BC Association of Social Workers



BCASW BOARD MEMBERS 2024-2025

EXECUTIVE

President Michael Crawford

Vice President Phil Mach
Past President Phyllis Nash
Treasurer Fiona Lewis
Secretary Cheryl Ash
Indigenous Liaison Representative Susan Soloman
CASW Representative Glen Schmidt

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Kelly Guiaya, Vanessa Key Craig, Elizabeth Vondette, Lissy Snowden, Jeremy Marczak, Tara Sheirer

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD

Vancouver Sea to Sky Branch John Richmond

Fraser River Branch vacant

Vancouver Island Branch Ming Huey Chan
Kootenay Branch Jennifer Hagen
Northern Branch Kayla Walker
Northwest Branch vacant

Thompson Nicola Branch Lorry-Ann Austin

Okanagan Branch Cheryl Ash
Student Representative Scott Rieseterer,
Stephanie Altenhof

BCASW STAFF

Executive Director Dianne Heath
Member Services Coordinator Darren Usher

Communications Coordinator

and Admin Rose Wu Bookkeeper Cathy Larkin

ABOUT BCASW

BCASW is a voluntary, not-for-profit membership association that supports and promotes the profession of social work and advocates for social justice. BCASW is one of the provincial/territorial social work associations in partnership with the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW). Through CASW, we support the work of the International Federation of Social Workers. Incorporated in 1956, BCASW has branches and members throughout BC.

Membership in BCASW creates a synergy that strengthens your voice, supports your practice, and builds a solid foundation for advocacy and social action. We provide information and support to social workers, leadership in professional and social advocacy, and professional development opportunities. Ours is a strong collective voice that advances the interests of social work, communicates the vital contribution of social workers to their communities, and enhances the contribution of social work to social justice.

Our Mission

We are the professional association of social workers in British Columbia and promote the profession of social work. We advance social work practice and values to create a just and compassionate society.

The BCASW Logo

Our logo incorporates two symbols: the dove, which expresses freedom, peace and hope; and the hand, which expresses help, humanity and caring, the qualities embedded in BCASW's mission.



BC ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

410-1755 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6J 4S5 T 604 730.9111 bcasw@bcasw.org www.bcasw.org

We acknowledge that our office is in the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwəta+ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and that our members live and work in unceded territories across British Columbia. We acknowledge territory and Indigenous Peoples and commit to genuine and ongoing work to forge real understanding, and to challenge the legacies of colonialism. We respect the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant communities.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

submitted by Michael Crawford, MSW, RSW

Our Association has completed another very successful year. Our professional development program continues to produce highly educational events, our membership has grown, we have increased the number of communities of practice we host, and our advocacy efforts continue independently and with partner organizations.

We have greatly benefitted from a hard-working staff led by Executive Director Dianne Heath who keeps us organized and

the Association focussed on service to members and social justice. Membership Service Coordinator Darren Usher provided prompt service to members and supported several groups including our Gender and Sexual Diverse Community of Practice and our private practitioners. Communications Coordinator Rose Wu, among other tasks, kept our busy schedule of professional development events organized and does a wonderful job of hosting webinars. Thank you.

The Association has been ably led by a Board of Directors comprised of active and engaged volunteers who provide governance for the Association and undertake much work on the operational side as well. Directors have provided leadership in Branches, communities of practice, and committees. We are grateful for the service of those who are leaving the Board at this AGM. Thank you to Lissy Snowden (Associate), Elizabeth Vondette (MAL), Jeremy Marczak, (MAL), John Richmond (VSS), Phyllis Nash (Past President), Glen Schmidt (CASW Rep), and Susan Soloman (Indigenous Liaison Representative). We welcome new Directors at the AGM. Welcome to Rebecca Bifford, Dixon Sookraj, Hanna Tontsch, and Chloe Rajah.

Our professional development events reflect the new CPD requirements for Indigenous and anti-racism learning set by the BC College of Social Workers. We hosted 17 webinars dealing with direct practice issues, health and social policy, and the poisoned unregulated drug supply and deaths. During BC Social Work Week, we hosted nine online events with almost 1,800 registrations. Additionally, we hosted a talk by MCFD Minister Jodie Wickens and presented the CASW/BC Award for Distinguished service to University of Victoria's Dr. Bruce Wallace.



Our staff and directors worked effectively to create new communities of practice and maintain existing ones that provide online space for practitioners to discuss practice and network, to engage in advocacy efforts, and advise the Association. Thank you to Marisa Tuzi, Sri Pendakaur, Fiona Lewis, Alison Leaney, Phil Mach, Barb Keith, Carol Ross, Darren Usher, Bel Chhokar, Ashley Shankar, Vanessa Key Craig, and Leah Douglas for your leadership.

Our ongoing advocacy with MCFD to remove exemptions in Social Worker Regulation produced significant results this past year. We partnered with many community and professional groups to increase of effectiveness. The result is that we are now in discussions directly with MCFD's legislation and policy staff and have been invited to be part of a group advancing full regulation of social workers in BC.

At this AGM, I am stepping down from the President position to assume a two-year post as Past-President. It has been an honour to serve as the Association's 30th president. I am grateful to those who guided and advised me throughout my term, particularly our Executive Director Dianne Heath and long-time director Phyllis Nash. Dianne has served as Executive Director since 2011 and has demonstrated a strong commitment to our profession. Dianne used her considerable skill and knowledge to grow the Association and keep the Association faithfully on mission. Thank you, Dianne. Phyllis Nash, who is leaving the Board at this AGM first sat as a director in the 1970s and she has served in most positions including a term as president between 2006 and 2009. She has been a director more years than not over the past five decades. Thank you, Phyllis, for your deep and lasting commitment to our profession and for your unwavering belief that we can always do more to serve members, promote the profession, and demand social justice.

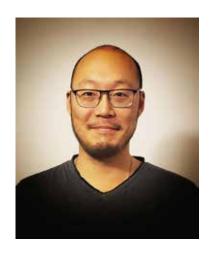
Our Association is strong, our leadership is committed, and our members are engaged.

Kukstsélp!*

* Kukstsélp! means "Thank you to all" in Secwepemctsín, the language of the Indigenous people within Secwepemcúlů cw where I live, work, and play.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

submitted by Phil Mach, MSW, RCSW



To my colleagues within the BCASW,

I do not think that it would be an understatement to say that this year has been tumultuous. The changes have been staggering and outpaces what most of us believed to be possible. The socioeconomic and political landscapes have shifted drastically, and an honest appraisal would conclude that these changes are not for the betterment of society. Despite this, the Association has been active and has continued to find ways to resist the push and pull of the times, using instead our professional values as our guiding light. We saw several promising developments this year that are all worthy of celebration so I will mention a few here.

