



BC Association of Social Workers

ANNUAL REPORT

2016/2017

BCASW BOARD MEMBERS 2016-2017

EXECUTIVE

President	Michael Crawford
Vice President	Leya Eguchi
Treasurer	Susan Peck/ Cayce Laviolette
Secretary	Cheryl Ash
CASW Representative	Phyllis Nash

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD

Student Representative	Kyle Turone
Vancouver Sea to Sky Branch	Elizabeth Vondette
Fraser River Branch	Paul Jenkinson/ Shahbar Dadvand/ Katen Jolly
Kootenay Branch	Shane Loukianoff
Northern Branch	Vincent Sherry/ Heather Lamb
Northwest Branch	Kelsey Pedro/Tessa Shaw
Thompson/Nicola Branch	Twyla Russell/Shirley Selski
Delta/Richmond/Burnaby Branch	Krista Germyn/ Mobina Hassan
Okanagan Branch	Cheryl Ash
Vancouver Island Branch	Nancy Baker

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Maxine Gibson
Janette Champagne
Carol Ross

BCASW STAFF

Executive Director	Dianne Heath/ Andrew Brown
Administrator	Lou Kawakami
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

BC ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

402-1755 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6J 4S5

T 604 730.9111 / F 604 730.9112

Toll free in BC 1 800 665.4747

bcasw@bcasw.org www.bcasw.org

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

submitted by Michael Crawford

Events were held around the world and in communities across British Columbia on International Overdose Awareness Day to raise awareness of drug overdose and reduce the stigma of a drug-related death.

Recently the BC Coroner's office released figures for the first half of 2017 that show an 88% increase in drug overdose deaths. The fentanyl-related public-health emergency shows no signs of slowing down with 780 people dying of an illicit-drug overdose in the first six months of this year compared to 978 deaths in all of 2016. Sadly, BC is on track for another record year.

Thankfully, we have seen communities come together to demand that governments and agencies increase funding to health and social services that support people who use drugs. The demand for harm reduction programs has resulted in more sites established as overdose prevention, drug checking, and safe-consumption services. Advocacy efforts have helped drug users, families, and professional caregivers feel more empowered as they have been brought together to consult, share ideas, and guide the response to the epidemic.

Social workers are well represented among the professional groups serving on the front lines of the opioid crisis. Because of our capacity to empathize and the roles we hold in social and health agencies, we find ourselves called on to respond in a variety of ways that can burden and stress us.

Work stress is common place among social work professionals and endemic among those who provide crisis-oriented care. High turnover in staffing and poor retention characterize social work in high stress work settings. Research studies typically address both individual and organizational factors as determinates for either resilience or burnout. Unfortunately, too little emphasis is placed on organizational structure and culture when investigating etiology and little of this information seeps up to managerial, bureaucratic, and political levels when social worker burnout is addressed.

British Columbia has a new government and, as with any new government, there are many lobbyists lining up to influence decision-making. BCASW Executive Director Andrew Brown and I have requested meetings with four cabinet ministers responsible for areas of concern to our profession. We need to get in the door and ensure that the government is well aware of the concerns expressed by our members on a recent BCASW survey. Premier John Horgan made many promises in the election campaign and, if carried through, they will benefit all British Columbians and especially those most in need.

I will let you know how our meetings go.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

submitted by Andrew Brown

Promoting the Profession

Throughout 2017, the BCASW administrative team has worked with members, stakeholder agencies, community groups and the BC government to promote the value, efficacy and scope of impact the profession of social work has in communities across the province. In addition to contributing to a wide range of committees and working groups previously established, the BCASW administrative team has been included in a range of new initiatives emerging from the new NDP government and we will continue to promote the profession through community engagement, liaising with universities and colleges and maximizing the voice of social work in the new era of the NDP government. We will also continue to strengthen our ties to the federal government, the Canadian Association of Social Work and Associations and Colleges across the country to solidify our network and strengthen our professional alliances in 2018 and beyond. Over the course of the year, we have forged and strengthened relationships with a wide range of allies including: The Poverty Reduction Coalition, First Call: BC Child & Youth Coalition, Representative for Child & Youth and the International Federation of Social Workers. A new addition to our professional alliances is the Pain BC Allied Health Working Group; we will be working on a chronic pain management strategy for the province beginning in November and throughout 2018.

