ready to take on the challenge of hosting the 2010 Provincial Conference and Annual General Meeting. My thanks to the conference planning committee and all those who are contributing to its success. My thanks also to those who persistently nurtured the Branch in Regina. A vibrant and active branch, will be of great support to social workers.

"Regulates" - A legislated function of SASW is to protect the public by ensuring that those who practice social work and call themselves social workers are practicing according to standards established by the profession and are acting in accordance with our accepted code of ethics. This mandate to regulate ourselves requires the Association to create and review standards of practice in the many areas in which we work. It also requires that we work collectively with other organizations that regulate the profession nationally and internationally. Finally, when complaints about a member's practice are received we are required to investigate and in some cases discipline members. Professional regulation begins with a review of a potential member's credentials, practice history and character. This review is the responsibility of the Registrar, acting on behalf of Council. The rigor that we impose on the process of registration as a Social Worker in Saskatchewan helps to ensure that professional standards are maintained.

SASW has mourned the death of Joyce Reid, who served as Registrar in 2009. She was a valued colleague and was admired as a person and a professional. I want to thank Bill Tingley for his work as Registrar over the past year. He has been open and supportive with members while at the same time meticulous in the implementation of Council requirements. I also wish to thank the Chairs and members of the Professional Conduct Committee and the Discipline Resource Pool for their dedication to the regulatory work of the Association.

"Advocates" - It continues to be our Mission to advocate for social justice and to have an impact on the creation of social policy. The Association has been active on several fronts, lead by the Social Justice Committee. We have two motives in establishing a relationship with the Ministry of Social Services. One is to build consensus within the Ministry for a requirement of SASW registration for qualified employees of Social Services and Corrections. The second is to influence political and policy decisions across a range of important issues, not the least of which is a strategy to eliminate poverty reduction strategy. Kirk Englot, the co-chair of the Social Justice Committee, completed a Masters Practicum through the SASW office this year, where his focus was poverty reduction and coalition building. It was a positive experience for the Association and strengthens our stance and partnerships in the community. The Association expressed its support for the Children's Advocates Report, "Breach of Trust", which was released in February, 2009. The report centered on overcrowding in foster homes in Saskatoon, but once again articulated the unacceptable state of child welfare services in the province. The Association, through its involvement in "the Partnership", which is described in Richard's report, is making your

voices heard where changes can be made. There is always much more to be done, but we are grateful for the work of all the Committees that are engaged in the work of advocacy. The Branches have also been active in responding to local issues and by establishing networks of influence in their own areas.

2009 has been a very active year for SASW on the national scene. We now belong to two national organizations; each of which reflects and represents a part of our complete mandate. The Canadian Association of Social Workers is a federation of member organizations that have a member support and social advocacy function. CASW was founded in 1926 and has as its Mission to be “the voice of social workers in Canada promoting excellence in social work practice, education and research and supporting provincial/territorial regulation in the interest of a just and sustainable society.” While some CASW member organizations have a “member support role” exclusively, others such as Saskatchewan have an additional role of regulation of the profession or practice. The regulatory organizations representing all ten provinces joined together in 2009 to create the Canadian Council of Social Work Regulators. The purpose of this Council is, “*to provide a national structure for the provincial and territorial social work regulatory authorities to present and pursue issues of common concerns and interest, and to share, consider and develop positions on such matters.*”

The CASW, with the support of the member organizations has commissioned an Operational Review to be directed by a steering committee representing the provinces and CASW. The review will report to the CASW Annual Meeting in May 2010. The review was initiated in order to resolve an impasse between CASW and its member organizations. Some of the issues which prompted the impasse were a proposed fee increase, concerns about the strategic direction of CASW, and matters of communication. We are hopeful that the operational review will allow CASW to move to a new level of effectiveness and will gather the support of the member organizations. I want to acknowledge the service and dedication of our former CASW representative, Marlene Chatterson, as well as our new Board Member, Ray Pekrul. Being a CASW representative requires a great deal of time and preparation and we appreciate their efforts.

Respectfully submitted: Jim Walls, MSW, RSW (Sask.)

Executive Director's Report

2009 was a good year developmentally, and there were many times when I was reminded of how well-served the Association is by its volunteers and staff. The level of interest, good spirit and dedication is actually amazing. As a result I want to begin by offering acknowledgement and thanks to the 70+ volunteers who serve on Council, Committees and Branches, and to Ray Pekrul, our CASW Board Representative, Debb Fisher, our Office Administrator, and Bill Tingley, our Registrar.

This meeting marks the end of Jim Walls' two-year term as President, and I have deeply appreciated his time in that role. Jim has a unique ability to see into the issues and offer options and reflection that is always on the mark. Thank you, Jim, for your support, patience, insight and direction.

We were indeed fortunate to be served in 2009 by a talented and dedicated Editorial Board for *The Saskatchewan Social Worker*. Ailsa Watkinson, Lorelee Manning, Ruth Mireau, Rick Yachiw and Debb Fisher worked hard to provide the newsletter in February, June and November. The Editorial Board offers thanks, in turn, to all those who made contributions throughout the year.

Last year, I reported that Joyce Reid had been appointed Registrar by Council on September 1, 2008, then had to leave her duties for health reasons shortly thereafter. Most are now aware that Joyce died late in 2009. Bill Tingley, who initially agreed to accept his reappointment by Council as Registrar during the period of Joyce's convalescence, has now agreed to continue as Registrar.

Some of the developmental highlights for the year include:

- February 5th Council and key committee members attended a media relations workshop that gave us useful knowledge of the media and how best to relate to it.
- Frank Dornstauder and David Macknak completed writing a history and reflection on 100 years of child protection legislation and services in Saskatchewan. The paper was highlighted in the newsletter in three parts and is now available in full form on our website.
- The Report of the Quality of Work Life Survey administered here in 2008 was finalized late in the year and placed on the SASW website. Plans for its further distribution were made by Council. I again want to acknowledge the very able support from Debra Wiszniak and Doug Stewart on this project.
- The initiation of an Aboriginal Social Workers Committee (see page 17) was underway by the end of the year.
- The provincial government decided that the goals of labour mobility under the Agreement on Internal Trade would best be served by omnibus legislation that would emphasize mobility rights for those already registered in one jurisdiction regardless of credentials. Introduction is expected in 2010.
- Kirk Englot, co-chair of the Social Justice Committee, did his Masters Practicum out of the SASW office on a half-time basis from May to December on the topic of examining, analyzing and advancing development of a way of addressing poverty in this province.

This issue was identified when the current SASW Action Plan was established in 2007. Great credit to Kirk, the goal has been met. Some of the results are contained in the Social Justice Committee's report in these pages, including the initiation with others of the group "Action for a Poverty-Free Saskatchewan". As the year ended, Kirk was setting up to present more detailed information to Advisory Board and in the June edition of our newsletter.

- The Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) is the social work regulation organization to which all Canadian provinces and almost all U.S. states belong. Our participation has been helpful to us on many fronts as we continue to explore the central onus of public protection that we share with all professional regulators. For the last two years I have served on the ASWB Regulation and Standards Committee, and have agreed for 2010 to be its chair.
- Provincially we have again re-formed relationships with the Ministry of Social Services, as Marian Zerr became the new Deputy Minister and Cheryl Senecal became the Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for child welfare. Glenda Francis continues as our Ministry contact person. In March, we again met with the Honorable Donna Harpauer, to further outline the goals of SASW and review our social justice work and aspirations.