This year, we saw the continued development of our communities of practice. I chaired the MHSU CoP and participated in conversations, both supportive and lively, about the challenges of practicing in a time when politics were becoming practice principles in providing care. I was honoured to moderate a panel with Guy Felicella where we discussed involuntary treatment and BC's response to the toxic drug crisis. Our Executive was able to share many of the points made at this panel with Clare Rattee, the recently elected Conversative Party critic for Mental Health and Addictions. We were active in a number of the important conversations regarding mental health and substance use this past year and hope to continue this momentum into spring and fall.

In the realm of advocacy, I paid particular focus to engaging with Pacific Blue Cross as a third-party payer for social workers within private practice – the lack of coverage in this

area for health authority employees has been a gap for many years. We had several exchanges with various partners within Health Benefits Trust, Health Sciences Association (HSA) of BC, and Pacific Blue Cross itself. Our Executive Director, notably, had a significant conversation with management from Pacific Blue Cross following our Social Work Week festivities in March. The BCASW was, therefore, delighted to receive news a few months later that HSA would be adding social workers as providers to their plan as of June 1, 2025. While we cannot take full credit for this decision, we do believe that the advocacy of our Association was a driving factor for this change.

As a final thought, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the significant contributions of Michael Crawford, our outgoing president of the BCASW. He moves into the role of Past President at AGM 2025 and he leaves with us an exceptional example of service and commitment to the advancement of social work and social justice. To be the incoming president means that I have had the pleasure to work closely with Michael over this past year and I can say with certainty that his leadership is one of action; the significant amount of work that Michael does behind the scenes will be missed. I have learned much from him and will lean heavily on his counsel as I transition into the position.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

submitted by Dianne Heath, MSW, RSW

Directors, members, practice groups, committees, coalition partners, and staff all contribute to our dynamic and growing professional association. Darren Usher, Member Services Coordinator is in the office part-time, I work full-time from home and office, and Rose Wu joins us as part-time Communications Coordinator and Admin, working from home. Bobbi Moulton, UNBC, completed her BSW placement with the Association.

Membership grows steadily (1,565 at the time of writing). This figure continues

to represent a record high since the Board of Registration separated from the Association in 1996 (867 members). Half of the members are full-time practising social workers. Remaining members are retired, students, working reduced hours or part-time, seeking work, on leave, or have completed less than a year of employment. All members in these categories pay significantly reduced dues in an effort to make membership affordable. Sixtyone percent of BCASW members report working in private practice.

The website is a valued resource for members. CPD, jobs, *Perspectives* newsmagazine, research survey participant requests, upcoming BCASW event info, latest news, and media releases are all available. Resources include access to affordable professional liability insurance, the private practice portal on the CASW site, information about peer groups, individual mentorship, and webinars on clinical topics, social justice, and other topics of importance to social workers.

Numbers of practice interest groups grow as leaders step up from the Board and membership. The latest community of practice is Eco-Social Work. While the interest groups increase, some branches are inactive or struggling while others thrive. This may be in part due to a post-pandemic adjustment to meeting online rather than locally in person. We will continue to review this aspect of the Association structure.

The private practice roster findasocialworker.ca platform was discontinued. BCASW rented this platform from the Ontario Association of Social Workers who chose not to create another at this time. BCASW decided to set up our own secure platform for members and plan to launch it by the end of this year. Not only will this resource support members, it promotes the profession of social workers as providers of counselling, psychotherapy, and mental health services.



Nationally and provincially, BCASW works with coalitions and other associations to advance progressive and socially just regulation and social policy initiatives.

We met with ministers and opposition critics in the new provincial government in regards to regulation and overlapping social justice concerns. As senior officer in BCASW, I am registered with The Office of the Registrar of Lobbyists. Meetings with government and the topics of discussion are posted on their site. We continue conversations with the MCFD

(mandatory regulation), and the MoH (regulation under the new Health Professions and Occupations Act), the Seniors Advocate, Representative for Children and Youth, the BC College of Social Workers, schools of social work, and other healthcare associations.

In June 2024, BCASW hosted the national CASW meetings. Our connection with this federation provides a national voice and broadens our resources. This year the meetings will be held in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

The work of many members ensures the success of BCASW. Heather Lamb edits our *Perspectives* Newsmagazine three times a year which is available to all members and sent to libraries, national associations, government offices and coalition partners. Our hard-working Board of Directors take on many tasks. A special thanks to President Michael Crawford for his leadership, support, and production management of BCASW webinars and social media. A warm welcome goes to our new President Phil Mach and to the new Board Directors who begin after this AGM.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Much of the work of BCASW is volunteer including leadership and mentorship in practice groups, branch executive, and board director positions. Board directors set strategic priorities, address concerns with inadequate government policy and action, connect with universities, and support the work of committees and practice interest groups. Succession planning for leadership positions must remain on-going. Please let us know if you would consider volunteering to share your time and expertise in a community of practice, as a committee member, or mentor.

Capacity issues continue as we grow in numbers and member services. The need to augment staff resources to support the

work of BCASW grows as member numbers, requests for expert consultation from external bodies including government, and awareness of needed social justice advocacy increase. Plans and budget need to be in place for up-grading and expanding online platforms and programs. Online services are increasingly utilized and platforms require continual repair and protection.

There is an appetite for a provincial conference or day-long local educational events. Events such as these need to be accessible and affordable to attendees and to the Association without forgoing current services to members and advocacy activities during the planning period.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Continue to increase employment plan coverage with social workers included as providers of service
- Digitalize and archive historical documents
- Complete and launch new private practice roster
- Continue Truth and Reconciliation initiatives and actions
- Plan and deliver continuing education events
- Work on strategies to increase and support membership
- Renew the Strategic Plan with the new Board
- Continue advocacy for mandatory regulation of BC social workers
- Update policy governance to reflect equity, diversity, inclusion, reconcile with current practices
- Discussion and decision-making regarding possible adoption of the new national code of ethics
- Strengthen relationships with government, regulators, and educators

BC Social Work Week, March 9-15, 2025

Our theme this year is:

Social Workers Make a Difference Everywhere!



Thank you to members of the social work planning committee; Stephanie Altenhof, Bobbi Moulton, Phyllis Nash, Michael Crawford, and Rose Wu; the panelists and guest speakers; and all members and guests who joined in the webinars for making this year's events a success!