In spite of some disappointment with the BC College of Social Work response to the issue of graduates from a non-Accredited school of social work having access to the RSW designation, we are optimistic that our coalition of stakeholders had significant impact on the decision making process and current approach to this issue; we will continue to monitor and advocate for social work regulation and the integrity and importance of ensuring that the RSW designation remains a meaningful and significant qualification. Participating in the Accreditation process for both the UBC and UVIC schools of social work provided the Association with the opportunity to strengthen connections to faculty at both schools and share BCASW insights into the current needs of social workers and the employer community; the process was also an opportunity to advocate for the value and integrity of the Accreditation process and amplify the accountability nexus between Accreditation and the RSW designation.

A key highlight this year was the adjudication and presentation of the Inspiring Social Worker of the Year award at UBC in September. This event was uplifting and an excellent reminder of how necessary and energizing it is to promote, discuss and celebrate social work with a large, diverse and energetic cohort of young social workers—the future is very bright for our profession.

Services to Members

Our national policy and networking meetings in June were extremely productive and resulted in opportunities to learn about initiatives and resources in other jurisdictions that can be utilized by our members in British Columbia. One immediate benefit was initiating a national approach to education in which the CASW webinar platform can be utilized at no cost to promote social work education opportunities to local social work Associations and social work Colleges. We are currently working on two potential webinars featuring BC social work educators with more to come. In addition to free education opportunities, we continue to work with educators providing fee for service education modules promoted through our e-blasts and website. Our goal continues to be to offer a range of education suitable to all member needs and to be a preferred source for CPD education credits for members holding the RSW designation. The annual education conference on October 20th focused on healthcare for marginalized populations and included advocate speakers from the child and youth sector and the housing sector. We were extremely pleased to invite 14 social work students from UVIC, UBC, VIU and UFV to the education conference as guests of the Health Practice Enhancement Committee and the Pacific Social Work Foundation.

In addition to education, we have continued to offer professional linkage and contributions to non-profits and stakeholder groups employing social workers and we have supported members to develop their career goals, improve job search strategies and to liaise with key influencers in the field. Our mentoring program has matched 17 mentors and mentees this year and we will continue to

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seek out new mentors as this program continues to bring value to our members—particularly those new to practice or practicing in isolated or unusual situations. We have also worked with a number of social workers from other jurisdictions and countries to assist with linking to professional resources, skill development, job search and navigating the system of public and NGO employers in BC.

Advocacy and Social Justice

The development of a BCASW provincial election toolkit to assist members to effectively advocate for critical social justice and development issues at all candidate and other meetings was an important project leading up to the election in May. Though we are in the early days of the new government, we have sensed major shift in the attitude government has toward the profession of social work; the culture appears to be dramatically different with a focus on social welfare, education, accessibility, equity, focus on health and mental health care and an actual commitment to addressing poverty in this province. It is the intent of the BCASW to engage, support, encourage and advocate for the profession, our members and our clients through the development of strong linkages with key influencers in government—the BCASW intends to be front and centre in this era of social work renaissance. In the early summer of 2017 we surveyed the membership to determine what issues and focus areas were at the top of the member agenda; subsequently, the BCASW has written to four key ministers to request meetings to discuss the role of social work in BC and to advocate for attention and resources for the causes our membership has identified as priorities. Ministers are currently responding to our correspondence and we have two meetings being organized for early winter with more expected early in the New Year.

CASW REPORT

submitted by Leya Eguchi

Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) has Affirmed Basic Income and affordable housing as the key policy priorities for 2017-18, and has been busy engaging in policy advocacy work during the past several months. CASW presented Budget priorities to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance in September, which include:

1. Adopt a *Universal Basic Income Guarantee: The Next 'BIG' Thing in Canadian Social Policy* to address poverty in a compassionate and cost-effective manner.
2. Adopt a *Social Care Act for Canada* to guide social investments and increase government accountability and measure return on investment.
3. Implement loan forgiveness for social workers that practice in the North to increase equitable care, decrease wait times and attract social workers to rural and remote areas.