As noted in the President's Report and in the Social Justice Committee Report, our social justice work on services for children and youth has been mainly expressed through SASW's participation in the Saskatchewan Partnership for Children and Youth. "The Partnership", as it's often called, was developed over the last few years with the intention of bringing influence and profile to the most marginalized children and youth and to support an improved, better understood and less isolated child welfare system. SASW was instrumental in the initiation of "The Partnership" as our response to the earlier CASW project that focused on the child welfare system, called "Creating Conditions for Good Practice". Aside from us, this group currently has representation from the College of Psychologists (chair), the UofR Faculty of Social Work, the First Nations University School of Social Work, Ranch Ehrlo, First Nations Child and Family Services Agencies, the Youth-in-Care Network, the Education and Social Services Ministries, the Children's Advocate Office and the Prairie Child Welfare Consortium. The new piece in all of this is that "The Partnership" was invited to consider working as an advisory group to the Child Welfare Review Panel that was announced by Minister Harpauer on November 9th. There was agreement with this request and the first meeting with Ministry of Social Services officials and Bob Pringle, Chair of the Review Panel occurred December 9th.

Respectfully submitted: Richard Hazel, MSW, RSW (SK)

CASW Representative Report

CASW remains a vitally active national association representing 17,000 social workers from 10 member organizations of provinces and the territories. CASW is active in many coalitions and partnerships in the promotion of social justice, as well as in activities to promote the profession. Board members and social workers throughout Canada sit on CASW committees dealing with particular practice areas; such as Children's Interest Group, the Aboriginal Interest Group and the Intersectoral Group.

CASW, in partnership with Canada Without Poverty, and other national organizations have struck the Dignity For All Campaign. The Campaign is a lobbying and advocacy strategy calling for the elimination of poverty by 2020. There is a call for a National Anti-Poverty Act that ensures federal government commitment and accountability for results and for sufficient federal government investments in social security for all Canadians. Toward this end, a Dinner for Dignity will be held on Feb 1, 2010 on Parliament Hill including politicians, social justice advocates and poor people. CASW also released two reports: Comparing Women's Income in 2000 and 2005: Improvements and Disappointments (Oct 09) and Tuning Into Poverty the Provincial Way (Dec 09) which is available under publications on casw@casw-acts.ca. On behalf of CASW I made a presentation to the House of Commons Finance Committee on Oct 27, 2009 on low and moderate income women in Canada in a pre-budgetary meeting. CASW responded to the federal budget on March 4th, 2010.

CASW is preparing a special edition of the Canadian Social Work Journal on Settlement and Integration of Newcomers to Canada in partnership with Integration Branch of Citizenship and Immigration Canada. There are currently upwards of 230,000 newcomers each year with 22% of the population now being foreign born. This edition will highlight the issues of newcomers and best practices in response to those issues as a way to promote the roles and functions of social work among policy-makers and practitioners in the field.

In the President's Report, it outlines that CASW is undergoing an operational review which is generating much uncertainty about the organization going forward. The review arose in reaction to a CASW proposed fee increase to begin in 2011. Alberta and Ontario the largest two members are questioning the level of their ongoing financial participation in CASW and the value they receive for their fees. These concerns are multi-layered and full of unresolved tensions which have been in place for many years. For these jurisdictions, the cost of meeting the regulatory responsibilities under legislation is growing and membership fees are increasing with resultant added pressures. The entire CASW organizational structure, governance and operations are being reviewed with a list of recommendations from the consulting group expected at the May Annual Meeting in Montreal. Focus groups have been held with board members, with Presidents and Executive Directors, and with partners and other social work organizations to help formulate a thorough review.

CASW is in the process of financial restraint and cutbacks with the results of cancellation of the regular Bi-Annual Conference. Two board members are participating in a joint planning committee with the Canadian Association of Social Work Educators Conference which will be held in conjunction with the Humanities and Social Sciences Conference in Montreal from May 31 to June 2, 2010. CASW was going to fully co-sponsor the conference but

cancelled in early September 2009 due to financial uncertainty. A second social work position is not being filled along with other administrative and activity cutbacks.

CASW is involved in [the](#) International Federation of Social Workers IFSW which will be holding its conference in Hong Kong in June 2010. Veronica Marsman, past president of CASW, is chairing the IFSW Promotion Committee as well as the IFSW Strategy Committee in the guiding of an operational review of IFSW. World Social Work Day was held on March 16, 2010 under the theme "***Making Human Rights Real: The Social Work Agenda***". We are proud of Veronica and her contributions in the international social work arena.

I am honoured to be CASW's representative from Saskatchewan. CASW is giving social work a voice at the national level advocating for social justice and for best social work practices across Canada.

Respectfully submitted: Ray Pekrul, MSW, RSW (SK)

Public Representative's Report

Apart from attending Council and Advisory Board meetings in 2009, my time as Public Representative was devoted primarily to a small working group consisting of Richard Hazel, Debra Wiszniak and myself. This group was formed to serve in an advisory capacity to Michael Saini who analysed the data from the SASW survey on Quality of Work Life and was preparing a final report. We met several times throughout the year – probably more than any of us anticipated -- to review a succession of drafts and make suggestions and changes we thought would enhance the organization and presentation of the report. The final edition of *Work Life and Study* is available on the Association's website.

The other matter with which I was involved as Public Representative was a Disciplinary Hearing on October 29, 2009, to deal with a charge of professional misconduct brought against an SASW member. The Discipline Committee heard and upheld the charge.

It has been a pleasure to be associated in this capacity with SASW for another year, but there is some urgency for new public representatives to be appointed as soon as possible so the Association may benefit from a new and fresh set of outside perspectives.

Respectfully submitted: Doug Stewart

Registrar's Report

Through comparison of membership counts established at the close of each year, the chart below reflects the growth of our professional association throughout the past 12 years. It is a notable feature that whereas the year-end totals in the “part time”, “non-practicing” and “student” membership counts tend to bounce around a bit, the categories of “full time” and “total” members have continuously increased throughout the 12 year period now reported in this 2009 Annual Report – the year-end 2009 total having increased by 44 members over that reported in 2008.

Year	Associate Members	Full Time Members	Part Time Members	Non Practicing Members	Student Members	Total Members
1998	1	608	127	69	44	849
1999	1	658	126	90	44	919
2000	4	660	138	83	58	943
2001	3	682	155	87	48	975
2002	3	736	135	105	68	1,047
2003	4	767	124	109	73	1,077
2004	3	781	132	108	79	1,103
2005	2	797	129	140	93	1,161
2006	2	828	154	138	103	1,225
2007	3	856	151	159	91	1,260
2008	3	895	146	155	86	1,285
2009	2	946	152	157	72	1,329

At the time of this writing, we have once more progressed through a round of registration renewals for 2010. Given that, as Registrar, I was immersed in this process during the 2007 round of renewals, and now again toward the end of 2009, some comparisons can be made. It is clear that by and large our members are responsibly tending to renewal obligations. Nowhere is this more clear than in the area of reporting Continuing Professional Education (CPE) inventories, and happily, there is much less struggle around this task than has sometimes been the case in the past. Obviously, membership is taking to heart that it is a hallmark of professionalism to demonstrate a habit of taking advantage of genuine learning opportunities, and the vast majority of our membership is proving this point.