The focus of the first week was on students but attendance showed that half of attendees were students and half working professionals. The second week was attended by more working professionals.

Week 1

March 3, 6:30 pm - Beyond City Limits: Social Work in Rural & Remote Communities

March 4, 6:30 pm - Launching Your Social Work Career

March 5, 6:30 pm - The Journey into Private Practice Social Work

March 6, 6:30 pm - Exploring Specialized Social Work Careers

Week 2

March 10, 6:30 pm - Involuntary Care in British Columbia

March 11, noon - MCFD Minister Jodie Wickens Celebrates Social Work Week

March 11, 6:30 pm - Social Work Practice & Allyship in Indigenous Communities

March 12, 6:30 pm - Examining Social Work Regulation: Public Accountability and Professional Identity

March 13, 6:30 pm - Reimagining Child Welfare: Prevention and Well-Being Approaches

BCASW Mentorship Program 2024/2025

submitted by Darren Usher, MSW, RSW, Member Services Coordinator

Mentor and mentee are matched by skills and request rather than proximity. Mutual expectations are part of the negotiation process at the beginning of the relationship. Some people need only one or two conversations, others may contract for a year of support. This type of mentorship is not case consultation or supervision. As an informal peer program for members, the focus is on the social work practitioner in relationship to their work and profession. Application forms to request a mentor or to offer mentorship can be found on the BCASW website under Benefits of Membership, Professional Support.

INDIVIDUAL MENTORSHIPS

From January 2024 to March, 2025, 19 requests including:

- support for new positions after recently graduating, career exploration
- transition from school to practice job search strategies
- · working in BC after transferring from overseas
- support for starting in private practice
- support taking the ASWB exam

There are currently 25 mentors signed up to the BCASW Mentoring Program.

PEER SUPPORT GROUP FOR MEMBERS STARTING A PRIVATE PRACTICE

- Third Thursday of the month, noon-1pm

This group, initiated in 2021, grew in popularity and now has 138 members on the mailing list. The group continues to develop an information sheet for members starting a private practice. During monthly meetings, members ask questions and learn from each other. As time permits, a theme is explored each month such as working with third party insurers; developing effective policy and procedure; how to refer clients after intake; supervision requirements in BC; decolonizing practice. Members are encouraged to adapt information to their own practice and their client's needs. Attendance through 2024 was good with 8-12 participants in each meeting.



Darren Usher, BCASW Member Services Coordinator

The completed BCASW Diversity Quilted Wall Art Project, led by master quilter Barb Keith hangs in the background on the BCASW office wall. This project was supported by the Advocacy Circle.

Photo by Carol Ross

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE SUPPORTED BY OFFICE

BCASW Group for Members in Private Practice – First Monday of the month, noon-1pm

This group, initiated in March 2025, with a call out in our monthly E-blast to members has 43 members on the mailing list. Several attendees migrated from the Starting a Private Practice Peer Group to this group. The group developed terms of reference. The format follows that of the Starting a Private Practice Group; however, the discussion content is focused on managing and maintaining a practice. The group met twice in 2025, six members attending both sessions.

RCSW Advocacy Group

In July 2023, the BCASW sent its RCSW members a short questionnaire to gauge what advocacy issue should be prioritized. Staff analysed the results of the 18 thoughtful and detailed responses and used them to develop an advocacy strategy for the promotion and recognition of the RCSW designation. The group was formed in 2024 with 13 members on the mailing list and five members consistently attending. The group produced a "Master Presentation" Power Point that can be edited and adapted to different audiences.

Sexual and Gender Diverse Community of Practice

The group has a mailing list of 12 members and met three times since inception. Recent events in the political sphere have affected this group and its members deeply, and many are focused on their own advocacy efforts and self-care. Currently the group is to be called on an Ad Hoc basis when members have a subject for discussion/action.

TREASURER'S REPORT

submitted by Fiona Lewis, MSW



The Association concluded 2024 in a strong financial position, with an operating surplus of \$30,499.00, although \$14,000.00 of this

includes restricted donation revenue to be set aside for bursaries for members. Membership fees continued to grow this year, accounting for over 80% of our budgeted revenue. Advertising revenue was down this year but interest on our investments made up some of that shortfall.

Expenses were approximately \$16,000.00 below budget. Spending was below budget in each major expense category with the largest variance in branch programs, which represents money set aside for each of our regional branches. Staff costs were on budget this year and we are pleased we could provide a small wage increase to staff.

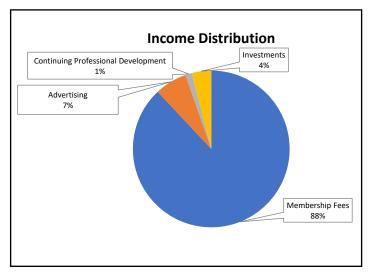
Our contingency fund is healthy and will enable us to weather any uncertainties in the coming years.

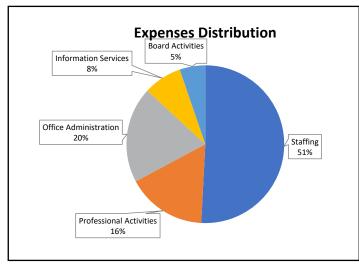
The Board decided to spend the previous year's surplus on special projects. After soliciting proposals, the Board approved one-time funding

for three projects: the redevelopment of the Find a Social Worker web page; the archiving of Association records; and the purchase of the rights to use Indigenous artwork "Balance" on our communications. These projects will be completed in 2025-2026.

As for the current year, we are tracking well against our budget with no major surprises thus far.

This year, Marsh and Marsh, our long-time financial reviewers advised us that they could no longer provide this service to us. After reviewing proposals, we have approved the selection of a new firm. At the Annual General Meeting, I will make a motion to appoint the firm, Dale Matheson Carr-Hilton LaBonte, LLP (DMCL) as our financial reviewers for 2025.





CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

#405 - 1901 ROSSER AVE. BURNABY, B.C. V5C 6R6 TEL: (604) 299-6344

FAX: (604) 299-6355

INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To the Members of British Columbia Association of Social Workers

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of British Columbia Association of Social Workers (the Organization) that comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2024, and the statements of changes in net assets, operations and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO), and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Practitioner's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of British Columbia Association of Social Workers as at December 31, 2024, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with ASNPO.