In addition, CASW released a principled [statement of support](#) for the Government of Canada's proposed tax changes intended to see all Canadians pay the same equitable level of personal taxation for income earned.

CASW has produced a series of webinars over the past year. Most recent offerings include *Client-centered Mental Health & Addiction 'Systems'* and *Committing to Anti-Oppressive Practice: Aboriginal Community Social Work*. Past webinars are available to BCASW members on demand through the CASW website.

The International Federation of Social Workers announced that the [2020 World Social Work Conference, The Global Social Work Agenda: The Next Ten Years](#) will be hosted by the University of Calgary, School of Social Work.

- The CASW Board elected **Ajay Pandhi** (ACSW) as Vice President.
- The CASW Board has made addressing '**Reconciliation**' a priority. The Board affirmed a continuing education focus for NSWM 2018 on 'Reconciliation'.
- The 2018 National Social Work Month is – **Bringing Change to Life**.
- The CASW Board established a Board/Federation Committee to review the **Code of Ethics, Guidelines for Ethical Practice and Scope of Practice**. As this Committee begins its work, it will be seeking Partner Organization representatives to join the Committee to support building a plan to deliver a new national Code, Guidelines and Scope of Practice for our profession.

TREASURER'S REPORT

submitted by Cayce Laviolette

I joined the Board as Treasurer halfway through the director term. I want to thank the Executive, our ED and the rest of the Board for bringing me up to speed on financial priorities for 2016 and 2017.

Our big task for 2017 has been to develop strategies to offset what was looking to be a significant deficit in our budget, created by a stagnant membership and final costs for a new database to manage member payments. After considerable debate, the Board has voted in a new membership fee schedule (see below) which we present to our membership at the 2017 Annual General Meeting. The increases are nominal, and reflect changes to our rising costs for staffing, office space and technology. Members will note that rates have not been increased in over 10 years.

Additionally the Board, with support from the Finance Committee, has approved a push in our provision of Continuing Professional Development opportunities for our membership. This serves the needs of our members who have annual CPD requirements with the BCCSW and furthermore can act as a source of income for our Association.

Finally, I worked with the Executive to facilitate the hiring of our interim Executive Director Andrew Brown, who has been an asset to our team. This required some considerable review of our personnel policy as it pertains to temporary and new staff. Andrew has brought some new ideas for income generation which we hope will have an impact in 2018. The finance committee is working closely with him to create exciting opportunities in marketing and membership outreach.

Current Rates

Membership Category

Full Time - 288
Part Time - 150
Not Employed - 114
Retired - 114
Student - 66
New Graduate - Full Time - 168
New Graduate - Part Time - 150
Recent Graduate - Full Time - 228
Recent Graduate - Part Time - 120
Thirty Year Retired - 66
Associate - 114

Revised Rates January 1 2018

Membership Category

Full Time - 300
Not Employed - 150
Retired - 125
Student - 75
Thirty Year Retired - 75
Associate - 125

REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

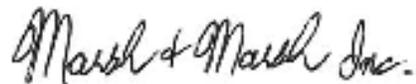
To the Members of British Columbia Association of Social Workers

We have reviewed the statement of financial position of British Columbia Association of Social Workers as at December 31, 2018 and the statements of changes in net assets, operations and cash flows for the year then ended. Our review was made in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and, accordingly, consisted primarily of inquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to us by the Association.

A review does not constitute an audit and, consequently, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that these financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Burnaby, British Columbia
March 23, 2017



Chartered Professional Accountants

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BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS		
Statement of Financial Position		
December 31, 2016		
<i>(Unaudited)</i>		
	2016	2015
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 57,034	\$ 95,113
Investments	131,518	130,318
Accounts receivable	5,520	7,813
Prepaid expenses	1,175	4,125
	<u>195,347</u>	<u>237,169</u>
CAPITAL ASSETS (Notes 2, 3)	<u>16,359</u>	<u>3,500</u>
	<u>\$ 211,706</u>	<u>\$ 240,738</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued charges	\$ 5,100	\$ 2,558
Government remittances payable	-	2,274
Deferred revenue (Note 4)	95,262	88,725
	<u>100,362</u>	<u>94,557</u>
NET ASSETS		
Operating fund	<u>111,344</u>	<u>148,181</u>
	<u>\$ 211,706</u>	<u>\$ 240,738</u>
COMMITMENTS (Note 5)		