On the other side of the balance beam there continues to be a relatively small proportion of our membership who for a variety of reasons miss the December 1st renewal deadline date, necessitating imposition of a late charge. More serious is the matter of an even smaller proportion of our membership who have not submitted fully completed application documents prior to the end of the December 31st deadline date, necessitating removal of their names from the Register that lists all currently registered social workers in Saskatchewan. In too many instances this leads to a desperate scramble for reinstatement as former members in good standing come to a realization that they can no longer use the

designation '**registered social worker**'. There is also the added burden of a \$50 reinstatement charge.

During this past year, two appeals of decisions made by the Registrar to refuse registration have been directed to Council. Appeal Hearings draw heavily on time but it is an essential component of a professional association that all members, including the Registrar, are accountable to the public and to each other for decisions and actions.

We often speak of SASW being legislatively entrusted with ownership of title, meaning that, as stated in Section 24 of *The Social Workers Act*, "no person other than a member shall engage in the practice of social work by using the title social worker". This is an important component of our Association's standing and influence. Part of the Registrar's responsibility is to challenge any violation of Section 24 that comes to the attention of our Association. All of our members have a vested interest in reporting any apparent violation wherever and whenever it is noted, whether in media releases, position descriptions, resumes, etc. Every referral of an apparent violation of Section 24 will be evaluated and appropriate action taken.

All of us who knew Joyce Reed were saddened by her recent passing. She was a fine person who made a big contribution in her work and in her private life. I have since continued to cover the position of Registrar and have committed to remain in place through to the end of January, 2011.

I am enjoying the work, the contact with good people and the experiences in which one becomes absorbed in this rather unique corner of the work world. Have a good year!

Respectfully submitted: Bill Tingley, MSW RSW (SK)

NIGEL A. CROOK
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

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Auditor's Report

To the Members of
Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers

I have audited the statement of financial position of Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers as at December 31, 2009 and the statements of operations and unrestricted net assets and changes in financial position for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the organization's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In common with many membership organizations, the Association derives revenue from members and activities the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, my verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Association and I was not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to revenues, excess of revenues over expenses, assets and net assets balance.

In my opinion, except for the effect of adjustments, if any, which I might have determined to be necessary had I been able to satisfy myself concerning the completeness of the revenues referred to in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at December 31, 2009 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Nigel Crook
Nigel Crook FCA

SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2009

	2009	2008
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank accounts	\$ 45,185	\$ 43,776
Short-term deposits – representing deferred revenue liability	319,992	288,910
– other	<u>137,411</u>	<u>139,979</u>
	502,588	472,665
Accounts receivable	3,409	3,334
Prepaid expenses	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>
	506,497	476,499
CAPITAL ASSETS - Note 3	<u>155,890</u>	<u>153,433</u>
	<u>\$ 662,387</u>	<u>\$ 629,932</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 3,067	\$ 4,706
Deferred revenue - Note 2	<u>319,992</u>	<u>288,910</u>
	323,059	293,616
NET ASSETS		
Net assets invested in capital assets - Note 5	155,890	153,433
Unrestricted net assets	<u>183,437</u>	<u>182,883</u>
	339,327	336,316
	<u>\$ 662,387</u>	<u>\$ 629,932</u>

**SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
AND UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009**

2008	2009	2009	
	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	
<i>Actual</i>			
REVENUE			
Membership Fees	\$ 343,495	\$334,936	\$ 321,454
Conference	14,120	12,000	26,760
Interest	1,765	5,000	6,308
Workshops	-	100	400
Newsletter, Website	2,600	4,010	4,800
Mailing fees	1,500	1,000	1,100
Other fees and revenue	<u>1,000</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>364,480</u>	<u>357,096</u>	<u>360,822</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Audit and accounting	1,512	1,700	1,675
Awards, honoraria	689	1,100	329
Bank charges	1,414	1,100	1,163
Branch payments	3,450	4,050	3,868
CASW fees	48,890	49,001	47,036
Committee: travel, accommodation, meals training and planning	26,756	24,800	23,105
	-	1,700	1,097
Conference - provincial	11,301	12,500	19,337
Contract	23,298	29,033	10,368
Courier	646	700	550
Copier	1,175	2,310	2,310
Depreciation	7,438	7,000	6,406
Insurance	3,716	3,700	3,663
Legal	27,054	10,000	5,173
Miscellaneous	632	100	513
Newsletter	8,164	9,000	8,829
Office supplies/equipment	3,252	4,000	2,382
Postage	7,797	10,000	8,532
Printing	8,010	7,500	7,473
Property taxes	4,343	5,040	4,819
Special events	251	2,000	942
Repairs and maintenance	14,609	5,200	5,414
Salaries and benefits	143,243	151,112	122,206
Staff training and memberships	619	1,000	1,267
Telephone	8,473	9,000	9,137
Utilities	3,119	3,000	2,842
Workshop	<u>1,618</u>	<u>3,500</u>	<u>2,720</u>
	<u>361,469</u>	<u>361,046</u>	<u>303,157</u>
EXCESS REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	3,011	<u>(3,950)</u>	57,665
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>336,316</u>		<u>278,651</u>
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 339,327</u>		<u>\$ 336,316</u>

SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

	2009	2008
OPERATIONS		
Excess of revenue over expenditures	\$ 3,011	\$ 57,665
Items not requiring the use of cash:		
Depreciation not affecting cash	<u>7,438</u>	<u>6,406</u>
	10,449	64,071
Changes in non-cash working capital items		
Accounts receivable	(75)	157
Prepaid expenses	-	-
Accounts payable	(1,639)	1,700
Deferred revenue	<u>31,082</u>	<u>15,898</u>
	<u>39,817</u>	<u>81,826</u>
INVESTING		
Acquisition of capital assets	<u>(9,894)</u>	<u>-</u>
FINANCING		
Repayment of long term debt	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	29,923	81,826
UNRESTRICTED CASH, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>472,665</u>	<u>390,839</u>
UNRESTRICTED CASH, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 502,588</u>	<u>\$ 472,665</u>

**SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

1. DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS

Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers (SASW) is a corporation dedicated to strengthening and unifying the social work profession through professional standards, education, and addressing issues of social welfare. SASW is continued under *The Social Workers Act* and has accordingly claimed exemption to any income taxes that may be payable on the reported income.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and include the following significant accounting policies:

- a) Fixed assets are stated at cost and are depreciated on the diminishing balance basis at the rates indicated (½ in year of purchase).
- b) Revenue recognition
Membership revenue is allocated to the year it relates to. All other revenue is recorded in the fiscal period it is received. Membership revenue received relating to the next fiscal period is shown as deferred revenue.