Report on other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

As required by the Societies Act of British Columbia, we report that, in our opinion, the accounting principles in Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Burnaby, British Columbia April 9, 2025

Chartered Professional Accountants

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2024

(Unaudited)

		2024	 2023
ASSETS			
CURRENT Cash Investments Accounts receivable (Note 3) Prepaid expenses	\$	156,142 283,988 1,495 4,193	\$ 152,312 260,458 7,651 5,193
TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 4)	· .	445,818 2,836	425,614 4,573
	\$	448,654	\$ 430,187
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
CURRENT Accounts payable and accrued charges Government remittances payable GST/HST payable Deferred revenue (Note 5)	\$	535 3,642 12,692 169,798	\$ 21,522 3,145 5,678 168,354
		186,667	198,699
NET ASSETS Operating fund		261,987	231,488
	s	448,654	\$ 430,187

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS Statement of Changes in Net Assets Year Ended December 31, 2024

(Unaudited)

	Operating Fund		2024		2023	
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR Excess of income over expenses	\$	231,488 30,499	\$	231,488 30,499	\$	201,111 30,377
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$	261,987	\$	261,987	\$	231,488

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS Statement of Operations Year Ended December 31, 2024

(Unaudited)

	2024	2023
INCOME		
Membership fees	\$ 327,118	\$ 291,312
Administration fees	1,098	1,327
Advertising	24,540	44,950
Conferences and workshops	5,057	6,519
Donations and gifts	14,000	500
Interest and investment income	14,792	7,846
Membership materials	1,283	5,448
Perspectives and publication sales	 153	50
	 388,041	357,952
EXPENSES (per Schedule 1)		
Office administration	70,402	63,820
Member services	28,171	29,058
Professional activities	58,457	56,131
Board activities	18,791	13,743
Staffing	 181,721	164,823
	 357,542	327,575
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENSES	\$ 30,499	\$ 30,377

For the complete financial statement, please refer to the Review Engagement Report at www.bcasw.org.

BCASW Membership Data Report

Why this data summary?

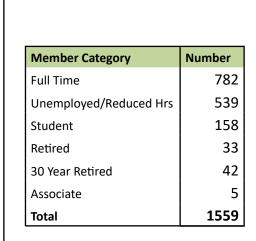
To inform organizational review and future planning.

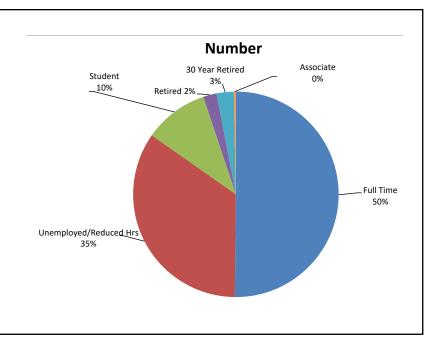
Who are we?

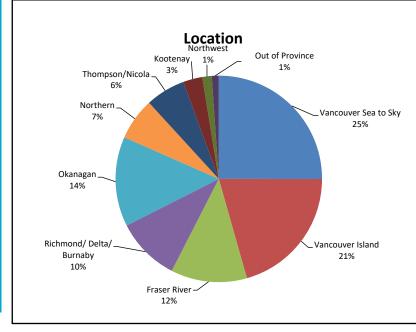
We are 1,559 social workers, social work students, and associates.

When?

A snapshot of data taken April 2025.



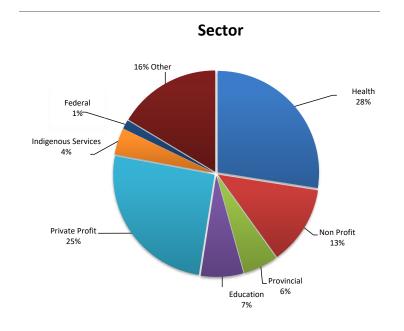




Lasatian	Neuralaan
Location	Number
Vancouver Sea to Sky	390
Vancouver Island	321
Fraser River	186
Richmond/ Delta/ Burnaby	156
Okanagan	219
Northern	103
Thompson/Nicola	97
Kootenay	47
Northwest	23
Out of Province	17
Total	1559

Sector	Count
Health	384
Non Profit	176
Provincial	78
Education	95
Private Profit	356
Indigenous Services	59
Federal	20
Other	229

947 Members have a private practice representing 61% of the total membership



Why Belong to the BC Association of Social Workers?

ACCESS RESOURCES

Continuing Professional Development • Affordable Insurance • Mentorship & Networking

ADVANCE THE PROFESSION OF SOCIAL WORK

Communications • Scholarships • Service Recognition

ADVOCATE FOR SOCIAL WORK VALUES

Advocacy Initiatives • Coalition Partnerships • Communities of Practice

12 ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

PUBLICATIONS, POSTS, & COMMUNICATIONS

PERSPECTIVES NEWSMAGAZINE

Editor: Heather Lamb

Editorial Committee: Dawn Hemingway, Phyllis Nash, Michael

Crawford, Dianne Heath, Kelly Guiaya, Rose Wu

Layout and Design: Heather MacNeil

Mailed to members, subscriptions for *Perspectives* are purchased by universities, and libraries. The sale of inserts and ads subsidize the publication.

- Spring/Summer 2024 Edition: Advocating for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusiveness
- Autumn 2024 Edition: Stereotype and Stigma
- Winter 2025 Edition: Personal and Professional Journeys in Social Work

eBULLETINS sent monthly: list events, provide updates and information.

EMAIL

- Dialogue with members questions, concerns, and responses
- Branch and Community of Practice Communications, Continuing Professional Development Opportunities

WEBSITE https://www.bcasw.org

Member information, services, and benefits including:

- Job board
- Continuing professional development
- Future practice roster in development
- Link to professional liability insurance online application
- Mentorship program application information
- Distinguished Service Awards
- Bursaries for practicing members
- Latest news, statements, letters, and media releases
- Member discount information

PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

- Posters and products with Association logos for sale
- Download Social Work Skills and Knowledge in Health Care, Social Work Services in Health Care Settings (patient/ client brochure in English, Punjabi, Chinese, and French; for sale at cost), The Role of the Social Worker in Primary Care, Adding Further Value to Employee Assistance Plans

SOCIAL MEDIA – Managed by Michael Crawford and Rose Wu



the hub of communication, advocacy and action for social workers in bc.



BC Association of Social Workers is a voluntary, not-for-profit membership association that supports and promotes the profession of social work.

Join us on Facebook, Instagram, Threads, Bluesky, & Linkedin!

We post about social work issues and opportunities in BC.
Follow us to stay connected!

facebook.com/bcasw (2,154 followers)
instagram.com/socialworkersbc (1,483 followers)
threads.net/@socialworkersbc (215 followers)
bcsocialworkers.bsky.social (129 followers)
linkedin.com/company/bc-association-of-social-workers/
(271 followers)

X (633) We still post on X because many of our partners are active here.

