

A Summary of the Differences Between Membership with the BCASW and Registration with the BCCSW

	BC Association of Social Workers (BCASW) The Member Services Association	BC College of Social Workers (BCCSW) The Regulatory Body
Mandate	To support members, strengthen the profession, and advocate for social justice.	To protect the public.
Activities	Includes communications with governments, media and members, liaison with advocacy and social service bodies, research, professional development, the provision of member benefits, publications, promotional resources, peer support.	Establishes, monitors, and supports standards of practice and a code of ethics. Continuing competency, inquiry and discipline are all in its jurisdiction.
Governance	A 19-member board is elected by members and representative of BC regions. The Executive Director and Manager of Member Services and Administration are employed by the BCASW.	Governed by a 12-member board, 8 social work members are elected by registrants and 4 are appointed by the provincial government to represent the public interest. The College's Registrar directs day-to-day operations.
Why Belong?	Membership is voluntary. Membership strengthens the voice of social work in both BC and Canada. The benefits of joining include professional development opportunities, newsletters highlighting Social Work in BC, access to professional liability insurance, job postings and mentorship.	The College controls the title, "Registered Social Worker". Persons describing themselves as social workers generally must register with the College. Those who work for public organizations such as the provincial government or First Nations are allowed to opt out of registering. Many choose to register with the College and so make themselves publicly accountable.
Eligibility and Application	A Social Work degree recognized by the BCCSW or enrollment as a student in a recognized social work degree program is required. Individuals not eligible for professional membership can choose to affiliate with the BCASW. Applications and fees can be submitted online and are renewed annually.	Applicants submit an application package as well as Consent to Criminal Records Check form, application fee, an official copy of their social work degree transcript, a photocopy of two pieces of identification, résumé, two references. Successful applicants are awarded the title of Registered Social Worker (RSW). Registered Social Workers holding a master's degree in social work may apply for Registered Clinical Social Worker (RCSW) designation.
Further Info	http://www.bcasw.org Telephone: 604 730 9111 or 1 800 665 4747 in BC bcasw@bcasw.org	http://www.bccollegeofsocialworkers.ca Telephone: 604 737 4916 info@bccsw.ca