3. CAPITAL ASSETS

	<u>Rates</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated depreciation</u>	<u>Net book value</u>	
				<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Land	--	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Building	4%	169,559	44,616	124,943	130,149
Office equipment	20%	22,781	21,167	1,614	2,017
Computer equipment	30%	26,366	17,318	9,048	911
Furniture and fixtures	20%	<u>5,916</u>	<u>5,632</u>	<u>284</u>	<u>356</u>
		<u>\$ 244,623</u>	<u>\$ 88,733</u>	<u>\$ 155,890</u>	<u>\$ 153,433</u>

4. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain of the comparative figures have been restated to conform to current year's presentation. The budget information as provided by management of the Association is included solely for informational purposes.

5. NET ASSETS INVESTED IN CAPITAL ASSETS

Net assets invested in capital assets consists of:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Capital Assets (net)	\$ 155,890	\$ 153,433
Mortgage payable	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 155,890</u>	<u>\$ 153,433</u>

Aboriginal Social Workers Task Team

Committee Purpose

Recognizing that SASW supports the greater involvement of First Nations and aboriginal social workers within the operation of the Association, the purpose is to create a group that is represented at the Advisory Board table to work toward the creation of opportunities for the deeper involvement of those already registered and to recruit those who are eligible for registration.

Committee Members

Chairperson: Hazel Berg
Shawna Gray Richard Hazel

We currently have 17 aboriginal social workers who have expressed interested in the Aboriginal Task Team. We need to work on the selection of a working committee for the Task Team at our next meeting.

Over the past year, the task team has held two face to face meetings (September and November 2009).

Suggestions for building Aboriginal Social Work Task Team have been discussed in the each of our meetings: having a draft of speaking notes for conducting presentations to potential SASW members (e.g. at ICFS agencies, university, etc.); develop a questionnaire to determine areas of priority amongst those who have expressed an interest in being involved with the Aboriginal Social Work Task Team; sending out articles of interest to our group from other jurisdictions to create a discussion of ideas and issues we will want to pursue; begin a dialogue with one another within our group; and to develop recruitment strategies to increase our numbers within SASW.

Respectfully submitted: Hazel Berg, BSW, RSW (SK)

Discipline Resource Pool

Committee Purpose

The Social Workers Act requires the establishment of a discipline committee to hear complaints referred to it by the Professional Conduct Committee.

In order to ensure that there are sufficient members to establish a discipline committee as the need arises, Council has established a discipline resource pool.

Committee Members

Sandra Fortman	Gayle Fulton	Harriet Greenhow	Carol Lafayette-Boyd
Kerry La Pointe	Katherine Potts	David Rivers	Karen Wasylenka
Terri Woods	Doug Stewart (public representative)		

The Discipline Resource Pool does not meet on regular basis. A discipline committee is struck when a hearing is required. There was one discipline hearing in 2009. In this case, the member acknowledged professional misconduct. A digest of the Discipline Committee decision was published in the February, 2010 issue of *The Saskatchewan Association* (association newsletter) and on the SASW website.

As a member of the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB), SASW has access to a wealth of information regarding the investigative and disciplinary process. In April, 2009, ASWB hosted a three day conference in Quebec City entitled “We Have Received a Complaint: Ethical Dilemmas during the Investigative and Disciplinary Process”. Carole Bryant, then chair of the professional conduct committee, attended this conference on behalf of SASW and prepared a report highlighting key themes.

ASWB is supporting three research projects this year including one focusing on an analysis of social work disciplinary actions. Utilizing information contained in the Disciplinary Action Reporting System (DARS), the research seeks to create a comprehensive descriptive study of professional sanctions and will add to the body of knowledge about social work regulation. SASW will be a participant in the research and will benefit from the findings.

Respectfully submitted: Terri Woods, MSW, RSW (SK)

Education Committee Report

Committee Purpose

To address the educational needs of members and educational requirements for quality professional practice. The Committee shall promote continuing education for members, and provide support and input to the Faculty of Social Work regarding the design and delivery of the degree programs.

Committee Members

Chairperson: Susan Luedtke

Sharon McKay
Karen Wasylenka

Grace Jasper
Amber Barlow

Shelley Whitehead

The Education Committee has continued to focus primarily on ensuring continuing education opportunities for members, maintaining opportunities to work with the Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina, through various committees, and reviewing policy regarding continuing education requirements.

The Ethics training has been offered to a significant number of members and continues to be offered by trainers upon request. The trainers group and the Education Committee have begun some dialogue regarding a more advanced ethics training session. Karen Wasylenka is now the Coordinator of the ethics training group and facilitates ongoing communication with the Education Committee about this project.

Shelley Whitehead has agreed to sit on the Undergraduate Studies Committee of the University of Regina's Faculty of Social Work. Grace Jasper has agreed to maintain her appointment to the University Senate. Karen Wasylenka is now our representative to the Faculty Student Council meetings and Amber Barlow is the representative on the MSW Committee. The committee's representative from the Faculty of Social Work was previously Sharon McKay, who has retired from Faculty. The committee has been in dialogue with the Dean of Social Work regarding a replacement for our committee.

The Education Committee has been doing some research on continuing education requirements and on possible methods of monitoring membership compliance. At its November 23rd meeting, the committee had the opportunity to speak with Candace Alston from the Registered Psychiatric Nurses Association of Saskatchewan and to learn about their approach to continuing education and how they utilize an audit system for monitoring membership completion of required continuing education hours.

I would like to thank all members who have served on the Education Committee this past year for sharing their time and expertise. On behalf of the committee, I would like to express a special thank you to Ray Pekrul, past chair of the committee, for continuing to serve as a representative for SASW on the University of Regina, Faculty of Social Work Undergraduate Studies Committee, while we were recruiting new members for our

committee this year. As well, we would also like to express our appreciation to Sharon McKay for her willingness to continue to serve as a link for the committee to the Faculty of Social Work following her retirement from the Faculty. Thank you also to Debb Fisher for her support and to Richard Hazel for his strong leadership this past year.

Submitted by: Susan Luedtke, MSW, RSW (SK)

Health Services Committee

Committee Purpose

The purpose of the Health Services Committee is to support the vital role social work currently plays in our health care system and to ensure its inclusion as health care services evolve. The committee acknowledges the unique abilities as a health care profession in collaboration, facilitation, case management, and advocacy as well as in education, counselling and navigation within the health care system. This committee advocates for our profession in health as we address one of the core functions of our profession; “helping communities and groups provide and improve social and health services”.

Committee Members

Chairperson: Wanda Miller

Tracy Muggli Margaret Woloshyn Lorraine Marquis Leann Keach
Elliot Paus-Jenssen Sylvia Keall Nicole Wright
Richard Hazel (ex-officio)

During 2009 our committee met on four occasions via teleconference. The Health Services Committee continues to ‘raise the profile of social work in health care within our own profession, interdisciplinary teams and the general public’. Our committee has been blessed with hard working and dedicated members. Two of these members have left the committee: Maureen Kachor in August and Margaret Woloshyn retired at the end of December. We are pleased to welcome new committee members: Sylvia Keall and Lorraine Marquis who joined the committee in September and Jennifer Suchorab will join in 2010.