SOME OF OUR COALITIONS, CONNECTIONS, & PARTNERS

Action for Reform of Residential Care BC

BC College of Social Workers

BC General Employees' Union

BC Poverty Reduction Coalition

BC Schools of Social Work

BoardVoice

Canadian Association of Social Workers

First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Society

Healthcare Associations of BC Network

Health Sciences Association BC

The International Federation of Social Workers

West Coast LEAF

BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS

VANCOUVER SEA TO SKY BRANCH

BCASW thanks John Richmond for his service as Branch Rep. VSS Branch is looking for a Branch Rep. to maintain liaison between Board and Branch and to coordinate local events and communications. Please contact bcasw@bcasw.org if interested.

VANCOUVER ISLAND BRANCH

Revitalizing the Vancouver Island Branch continues to be a challenge. I have tried meeting in person and meeting online. I have held monthly meetings, a holiday season dinner party and coffee social. I am committed to write email updates to keep the communication going. Members wrote back from time to time expressing interest to participate, however, attendance was sparse.

An event was planned for Cowichan Bay – a more central location so more members outside of Victoria get an opportunity to attend. It was meant to be part of the Social Work Week celebration. Registration was low and the event was cancelled.

I continue to answer to members' requests, to learn about members and to understand their needs. I recognize that many of our members are in private practice and are quite busy and successful. It seems that the most active group are the retired social workers.

On the other hand, two members have offered CPD seminars, both coming up in June. Dr. Bruce Wallace received the BC CASW Distinguished Service Award, and several members either hold positions as board members, staff, or are active in the areas they are passionate about. Our student reps Stephanie Altenhof and Autumn Clark were pivotal in planning and hosting the Social Work Week Celebration.

The VI Branch is seeking to fill branch executive positions and to provide more CPD offerings to share knowledge and expertise. Please contact me if you are interested.

Ming Huey Chang

OKANAGAN BRANCH

The Okanagan Branch has been quiet recently, though members are encouraged to join provincial events online. New members are welcome to join us to help make the local branch more active.



KOOTENAY BRANCH

Since our last AGM, the Kootenay Branch hosted two virtual and two in-person meet-ups, supporting social workers in various stages of their careers and providing networking opportunities as well as a chance to learn what is happening in other areas of our geographic region. In the near future, our Branch will offer another virtual meeting and an in-person meeting in the West Kootenays. As Branch Representative I supported several social workers with requests for linkages to BCASW programming and regional information such as job postings and events.

Members continue to communicate how important the work of the BCASW is to them. Many find that the professional development opportunities are helpful and plentiful, and some request even more. Many social workers from our branch participated in the Social Work Week offerings and I heard lots of positive feedback from members. I am honoured to serve as the Branch Representative for the Kootenay Region, the traditional territory of the Ktunaxa People, and I will continue to do my best to serve our membership.

Jennifer Hagen

THOMPSON NICOLA BRANCH

The Thompson Nicola Branch had a busy year with several successful events. These included:

- Fall and winter social work mixers with students and practicing social workers
- Monthly Branch Executive meetings
- Biweekly email to Thompson Nicola social workers promoting events and advocacy, including provincial webinars
- Social Work Week luncheon cohosted with TRU School of Social Work and Human Service

Cheryl Ash continued on next page

continued from previous page

- Awarded the Heart of the Grasslands Award to Susie McCabe
- Staged a two-night production of Vagina Monologues raising over \$3000 for Kamloops Immigrant Services WE program
- Annual contribution to the TN BCASW student bursary at TRU
- Supported Kamloops annual walk for peace and social justice

We continue to plan:

- Two-day Somatic Experiences Workshop
- Lunch and Learn rollout for fall
- Social Work Mixer for fall
- Book club
- Ideas for local advocacy

Branch Executive members include Hunter Aiken, Lorry-Ann Austin, Annie Butcher, Michael Crawford, Meghan Dalgleish, Taryn Fenelon, Jennifer Friend, Tasha Evanishin, and Rebecca Sanford.

Lorry-Ann Austin

RICHMOND/DELTA/BURNABY BRANCH

Closed



NORTHERN BRANCH

The Northern Branch remains active, meeting most months in person, as well as virtually. Most of our monthly meetings are followed by some form of CPD, offered generously by guest speakers (we are always looking for volunteers).

In December, we hosted our annual Holiday Event at the Activity Centre for Empowerment (A.C.E) in Prince George and our student representative from Fort St. John hosted one at the FSJ Women's Resource Society. Social Work Week created opportunities to connect and spread awareness about Social Work to our communities.

We continue email members with information on local events, job postings, and other news or opportunities. This Winter/Spring we had the privilege of having a practicum student from UNBC, who organized our annual Student Networking Event at the end of April, generously funded by the UNBC School of Social Work.

We look forward to hosting our AGM on May 22nd and encourage members to join the provincial AGM May 29th. Branch Executive members include Kayla Walker, Brent Goerz, Charla Anderson, Dawn Hemingway, and Beth Quesnel.

Kayla Walker

NORTHWEST BRANCH

Currently inactive

FRASER RIVER BRANCH

Currently inactive





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COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members: Phyllis Nash (chair), Cheryl Ash, Michael Crawford, Fiona Lewis, Ming Huey Chang, Dianne Heath, Rose Wu