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS		
Statement of Operations		
Year Ended December 31, 2016		
<i>(Unaudited)</i>		
	2016	2015
INCOME		
Membership fees	\$ 201,058	\$ 201,105
Advertising	31,370	32,584
Conferences and workshops	45,259	3,855
Interest and investment income	1,530	3,208
Membership materials	4,583	5,010
Perspectives and publication sales	441	354
	<u>288,641</u>	<u>249,117</u>
EXPENSES (per Schedule 1)		
Office administration	42,940	44,382
Information services	25,353	25,304
Professional activities	98,538	50,011
Board activities	28,958	18,310
Staffing	134,639	129,481
	<u>329,478</u>	<u>267,588</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF INCOME OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ (34,837)</u>	<u>\$ (18,471)</u>

BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS			
Statement of Changes in Net Assets			
Year Ended December 31, 2016			
<i>(Unaudited)</i>			
	Operating Fund	2016	2015
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 148,181	\$ 146,181	\$ 165,852
Excess (deficiency) of income over expenses	<u>(34,837)</u>	<u>(34,837)</u>	<u>(18,471)</u>
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 111,344</u>	<u>\$ 111,344</u>	<u>\$ 148,181</u>

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

BUDGET

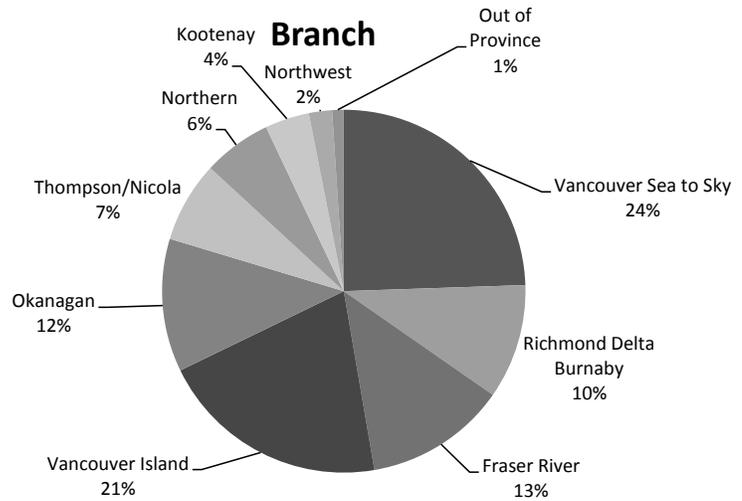
	Income		Actual	2016	2017
			Jan-Dec 2016	Budget	Budget
		4000 - Membership Fees	208,824.25	225,000.00	213,000.00
		4010 - Advertising - Web & Email	26,480.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
		4020 - Advertising - Perspectives	4,880.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
		4310 - Workshops/Events/Webinars	1,550.00	4,000.00	4,750.00
		4040 - Donations & Gifts	-	-	-
		4330 - Fall Conference & Education Day	47.00	-	-
		4330 - Fall Conference & Education Day	47,755.94	50,000.00	-
		4050 - Find a Social Worker	2,470.25	2,000.00	3,000.00
		4400 - Interest Income	1,923.01	3,000.00	2,000.00
		4070 - Membership Materials	2,112.79	3,000.00	2,500.00
		4080 - Publication Sales & Subscriptions	421.32	400.00	400.00
		4500 - Unrealized Gain(Loss) Investments	-	-	-
	Total Income		296,170.56	322,400.00	260,850.00

	Expense				
		OFFICE ADMINISTRATION			
		5250 - Accounting	4,792.20	6,000.00	5,000.00
		5220 - Amortization	-	-	-
		5300 - Bank Charges & Interest	748.77	700.00	750.00
		5310 - Credit Card Transaction Fees	7,085.59	10,000.00	6,000.00
		5360 - Database	13,125.00	16,000.00	3,000.00
		5180 - Insurance	893.75	1,050.00	900.00
		5350 - Miscellaneous	731.77	800.00	500.00
		5200 - Office Equipment R&M	3,872.00	3,000.00	2,000.00
		5100 - Office Supplies	1,359.12	2,500.00	1,000.00
		5150 - Postage & Courier	1,450.78	1,000.00	1,500.00
		5000 - Rent	13,659.15	15,800.00	13,700.00
		6699 - Suspense	-	-	-
		5050 - Telephone, Fax & Teleconf	3,005.50	3,000.00	3,000.00
		5330 - Website Maintenance	4,899.22	5,000.00	4,500.00
		Total OFFICE ADMINISTRATION	55,422.85	64,850.00	41,850.00