Some of our accomplishments for 2009 are as follows:

- The ‘Social Work Services in Health Care Settings’ brochure was completed and distributed. The brochure targets the public describing the skills and abilities of the social work profession. The brochure is available through the SASW office or on line at www.sasw.ca.
- Development of a Social Work Department/social workers list for each of the Regional Health Authorities for easy access to connect with social workers in health and distribute information to all social workers in all of the Health Authorities.
- Distribution of our brochures and social work in health information at the SWIMS conference in Regina.

We also held a planning session in May where we reviewed our 2007 work plan and developed a new plan for 2009/10. This plan includes developing and implementing processes to: review and distribute the two health care brochures on a yearly basis;

raise the profile of social work; and respond to issues as they arise. The details of this plan are evolving as we continue to meet by teleconference quarterly.

Our membership has had some changes this year, on behalf of our committee I would like to thank Margaret and Maureen for all their dedication and work on this committee. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the members of the Health Services Committee for their dedication and hard work. We look forward to another year, with additions to our membership and a renewed plan of action it will be interesting to see where our work leads us in 2010.

Respectfully submitted: Wanda Miller MSW, RSW (SK)

Mentorship Committee

Committee Purpose

To promote professional practice with students entering the field of social work by matching registered social workers in Saskatchewan communities with students attending the Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina.

No report as committee has been inactive for 2009; however, in January 2010 a meeting was held in Saskatoon and a new committee has been struck. Chairing the committee will be Angie Pollom.

Practice Ethics Committee Report

Committee Purpose

To provide timely consultation to members of SASW on ethical issues.

Committee Members

Chairperson: Melissa Flowers Evans
Andrew Field Nadia Stadnyk Raven Sinclair
Morgan Klassen Donalda Halabuza Kim Lees
Peggy Cunningham

The Practice Ethics Committee has had another interesting year consulting with SASW members regarding their ethical issues, dilemmas and questions. We continue to learn with our membership as we research and discuss the complex ethical situations that arise. The committee consists of social workers with a wide range of practice experience, including health, social services, private practice, family justice, mental health, and teaching at the university level. This breadth of experience provides a valuable level of insight into the ethical situations on which we are asked to provide suggestions.

In 2009 the Practice Ethics Committee responded to eight inquiries from SASW members; discussing issues such as private practice, client concerns and consent, and interpreting legislation. This number is consistent with the number of consultations from 2008 when the Practice Ethics Committee consulted on seven inquiries. Again, we hope the low number of requests is due to better education of our members regarding ethics and not problems accessing our service or obtaining helpful information.

It is important for the membership to know we maintain confidentiality within the committee and work independently of the Discipline or Professional Conduct Committees. The information we provide is not binding but consists of discussion and suggestions that support good ethical decision making. Our consultations occur via email so as to provide a timely response and a formal letter of response is sent to the inquiring social worker for their records. The committee meets face-to-face three or four times per year to review consultations, undertake committee business as well as meet, and educate new members. Thank you to the Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina, Saskatoon Campus, for allowing us to use their board room to hold our meetings.

We would like to thank retiring committee members Joanne Schenn, Marcia Clark, Michelle Sims, Darlene Chalmers, and Evelyn Weeks for their invaluable service to the committee. We welcome new members Donalda Halabuza, Kim Lees, and Peggy Cunningham. They each bring much practice experience to the committee. As well,

our current members deserve a big thank you for all of their dedicated volunteerism to the Practice Ethics Committee.

Respectfully submitted: Melissa Flowers Evans, MSW, RSW (SK)

Psychologists Act Task Team

Committee Purpose

This task team was formed to respond to limits placed on the practice of social workers by Section 23 of The Psychologists Act. This provision permits “authorized practice” by a limited range of psychologists and duly qualified medical practitioners. Social Workers in private practice and members employed by Mental Health Services have been left in the position of being unable to diagnose or communicate a written diagnosis.

Analysis and development of solutions is required.

Committee Members

Chair: Vacant

Maureen Kraemer

Lorne Sier Myrna Rhinas

Klaus Gruber

Richard Hazel, ex-officio

This task group is on hold while we await the call from the Ministries of Health and Social Services to reconvene with the College of Psychologists to address the agreement with the College that... “The public would be much better served by the SASW having the ability to deal directly with the licensing and regulating of social workers who are competent to communicate a diagnosis.” The 2007 Annual Report gave a detailed update on this work. There have been several delays in carrying this work forward, one of which has to do with new personnel being assigned in the two Ministries with whom we will need to work through the mechanics of how best to resolve the matter legislatively.

Respectfully submitted: Richard Hazel, MSW, RSW (SK)

Professional Conduct Committee

Committee Purpose

The Professional Conduct Committee has been established to receive and investigate complaints alleging that members are guilty of professional misconduct or professional incompetence.

Committee Members

Chairperson: Joanne Schenn

Maureen Kraemer
Marlene Chatterson
Murray Wotherspoon

Jean Wiens
Terry Nielsen

Gloria Mills
Audrey Zwack

Joan Hergott
Joanne Phillips

I began my term as Chair of the Professional Conduct Committee in May of 2009. Since that time we have been very busy. We completed the investigation on one complaint that was then sent to Discipline Committee. A second complaint was closed when the complainants did not provide the requested information with which to continue the investigation. A third complaint was resolved by the Professional Conduct Committee issuing a cautionary letter to the member but not reprimanding that member or sending the complaint to the Discipline Committee. The Professional Conduct Committee currently has one outstanding complaint against a member and are awaiting information with which to continue the investigation.

Investigations carried forward from 2008	0
Number of new complaints received in 2009	5
Number of investigations closed with no further action	2
Number of investigations closed; member issued caution	1
Number of investigations sent to Discipline	1
Total number of investigations handled in 2009	5
Investigations carried forward in 2010	1

Since I am new to the committee and we have three new members, we are trying to plan a committee training session with legal counsel, Darcia Schirr as facilitator. We hope to have this in place before summer 2010. The other members of the committee have expressed an interest in attending as well.

Two committee members, Joan Hergott and Marlene Chatterson, rotated off the Committee at the end of the year and I would like to thank them for their commitment to the committee. Darcia Schirr and Debb Fisher have been most helpful in assisting me in learning my new role as chair of the Professional Conduct Committee and I would like to thank them both. It has been an interesting and challenging few months.

Respectfully submitted: Joanne Schenn, MSW, RSW (SK)

Public Relations Committee Report

Committee Purpose

To enhance public awareness & knowledge of the social work profession within the province of Saskatchewan.

Committee Members

Chairperson: Roxane Schury

Don Ebert	Rick Kuckartz	Allan Corbeil	Norine Shewchuk
Dianne Lauritzen	Marla Wepler	Linda Rudachyk	Richard Hazel (ex-officio)

The Terms of Reference were reviewed by the Public Relations Committee, updated and approved by Council.

The Public Relations Committee continues their pleasant task of asking people to contribute to the "Day in the Life of a Social Worker" for the newsletter. Linda Rudachyk who recently received the Order of Merit contributed for the February 2010 edition. Rita and Andy Field, Saskatoon, will be featured in a special article given that all of their children have gone into Social Work.

A Power Point presentation that is appropriate for high school audiences has been completed. Additional versions are being worked on. A call has gone out for pictures to update the Display Board and to use on the power-point presentation.