Webinar	Date	Presenter(s)	
Care Beyond Care: Supports & Best Practices	Feb. 15, 2024	Vi Ho, Bailey Ingram-Johnson, Dani Sunshine,	
for Youth Leaving Government Care		The Federation of BC Youth in Care Networks	
Creating Wellness Without Adding More to	Feb. 22, 2024	Alexander Cahuas	
Your To-Do List			
To End a Crisis: A Vision for Drug Policy in BC	Feb. 29, 2024	Nicole Luongo, Shane Calder, The Canadian Drug	
		Policy Coalition	
Social Work Beyond Borders	Apr. 18, 2024	Sylvie Lapointe, ISS Canada	
The Future of BC's Response to the Poisoned	Sept. 10, 2024	Guy Felicella	
Unregulated Drug Supply			
Thinking of Starting a Private Practice?	Sept. 26, 2024	Darren Usher & Tammy Roche	
Things you need to know.			
Ethics in Social Work Professional Practice	Oct. 17, 2024	Moji Adurogbangba	
Queer Worldmaking and Ethics in Social	Oct. 21, 2024	Meera Dhebar	
Work Practice			
Disability, Vulnerability, and MAiD: What	Oct. 28, 2024	Tim Stainton	
Social Workers should know			
Overview of the International Federation of	Nov. 5, 2024	Joan Davis-Whelan	
Social Workers			
How Social Workers can Support Rights	Nov.19, 2024	Sarah Irving, Mara Selanders, Independent Rights	
under the Mental Health Act		Advice Service	
Opportunity to Learn from and Share	Nov. 25, 2024	Dan Levitt, BC's Seniors Advocate	
Experiences with BC's Seniors Advocate			
Design Thinking: A Workshop on Creative	Jan.14, 2025	Heather Hopkins	
Problem Solving in Social Work			
DBT Skills Training for Social Work	Feb. 20 & 21, 2025	David Renaud	
Professionals			
Navigating Global Conflicts: How to Support	Apr. 3, 2024	Dr. Terry Neiman, Dr. Keith Dormond	
our Clients, our Colleagues, our Family and			
Ourselves During Global Conflicts			
(Re)Visiting Case Management: A Case	Apr. 15, 2025	Dr. Barbara Lee, Dr. Miu Chung Yan, UBC	
Study of Collaborative Case Management			
Model for BC Settlement Service			
Understanding the Scope of Involuntary	Apr. 24, 2025	Dr. Daniel Vigo	
Care in BC			
Wisdom from the community: Conducting	Apr. 29, 2025	Susan Burke, UNBC	
culturally-sensitive assessments with			
Indigenous service users			
Introduction to Extreme Clutter	May 15, 2025	April Struthers, BCCRN	
Anti-Racist Decolonial Social Work Practice	May 27, 2025	Gaben Sanchez, UVIC	

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members: Michael Crawford, Kayla Walker, Kylee Latter, Lissy Snowden

Over the past year, the Strategic Planning Committee supported BCASW's long-term vision by leading the development of a refreshed strategic direction for the Association. This work included a thorough review and update of BCASW's mission, vision, and values to ensure they reflect the evolving landscape of social work in BC.

Through member surveys, consultations, and ongoing dialogue, the committee gathered valuable insights to identify current priorities, challenges, and opportunities for growth. This feedback informed the creation of a draft Strategic Framework, outlining key goals in the areas of Truth & Reconciliation, Advocacy, Growth, Expanding Member Services, and Board/Association Development.

The committee is proud to have laid the foundation for a responsive and forward-looking strategic plan that will strengthen BCASW's impact and enhance support for social workers across the province in the years ahead.

Lissy Snowden

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The BCASW Membership Committee sent a survey to members early December 2024 closing on February 28, 2025. The survey received 80 responses. With the BCASW having over 1500 members, the response rate was about 5%. The committee thanks those who provided important insight and feedback to the Membership Committee via their survey responses.

Survey responses reflected:

- membership representation from those with the BCASW less than 1 year, 1-5 years (largest response group), 6-10 years,
 11-20 years, 21-30 years, more than 30 years
- membership representation from those within membership category: 56.3% practicing social workers, followed by 30% students
- membership representation from members in varied years of practice, including: 22.5% (11-20 years in the field), 23.8% (21-30 years in the field), 17.5% never practiced
- 76.3% of respondents are BCCSW registrants

Key themes and highlights arising from the survey:

- Requests for mentorship for students
- Motivation to maintain membership largely influenced by professional development, identity, credibility, belonging and support, social justice and advocacy, ethical responsibility, information source, and perks/benefits
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD) was the largest source of engagement at 69.7% of 66 responses, followed by Perspectives at 56.1%, Branch Activities at 19.7%
- Survey shows engagement and interest in communities of practice
- Survey shows engagement in CPD events
- CPD/professional development- request for live webinars, provincial conference, local branch presenters, mini conference. Survey shows minimal request for webinars on demand.
- Survey shows that work and family commitments discourage/prevent members from being more involved

Kelly Guiaya & Vanessa Key Craiq

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Members: Pamela Miller, Cheryl Ash, Phyllis Nash

Continuing education scholarships provided by CASW/BMS and the law firm of Murphy Battista LLP were awarded to eight members since the last AGM in May 2024. Applications can be found on the BCASW website in the member's resources section.

A new award, The Marion Secunda Poliakoff Annual Bursary, established by the Anti-Racism and Cultural Advocacy Committee is open to applications. Marion Poliakoff left a legacy gift that BCASW chose to use as an annual bursary for education in anti-racism related professional development for a BCASW member.

In celebration of the profession of social work, BCASW hosted or participated in four distinguished service award events:

- CASW Distinguished Service Award, received by Bruce Wallace
- The Inspiring Social Worker of the Year Award, received by Dr Richard Vedan, Chiteleqches, honourable mention to Bella Cenezero, So Han Yip, Amanda Amaral
- The Janusz Korczak Association of Canada Award for Distinguished Social Work Practice Protecting the Rights of Children, received by Jamie Horne
- The Lifetime Service Award, received by Dr. Richard Sullivan

BCASW STUDENT AWARDS

BCASW bursaries, prizes, and scholarships of \$250.00 are available annually to a student in each accredited school of social work in BC. Applications are made within each university's award system.

University of Northern BC

Available to a full-time student currently enrolled as a third-year student in the social work (BSW) program who is a resident with continuous dwelling within the UNBC region for four years immediately prior to admission. The prize will be awarded for study in the fourth year of the social work program.

Thompson Rivers University

Awarded annually to a top student in BSW year three or four with financial need.

Nicola Valley Institute of Technology

Awarded to a full-time third year BSW student. The student must be active in school affairs, demonstrate class participation and leadership skills, show strong academic performance, demonstrate financial need, and show outstanding achievement.

University of the Fraser Valley

Available to a UFV student in the social work program who is on the way to completing the Bachelor of Social Work.

University of Victoria

A prize is awarded to an outstanding student (a combination of GPA, community service) who has completed the first year of the program in the School of Social Work. This was established in 1979 and awarded for the first time in 1980.

University of British Columbia

Awarded to an outstanding student in first year social work on the recommendation of the Director of the School.

Vancouver Island University

A scholarship is offered to a student in the BSW program.



COMMITTEES & COMMUNITIES

Committees and communities of practice are member interest groups that meet around areas of interest, fields of practice, or social worker identity. Meetings are online via Zoom and create forums for members to connect and share knowledge in specific areas; identify issues; advise BCASW on matters relating to policy, practice, education, research, and advocacy; and lead projects of strategic importance.