		INFORMATION SERVICES				
			5700 - Communications	1,584.80	2,500.00	1,800.00
			5800 - Find a Social Worker	2,983.00	1,700.00	1,700.00
			5800 - Membership & Promotional Mats	4,541.01	5,000.00	3,500.00
			5500 - Perspectives	17,316.57	17,500.00	17,500.00
		Total INFORMATION SERVICES		26,405.38	26,700.00	24,300.00
		PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES				
			6050 - Awards	-	150.00	\$0.00
			5950 - Branch Programs	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
			5850 - CASW Assessment	35,233.00	35,000.00	35,000.00
			5960 - Committees	665.16	1,200.00	200.00
			5810 - Workshops & Events	3,409.74	3,000.00	2,000.00
			6000 - Consultants	1,200.00	4,000.00	2,600.00
			6120 - Exec director/Registrar's Lunch	-	-	-
			5980 - External Memberships	200.00	1,100.00	600.00
			5830 - Fall Conference Exp	50,572.99	45,000.00	-
			5390 - PSWF Funds/Student Awards	2,000.00	2,000.00	\$1,750.00
			6100 - Subscriptions			
		Total PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES		237.30	360.00	250.00
				98,018.19	96,310.00	46,900.00
		BOARD ACTIVITIES				
			6300 - Board Meetings	20,074.29	18,000.00	14,000.00
			6400 - President's Travel	825.53	1,500.00	1,000.00
		Total BOARD ACTIVITIES		20,899.82	19,500.00	15,000.00
		STAFFING				
			6600 - Salaries - Executive Director	73,506.96	78,650.00	74,609.00
			6610 - Salaries - Executive Assistant	27,975.30	30,000.00	28,400.00
			6600 - Salaries - Bookkeeper	10,200.00	10,200.00	10,200.00
			6700 - Benefits - Executive Director	11,065.12	5,900.00	11,250.00
			6710 - Benefits - Executive Assistant	4,087.05	2,800.00	4,150.00
			6620 - Salaries - Relief and Interim	-	1,000.00	-
			6715 - EI & CPP Expense	6,294.67	6,000.00	6,300.00
			6720 - WorkSafe BC	89.32	-	100.00
			6800 - Staff Expenses & Travel	1,451.02	2,500.00	1,000.00
			6900 - Staff Development	20.00	600.00	300.00
		Total STAFFING		134,689.44	137,450.00	136,309.00
	Total Expense			335,435.68	344,810.00	264,359.00
Net Income				-	-	-
				39,285.12	22,410.00	3,709.00

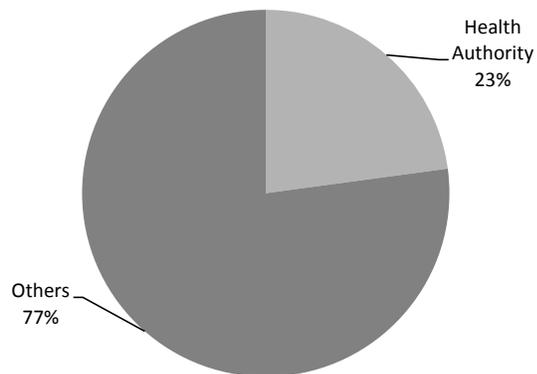
BCASW Membership Data Report

Vancouver Sea to Sky	285
Richmond Delta	
Burnaby	119
Fraser River	147
Vancouver Island	239
Okanagan	138
Thompson/Nicola	84
Northern	71
Kootenay	46
Northwest	24
Out of Province	12
Total	1165