The Public Relations Committee has been successful in recruiting new members in 2009.

Respectfully submitted: Roxane Schury, BA, BSW, MSW, RSW (SK)

Standards of Practice Committee Report

Committee Purpose

The purpose of the Standards Committee is to develop and maintain standards for social work practice which will ensure the quality of professional social work for the consumers of social work services.

Committee Members

Chairperson: Nuelle Novik

Bernie Holzer

Vance Heaney

Patti Petrucka

Richard Hazel, ex-officio

Bill Tingley, ex-officio

At this time, the Standards of Practice Committee is engaged in a process of reviewing the existing SASW Standards of Practice documents. Due primarily to the fact that Saskatchewan is the only jurisdiction across the country that utilizes practice area specific standards; an informal assessment of this approach is being conducted. As such, committee members have been engaging in discussions with other committee chairs, the SASW membership, and representatives from other social work regulatory bodies across the country. A decision about how best to proceed will be made by the Committee in the next two to three months.

The Standards of Practice Committee is also focusing on committee membership at this time, and plans to add two other members to the committee roster. In addition, a social work student has been invited to join the committee in more of a student mentorship capacity.

Respectfully Submitted: Nuelle Novik, BSW, MSW, PHD, RSW (SK)

Student Award Committee

Committee Purpose

To support and profile the annual award according to the policy set by Council, and to profile the existence of the student award fund maintained by the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation.

Committee Members

Chair: Marlene Glettler

Bev Brewer

Ruth Ann Thomas Richard Hazel (ex-officio)

This year, the name of this task team was changed from Scholarship Task Team to Student Award Committee as this is an award not a scholarship. While the term "scholarship" refers to excellence in academic achievement, this award is accenting a student's volunteer participation in the community.

For 2009, the Student Award Committee revised the Student Award Policy, Student Award Application, and the terms of reference for this committee.

How do we promote donations to the fund? The question arises as to the best ways to inform SASW members and the community about the opportunity to make donations, to increase the amount of the award. The following suggestions have come forward:

- fund raising event at the annual general meeting
- presentation at Advisory Board meetings to profile the award, encouraging local branches to raise awareness at their branch level
- booth/poster board information at the annual general meeting

In summary, I will be resigning from this committee after the Annual general meeting in April 2010. Ruth Ann Thomas has agreed to be chair of the committee and Bev Brewer will remain as a member. As I write this report, the committee is in the process of recruiting one additional member. As a committee, we felt that three members is a workable number for the tasks involved. This committee believes that promoting donations to the student award fund should be the next goal.

Respectively submitted: Marlene Glettler, BSW, RSW (SK)

Social Justice Committee Report

Committee Purpose

Recognizing that one function of social policy is to provide guidance for social work practice, the purpose of the Committee is to advocate for the reflection of social justice and human rights principles in emerging and existing social policy.

The preferred approach to these issues is one characterized by collaboration and collective effort.

Committee Members

Co-Chairpersons: Kirk Englot/Judy White

Patti Cram	Linda Charlton	Cecil Gooliaff	Noela Crow Salazar
Jim Mulvale	Sydney Bell	Wanda Yurach	Richard, ex-officio

The Social Justice Committee prioritized two social policy areas in 2009. Our work focused on the issues of poverty and child welfare. Refining our focus to these two inter-related social policy areas has facilitated for SASW a sharpened and informed influence on these issues. Our work over the past year has resulted in a number of significant achievements that have emerged as a result of several years of development and effort.

The Social Justice Committee's attention to poverty has focused almost exclusively around the exploration and development of an anti-poverty strategy and much advancement in this regard has been achieved over the past year. We have arrived at increased clarity that an anti-poverty strategy, represented in the form of a comprehensive and integrated social policy plan, is a concept of potential merit. Our explorations have led to a level of community engagement and energy that has aided in the development of partnership and collaboration. In May, several members of the Social Justice Committee engaged with a provincial collaboration to initiate a plan to develop an anti-poverty strategy. Between May and December, this group has emerged with a structure, body of research and plan to carry the anti-poverty strategy work forward into the next year. SASW had a meaningful role in supporting the development of this collaborative capacity. A number of engaging conversations were held with both sides of the Legislature, as well as the Assistant Deputy Ministers of Social Services, representatives from the Ministry of Education, and the provincial coordinators of the Regional Intersectoral Committees from across the province. We have maintained and benefited from our ongoing partnership with SRNA, and they have representation present in many of the meetings and discussions that take place within our poverty work.

Our engagement with matters relating to services for children and youth has mainly been facilitated through a connection to the Saskatchewan Partnership for Children and Youth, as well as through representation to the CASW Children's Issues Committee.

The Saskatchewan Partnership for Children and Youth was established over the past several years to support an improved child welfare response in Saskatchewan. This group has been productive in developing capacity and they are readying themselves to act as an advisory group to the Child Welfare Panel Review planned for 2010. This participation will include a review of the *Child and Family Services Act*. Additionally, several committee members have been working on developing a set of social policy principles to guide child and family service policy development, and to help inform SASW's response to existing and emerging policies. Last year, the committee established a similar set of policy principles titled *Social Work Principles to Guide Income Security Reform* and planning has begun to publish both these principles in a journal article form in 2010.

Finding ways to support the SASW to inform and influence social policy, with an effective social work voice, continues to be a topic of interest and challenge for our committee as the work is complex and developmental in nature. Our hope is that by focusing our efforts, we can have a meaningful role in shaping the social policy agenda in an effective way. It is our intention to continue to work on behalf of social workers, and the people and communities that social workers serve, to make a difference.

Respectively submitted: Kirk Englot, BSW, RSW (SK)

Volunteer Development Committee Report

Committee Purpose

The purpose of the Volunteer Development Committee is to review the offers of service by SASW members on their renewal forms, to respond to those who have made an offer of service and who have not had their offer met, to develop a meaningful program of volunteer recognition for the SASW provincial organization, provide support and advice to local branches in relation to issues such as volunteer development, retention and recognition and to develop the listing of those able to stand for election to Council.

Committee Members

Chairperson: Tom Seeley

Barb Church-Staudt

Frank Dornstauder

Krista Olson

Lucie Dmyterko

The SASW membership approved a revised process for electing members to serve on Council at the April 22, 2009 Annual General Meeting. The new changes provide for the members to directly nominate a member for an available position on Council within set timelines. The Volunteer Development Committee retains the responsibility to put forward names for election to council. Names submitted by the Volunteer Development Committee will be put forward in the same form as other nominations. Voting members will be unaware as to which names were put forward for election by the Volunteer Development Committee and which names were put forward through nomination by members. The new process is an important improvement in the transparency of the nomination process for our association.

During the past year, the Volunteer Development Committee assisted with recruitment of a chair and for additional members for the Professional Conduct Committee, and for a new member for the *Saskatchewan Social Worker* Editorial Board. The committee also consulted with the Education Committee and the Standards of Practice Committee concerning their membership.

Our committee has again experienced enthusiasm from the membership in stepping forward to volunteer for their professional association. Our committee appreciates the time commitment from the scores of SASW members who have volunteered over the past year.