SENIORS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Activities

- Met with the Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors' Services and Long-Term Care on the need for a provincial multi-sectoral
 forum to improve LTC and the needs of people with dementia in long term care upon request of MOH and Parliamentary
 Secretary, at the invitation of Action for Reform of Residential Care (ARRCBC).
- Wrote follow-up letter to Parliamentary Secretary emphasizing the need for more person centred, quality of life model of
 social care and advocated to start counting social work hours in care hours beginning with the new care model site run by
 Providence in Comox.
- Co-hosted BCASW webinar Opportunity to Learn from and Share Experiences with BC's Seniors Advocate, Nov. 25/24.
- On behalf of SCoP, Dawn Hemingway attended the meeting with Opposition Critic for Rural and Seniors Health, Brennan Day, MLA, along with Michael Crawford, Jan. 24/25.
- Hosted a meeting with Dan Levitt, Seniors Advocate, Feb.11/25. SCoP members and Michael Crawford spoke with Dan Levitt regarding 1) access to respite is key for caregivers, 2) a mandate for social workers in Long Term Care (LTC) and Assisted Living (AL), 3) access to data on social work positions in LTC and AL, 4) mandatory registration of social workers in LTC and AL, 5) collaboration with and support for the work of ARRCBC, 6) ageism and the importance of an intersectional approach.
- In March 2025, SCoP wrote to Dan Levitt to follow-up on the meeting and continue collaboration. An issue highlighted was that SCoP has been advocating and calling for mandated social work positions in AL/LTC since 2019. Thank you to Celeste Borja for completing this letter.
- Thank you, SCoP members Elizabeth Dow, Alison Leaney, Tracy Leroux, Dawn Hemingway, Karen Wong, Kimberly Azyan, Celeste Borja, and Miriam Planovska for your dedication and contributions.
- We gratefully acknowledge Alison Leaney for her dedication to the Seniors Community of Practice. Alison provided leadership to the SCoP for years and is now taking a much-deserved break. Thank you, Alison!

Nancy Baker

HEALTH ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The Health Advocacy Committee consists of eight social workers from around the province. We meet regularly by Zoom and are occasionally joined by students and other interested members. Members participate regularly in the BCASW Advocacy Circle.

This year we worked on the following advocacy issues:

Housing

- We have been discussing the stigma experienced by some unhoused individuals when they access health care services. Two of our members wrote articles for *Perspectives* exploring this and other issues related to homelessness.
- After the provincial election, we wrote a second letter to Housing Minister Kahlon, outlining our concerns about the SAFER program. We were pleased to see that changes to the program were recently announced, including an increase in the benefit amount and in the income eligibility threshold.

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Home Support

• We had discussions with the Seniors Community of Practice about the inadequate funding of home support in BC. We have reviewed the Office of Seniors Advocate's Report on this issue and are working on a letter to the Ministry of Health to advocate for funding increases.

We supported BCASW in the following ways:

- One of our members participated in meetings with the BCASW president to prepare for his meeting with the Opposition Health Critic.
- One of our members was interviewed by the Advocacy Circle for an article in Perspectives about advocacy skills.
- One of our members helped at the BCASW booth at the annual convention of the Health Sciences Association.

In the coming year, we plan to work on:

- the ongoing issue of stigma related to homelessness
- monitoring the implementation of involuntary care in BC
- learning more about the role of social workers in social prescribing

If you are interested in joining our committee, please contact the BCASW office.

Fiona Lewis

ANTI-RACISM AND CULTURAL ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (ARCA)

ARCA developed a webinar for the BCASW, Navigating Global Conflicts: How to Support our Clients, our Colleagues, our Family and Ourselves During Global Conflicts. **This webinar was presented in early April.**

We worked, in coordination with the Awards Committee, on finalizing the criteria for the Marion Poliakoff Bursary and the application process.

We submitted a Statement on the Rise of Antisemitism to the BCASW Board, which was approved. We are now working on a Statement on Islamophobia. Once it is also approved by the Board, both statements will be released through the BCASW website. ARCA members continue to submit articles to the *Perspectives* newsmagazine.

We continue to invite guest speakers to our monthly meetings to keep us informed about emerging issues in the immigrant and refugee sector. ARCA is now working on a Statement re: The Impact of Recent Federal Cuts on Settlement Services in BC.

We are happy to welcome new members to our committee. They bring a knowledgeable and vibrant energy to the ARCA Committee's work.

Sri Pendakur and Marisa Tuzi

ADVOCACY CIRCLE

The Advocacy Circle continues to focus on advocacy skill development. To share and encourage this, we developed a column in *Perspectives* magazine called "Advocacy Circle Corner". Here we published two interviews conducted by Ursula Kerr; one with Dawn Hemingway and one with Fiona Lewis representing the Health Advocacy Committee to highlight their continuing work in advocacy.

In addition, we placed a call for papers with all schools of Social Work in British Columbia inviting BSW students calling for short articles written by social work students (residing or studying) in BC on what skills they believe social workers need in order to practice effectively as change agents in social justice advocacy.

We are thankful to Ursula Kerr who has been our First Call representative for the Advocacy Circle and BCASW. She is now looking for someone to replace her as the representative.

Barb Keith & Carol Ross

THE ADVOCACY CIRCLE CORNER

RETIRED SOCIAL WORKERS

A stalwart group of retired social workers met monthly over the past year. We shared our local news, ideas, family stories, frustrations and joys. We laughed as much as possible and we also examined the state of the world and politics. We welcomed new comers and said farewell to others. We celebrated writers amongst us, tried writing poetry, and worried about the state of the world. And we talked books! Recommendations were always appreciated and led to great discussion. Death and greed and politics were other common topics...and family of course.

I continue to look forward to every meeting and appreciate the opportunity to share worries and laughter and ideas with such a wise and experienced group of "old social workers".

Carol Ross

NEW COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

BCASW supported the following new communities of practice in 2024/2025.

Racialized Social Workers Community of Practice

An expression of interest in Community of Practice for BIPOC Members was sent out, and Vanessa Key Craig participated in the initial meeting in May 2024.

Vanessa Key Craiq

RCSW Advocacy Group

In July 2023, the BCASW sent its RCSW members a short questionnaire to gauge what advocacy issue should be prioritized. Staff analysed the results of the responses and used them to develop an advocacy strategy for the promotion and recognition of the RCSW designation. The group, formed in 2024, and chaired by Phil Mach, developed a Power Point presentation that can be edited and adapted for different audiences.

Darren Usher

Sexual and Gender Diverse Community of Practice

Currently inactive, remains on call on ad hoc basis.