Respectfully Submitted: Tom Seeley, BSW, RSW (Sask)

Battlefords Branch Report

President: Dianne Lauritzen
Vice President: Rick Felix
Treasurer: Faith Nash Secretary: Jessica Seime
Members at Large: Alan Corbeil and Mary Ann Gibson
Branch Rep: Brenda Douglas

As is the case in many branches and committees, the active people in the Battlefords Branch are also very busy people. That being the case, the Battlefords Branch strived to accomplish more but accomplished what we could. Our focus was on promotion, ethics and Social Work Week.

Early in 2009, Jim Walls did a presentation on being a member of SASW and part of the local branch to the staff at the Ministry of Social Services. We were also able to provide one session on the Code of Ethics training. We are presently without a local trainer and would like to thank Susan Luedtke for helping us out. The training was well attended. We believe that we now have the majority of registered social workers in this branch trained and will continue to offer the training as needed. Our first priority will be to get another person trained as a trainer.

Our big event in the Battlefords is always Social Work Week. We were able to offer a free lunch again thanks to the Diabetes Prevention Group at the Battlefords Family Health Centre, lead by Rose Favel. They are able to prepare a nutritious meal for a minimal cost, in a great location. Again, we reminded people that there is no such thing as a free lunch and took non-perishable food donations for the food bank. As the theme was ``**Social Workers Make A Difference in the Lives of Seniors**`, Sgt. Dindale of the Aboriginal Policing Unit with the RCMP, did a presentation on elder abuse. We were also able to offer Sgt. Dindale`s presentation to the public and although it was not well attended the information was appreciated by those who were there. Mayor Julian Sadlowski of North Battleford and Mayor Chris Odishaw of Battleford declared it social work week in both communities and also provided their support by attending the luncheon. We like to honour one of our own during Social Work Week and for 2009 the Local Social Worker Award of Recognition went to Beverlie Horpestad of Meadow Lake Individual and Family Counselling. Beverlie`s commitment to people and her outstanding professionalism is a inspiration to all. It was great to see her get this award.

Respectfully submitted: Brenda Douglas, BSW, RSW (SK)

Northeast Branch Report

Chairperson: Shawna Gray
Vice Chairperson: Bonny Bayne
Secretary /Treasurer: Sheryn Peterson
Public Relations/Special Events: Leslie Christianson and Brandi Moskal (co-chairs)
Membership: Cecil Gooliaff & Lucie Dmyterko
Mentorship: Judy Jones & Yessica Ascencio
Adhoc Committee for Ethics Training: Cecil Gooliaff, Leslie Christianson, Theresa Rederburg-deBoth, and Hazel Berg
Branch Rep: Lucie Dmyterko
Members at Large: Lindsey Bruce & Marion McComb

The Northeast Branch is happy to report a very successful year in terms of an increase in membership and involvement of members on our executive and committees. The new executive would like to extend our thanks to outgoing executive members, Lucie Dmyterko and Heather Reese. Our branch continues to hold approximately six meetings a year with a combination of face-to-face and telehealth meetings. We plan to incorporate mini-educational presentations during some of these meetings.

Our branch has membership on the following provincial SASW committees:

Social Justice Committee – Cecil Gooliaff
Volunteer Committee – Lucie Dmyterko
Mentorship Committee – Judy Jones
Aboriginal Social Work Task Team – Hazel Berg (chair), Shawna Gray
Advisory Board – Lucie Dmyterko (and executive members on a rotating basis)

During Social Work Week, activities included displays and gift draws within the region. This year we plan to host a supper meeting for members and any interested guests, with speakers from the Food for All Coalition and the Food Bank, focusing on the affects of poverty. We also plan to have the mayors proclaim Social Work Week in the major communities within our branch and advertise in local newspapers.

In the fall, our Branch executive distributed surveys to our membership requesting feedback on how the branch can better meet the needs of its members. We received a good response to this survey and now have a better focus on the types of activities that will have meaning for our members.

The Northeast Branch is now on Facebook! This has provided us with additional avenues for sharing information and networking within our Branch, and has proven to be one of the ways that we are able to connect with social work students in our area. We also held an information session with the social work students from Cumberland

Regional College to provide information regarding student membership, the SASW mentorship program, as well as to share work experiences with the students.

Our Branch has been consulting with the Dean's office and Cumberland Regional College regarding the possibility of a Master of Social Work program being delivered in the Northeast region at some time in the near future.

Ethics Training was held in Nipawin on March 23rd and in Melfort on October 20th with Susan Luedtke as facilitator. We had excellent participation of both members and non-members and plan to consider hosting another session for those who were unable to attend.

Respectfully submitted: Bonny Bayne, BSW, RSW (SK)

Prince Albert Branch Report

Chairperson: Nicole Rancourt/Murray Wotherspoon

Secretary: Jolene McLeod

Treasurer: Audrey Zwack

The Prince Albert Branch continued to hold monthly luncheon meetings every second Tuesday of each month throughout 2009. The annual general meeting was held September 15th and a new executive was elected. We would like to thank Sharon Hayward for her contributions as a past co-chairperson.

With support of the membership and interested persons, a number of workshops and presentations were held throughout the year. On January 28th approximately 30 people attended an afternoon presentation by Deb Farden entitled, "In Each Others's Hands: Community Allies Preventing Intimate Partner Violence". The focus was on recommendations derived from Ms. Farden's study.

In celebrating Social Work Week 2009, the Branch featured local member, Kathie Bird, who facilitated a workshop entitled, "The Four Directional Model". Over 25 people participated in the March 17th session.

On May 5th, Dr. Bonnie Jeffery provided an overview of some current research projects. The group of about 20 individuals gained from the information presented. In response to the need to learn about the H1N1 community response and awareness promotion initiatives, the Branch organized a noon hour informational session. The presenter/resource person was Bill Bray from the Prince Albert Parkland Health Region. About 20 people attended the session that provided insight into nature of H1N1 and the potential issues.

In closing ,we would like to thank our Branch membership for their time in volunteering and participating in the local projects and causes. Also we want to acknowledge the support and direction from Jim Walls, Provincial Council, Richard Hazel, and Debb Fisher. Thank you to each and every one of you!

Respectfully submitted: Nicole Rancourt, BSW, RSW (SK)

Regina Branch Report

Co-Chairs: Dani Goddard and Crystal McKenzie

Treasurer: Adrienne Douglas Secretary: Sheena McCallum

Members at Large: Trina Farnell , Crystal Schindelka, Jasmine Kindred, Gilliane Renwick,

Tara Bilash, Darlene Bohach

Student(s): Sheena McCallum

Our executive has been fairly stable over the past year although we had a couple key members step down. Dianne Allen stepped down as chairperson and Adrienne Douglas will complete her term on December 31, 2009 as treasurer. We have one student that we sponsored this year and we are hoping to recruit more students in the coming year. We have been working hard to expand our membership but continue to struggle with having people commit their time to the Regina Branch. The committee continues to work at expanding the Regina Branch. With some stability going forward in our members, hopefully we can achieve a stronger presence in our community.

One of the regular activities that the Regina Branch has continued with is a series of brown bag lunch and learn series offered to members at no cost. Non-members may attend for a nominal fee. This year's lunch and learn sessions included "Overview of Family Justice Services", "Mediation Services, Ministry of Justice" and "Connecting with the Every Day Sacred Through Ceremonies and Spiritual Life Coaching". The lunch and learn series was well attended and feedback has been positive. We plan to continue with this in 2010 and have several speakers lined up.

The 2009 annual Social Work Week luncheon was held on March 17 at the First Nations University of Canada. Our speaker was Grace Jasper. There were approximately 50 people in attendance. We had great reviews on the speaker and caterer.

The Regina Branch offered several sessions of Ethics Training this year. They were well attended and will be continued into 2010. Karen Wasylenka and Colleen Barss continue to co-facilitate the groups. A BIG thanks to those involved in planning the ethics training.

The Regina Mentorship program continued to be in the building phase this year but plans to work with the Saskatoon Branch next year are underway. Myrna Pitzel and Darlene Bohach are working together to help this program move forward.

The Regina Branch agreed to plan and host the 2010 Provincial Conference. A conference planning committee was struck consisting of Tara Bilash , Kirk Englot and myself (chairperson). We look forward to hosting this conference in our city and hope the conference is well received by members.

Submitted by Dani Goddard, BSW, RSW (SK)

Saskatoon Branch Report

Co-Chairs: Erin Beckwell / Tammy MacFarlane
Treasurer: Angie Pollom Secretary: Angela Luron
Distribution: Amanda Klimm Branch Rep: Nicole Ingenthron
University of Regina Rep: Erin Beckwell/Raven Sinclair
SASW Provincial Liaison: Victoria Walton
Members at Large: Kristin Wilde, Jean Wiens, Ruth Ann Thomas, Jeff Sturgess
Richard Small, & Sarah Vidak

The Saskatoon Branch had another exciting and busy year, with continued growing interest from members and students. The branch executive and members at large met for monthly Branch meetings which were consistently attended by an active core group of 10 to 15 members.

The Branch Mentorship program continued to be active throughout the year, with 19 matches made between students and social workers in the community. The matches were primarily set up through several Mentorship Mixers, which have proven to be a successful opportunity for students and social workers to become acquainted.

Our Branch was involved in various community and association events throughout the year. During Social Work Week, we were thrilled to host a workshop on Critical Thinking for Social Workers, which was skilfully facilitated by Margi Hollingshead from the Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina. The workshop was very well attended, and has generated sufficient interest in the topic that we are considering offering another workshop next year. We were also active in planning and supporting the Connections 2009 Social Work Career and Practicum Fair, which was held at Innovation Place in November, supporting the Saskatoon Social Work Students Society graduation celebration in April, and contributing to the Saskatoon Anti-Poverty Coalition's activities for Poverty Awareness Month in October.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in May, with 25 people in attendance. At the meeting, SASW President, Jim Walls, and Executive Director, Richard Hazel, presented the SASW Distinguished Service Award to Terri Woods. The meeting was followed by lunch and a presentation by Marv Bernstein and Marcel St. Onge of the Saskatchewan Children's Advocate Office on their recent report, A Breach of Trust: An Investigation into Foster Home Overcrowding in the Saskatoon Service Centre. Dr. Judy White was presented with the CASW Distinguished Service Award at a later event as she was unable to attend the AGM. We also presented a gift to retiring Branch member, Richard Small, who has been very active on the Branch executive for many years, including participating on the Mentorship Committee and attending to many, many other tasks.

Branch members also participated in the discussion regarding responding to the recent Children's Advocate Report on overcrowding in foster homes and proposed changes to the provincial association bylaws.

Respectfully submitted: Erin Beckwell, MSW, RSW (SK)

Swift Current Branch Report

Chairperson: Patti Wilson
Secretary: Ralph Aman Treasurer: Kristen Reinhart
Program Director: Sandra Fortman

Over the past year, the Swift Current Branch has struggled with obtaining attendance at not only the Branch meetings, but also at executive meetings. We continue to try to meet at least four times within the year for Branch meetings. We generally meet on Mondays during the noon hour.

The Branch held its Christmas meeting at "Green Acres" where he had a potluck supper. We also had a guest speaker, Joyce Goodhand, come and present on the Southwest Crisis Services program at our meeting. All members that attended made a donation to this agency and its programs. The Christmas Dinner at the Salvation Army was a success. Thanks to our two members, Peggy Worrell and Krista Olsen, for volunteering to assist in coordinating this effort for the community.

Discussion has been initiated with Great Plains Community College requesting them to offer the MSW course in Swift Current. This is ongoing and there may be a tentative meeting set up in order to establish the level of interest in the community for this, along with a discussion of what format of programming individuals may be interested in.

Branch activities have continued to focus on keeping Branch members informed and involved in provincial, community committees and issues.

The chairperson of the Branch attends SASW Advisory Board Meetings held four times a year.

Respectfully submitted: Patti Wilson BSW, RSW (SK)

Yellowhead East Report

President: Eileen Zarowny

Vice President: Joanne McCready

Secretary/Treasurer: Brian Propp

Branch Representative: Colleen Valuck

The Yellowhead East Branch was very busy in 2009 with hosting the SASW Provincial Conference - "**Overcoming Life Challenges: Integrating Hope, Spirituality & Self-Care into Practice**" which was held on April 23rd & April 24th. On the Thursday, Wendy Edey, Hope Foundation of Alberta, presented on "Magnifying Hope, Shrinking Hopelessness: An Introduction to Hope Tools in Social Work". Donna Harpaurer, Minister of Social Services attended the Thursday luncheon and spoke about the important roles social workers play in society. Self-care practitioners including massage therapists, Reiki, etc. set up with information, demonstrations, etc. for conference attendees on the Thursday afternoon. The banquet guest speakers included Rick & Kathleen Gibson who gave a personal account of surviving the West Nile Virus. The banquet entertainment was provided by the The Sacred Heart High School Rock Band - "Channel 22".

On the Friday morning of the conference, Noel Starblanket shared his life story through the video "Starblanket: a Spirit Journey". The video was nominated and received the award for "Best Documentary Film" at the NAIIA (North American Indigenous Image Awards) awards in Albuquerque, New Mexico on April 23, 2009. The Bear Clan Dance Troupe, drummers & singers completed the conference. The dances and costumes were described and stories were told. Two of the young dancers received a prestigious eagle feather during the performance. A round dance with many conference attendees participating in the dance, created a wonderful end to a conference that flowed with themes so inter-related.

This conference was shared by 94 conference attendees. The Branch was very honoured to be the hosts for the conference. Two of the founding members of this Branch were on the conference planning committee and were the master of ceremonies for the event – Tom Seeley and Arlene Tangjerd. Both of these members retired from their professional positions in 2009 and have promised to continue their involvement with the Yellowhead Branch which we are truly grateful for.

The Yellowhead East Branch had the City of Yorkton Proclaim the week of March 15 to March 23, 2009 as Social Work Week. The theme was "Social Workers Make a Difference in the Lives of Older Adults". Joanne McCready profiled Yellowhead Member, Laurie Roy, who was working as a Medical Social Worker and worked with seniors.

We look forward to a very busy and active 2010!!! Our membership is growing!

Respectfully submitted: Eileen Zarowny, MSW, RSW (SK)