Darren Usher

Community of Social Workers in Private Practice

BCASW members who operate a private practice are invited to attend this once-per-month meeting in order to develop skills, review ethical challenges, and maintain standards of practice.

Darren Usher

Other CoPs include **Child and Youth, Disability Advocacy, Mental Health and Substance Use, Indigenous,** and **Eco-Social Work.**Contact the BCASW office to connect with colleagues who share your interest.



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Media Releases and Letters (BCASW website, Latest News)

LETTER TO DAN LEVITT BC SENIORS ADVOCATE

April 16, 2025

BC SOCIAL WORKERS CELEBRATE SOCIAL WORK WEEK

Feb.28, 2025

LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Jan. 24, 2025

BC SOCIAL WORKERS SUPPORT SENIORS ADVOCATE'S CALL TO DEVELOP CROSS-MINISTRY PLAN

Dec. 17, 2024

SOCIAL WORK ASSOCIATION ISSUED BC ELECTION 2024 GUIDE

Oct. 7, 2024

SOCIAL WORK ASSOCIATION CONCERNED ABOUT INVOLUNTARY CARE

Sept. 17, 2024

BC MINISTERS RESPOND TO BCASW'S CONCERNS REGARDING FNHA FUNDING CHANGES

July 29,2024

RESPONSE TO MCFD'S REPORT ON THEIR CONSULTATION ON SOCIAL WORK OVERSIGHT

July 23, 2024

CHILD WELFARE MINISTRY MUST ADDRESS WORKFORCE SHORTAGES AND IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS, BC SOCIAL WORKERS

July 23, 2024

BC SOCIAL WORKERS DON'T LOOK AWAY AND CALL ON GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT CALLS FOR A BETTER CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

July 16, 2024

FOLLOW UP LETTER PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR SENIORS' SERVICES AND LONG-TERM CARE

July 3, 2024

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2024

June 18, 2024

CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSAL TO DESIGNATE "PSYCHOTHERAPY" AS A HEALTH PROFESSION UNDER THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT

June 6, 2024

BCASW STUDENT COMMITTEE

submitted by Stephanie Altenhof



Scott Riesterer

From May 2024 to October 2024, the Student Committee took a summer break under Scott Riesterer's leadership, focusing on securing new committee leadership for the fall. In October 2024, I was onboard as the new Student Committee Chair, participated in orientation to the BCASW, and established relationships

with the new university student representatives. I attended board meetings in November, January, and April while chairing monthly Student Committee meetings since November 2024, creating a consistent forum for university representatives to connect and discuss issues that matter to students across the province.

A significant achievement of the Student Committee was our involvement in BCASW's celebration of Social Work Week. Planning began in December 2024, with active engagement from our committee members. I co-led the ad-hoc planning committee alongside Bobbi (BCASW's winter practicum student), successfully organizing and executing



nine webinars that saw growth in attendance from last year and received positive feedback from participants. Stephanie Altenhof

Multiple Student Committee members participated as moderators for these sessions, providing valuable leadership experience while facilitating meaningful professional discussions. This collaborative effort strengthened relationships between students and practicing social workers while providing valuable professional development opportunities.

Looking ahead, I am co-hosting a social event in Nanaimo with Ming, Vancouver Island Branch's Representative, May 2, 2025. The Student Committee continues to serve as an important connection point between social work students in BC and the profession, fostering student engagement and addressing concerns such as practicum experiences and professional development opportunities.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS REPORT

submitted by Glen Schmidt, RCSW, CASW Board Representative



The CASW Board approved the Annual Budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The budget is balanced at \$1,135,738.06. Membership fees continue to be the main source of revenue (\$709,000) while salaries and benefits are the main expense (\$600,000.00). BC is projected to contribute \$55,487 by way of membership

During the past year the BCASW hosted the annual June Federation meeting in North Vancouver. Thanks to Dianne and staff for making this a successful experience. The annual Federation meeting will be held in Dartmouth in June 2025. I will complete my term as the BC CASW Board Representative effective June 30, 2025. It has been a privilege to serve in this position as well as the committees that I joined. During the sixyear appointment there are a few highlights I'd like to mention.

The first relates to the strengthening of the Association with Alberta and Ontario rejoining the organization. In addition to a resumption of their participation, representatives from Quebec have been attending Board and Federation meetings as observers for the past year. Miquel Leblanc, the Executive Director and Registrar from New Brunswick, and Fred Phelps, the Executive Director of CASW, have been supporting the members from Quebec to rejoin the organization.

A second positive development is the increased financial health of the CASW. The re-entry of Ontario and Alberta contributed greatly by way of increased membership fees but Fred Phelps and the staff of CASW have also been very effective in applying for and obtaining federal grants for specific projects and activities. The evaluation of credentials of foreign-trained social workers has been a significant source of revenue as there has been an influx of social workers from other international jurisdictions.

A third important development was the finalization of the new CASW Code of Ethics. The new Code has been fully adopted by some provinces, modified and adopted by others, and not adopted by others. In BC we have not adopted the new Code but it is a point of consideration.

Finally, it is important to acknowledge the hard work of Fred Phelps, Executive Director, and the CASW staff. They are a small group but have a tremendous impact in their work to connect with Federal politicians, Federal civil servants, and like-minded professional associations. These connections position CASW as a strong voice for social work, the policies we want to see, and people and groups that we value. CASW represents Canadian social work at the international level through our membership in the International Federation of Social Workers.

It has been a privilege to serve in the role as BC representative to the CASW and I thank Dianne Heath, Michael Crawford, the Board, and members for their support.



What We Do

Mission: To Promote and Strengthen the Profession of Social Work in Canada and Advance Social Justice

Strengthen and Promote the Profession



Maintain the CASW Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Ethical Practice

Represent Canada in the International Federation of Social Workers

Promote the profession through initiatives such a National Social Work Month and other Campaigns



Recognize Social Workers Providing Excellent Service Across Canada

Advance Social Justice

Influence Social Policy and Advance Social Justice Through Partnerships and Government Relations

Provide Timely Responses to National Issues



Publish Reports and Statements on Issues that matter to the Profession

Services and Resources

Offer a suite of member benefits including access to special educational programs, publications, and savings



Assess Credentials of Internationally Educated Social Workers

Provide the Best Professional Liability Insurance Program in Canada



Keep You Up to Date with Our Media Monitoring Service

Develop Resources to Meet the Needs of Social Workers

Offer Free Continuing Education and Professional Development Opportunities for Members, Approximately 60 hours per year











WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY | 18TH MARCH 2025 | #WSWD2025

STRENGTHENING INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY FOR ENDURING WELLBEING