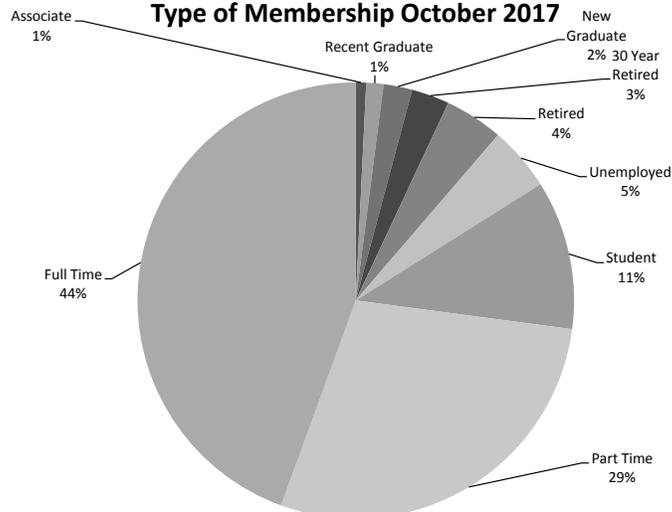


Health Authority

Health Authority - Employed by	
Health Authority	270
Others	911
Total	1181



Type of Membership October 2017



BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS 2017

NORTHERN

The Northern Branch executive, elected in June 2017, consists of:

Chair and Provincial Rep to the Board: Heather Lamb

Vice Chair: Karla Bloomfield

Secretary: Glen Schmidt

Treasurer: Jim Campbell

Communications: Dawn Hemingway

Publicity: Dawn Hemingway

Education/Speakers: Chris Wagner

Bursary Awards: Beth Quesnel & Heather Lamb

Our student reps will be selected in the fall.

Promoting the Profession

The Northern Branch partnered with the UNBC School of Social Work in March 2017 to put on a joint social work week celebration and fundraising dinner for the new Bridget Moran Bursary. Longtime northern social worker, Deborah Pederson of Quesnel, was presented with the Bridget Moran Advancement of Social Work in Northern Communities Award at the dinner for her many years of outstanding work. This event attracted positive media attention for the profession and brought together students, social workers and the general public to celebrate the legacy of social work and social justice activism in Northern BC.

Services to members

The branch meets once per month, with a break over the summer. Meetings consist of branch business, networking, and a speaker, which can be used for CPD hours. Meetings provide members with connections within the profession, especially important for those who have limited contact with social workers in their workplace, as well as an opportunity to learn about the many areas in which social workers are making a difference. Informal ethics discussions are common at these meetings. We organize a social work week celebration each year and have a holiday event to provide a social space for members celebrate while raising money or other awareness for a local organization in need. This year, our previous student rep, now vice chair Karla Bloomfield, organized a careers networking night for students with practicing social workers in a variety of jobs.

Advocacy and Social Justice

Northern Branch members are engaged in many social justice activities, both on their own and as a group. Opportunities to connect with local organizations doing social justice work are presented to members via the popular Facebook group (search for BC Association of Social Workers Northern Branch) and regular email updates. Members are encouraged to attend events such as Take Back the Night, Sisters in Spirit Vigil, Labour Day events, or any other relevant event where they can make a difference.

Heather Lamb

NORTHWEST

It has been an encouraging year for the NW BCASW Branch. We organized a successful Social Work Week event that included a celebration for the graduates at the Terrace UNBC campus. The Branch fundraised and sponsored 17 locally-carved grad rings for the new social workers. We continue to work with the university to encourage membership and support the transition from student status to practicing professional. It is our goal to promote our profession among students and celebrate the work of our northern social work leaders.

The NW Branch also saw a transition in leadership as Kelsey followed her journey to Vernon and Tessa stepped into the President role. As we continue to build the executive team, members utilize social media to share up-coming events and news articles and stay up-to-date on BCASW projects.

As we approach a new year, we are focusing on how NW BCASW can play a more active role in advocating for social justice. This year, we participated in the Board Voice Project and look forward to engaging in new opportunities with similar values. A few members are contributing to innovative projects such as the Homelessness Prevention Program, developing a Transgender Support Group, and organizing events like Take Back the Night and MZ Judged. Members are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings to develop a more concrete plan for 2018 that will align with the provincial BCASW Strategic Plan.

Thank you for another wonderful year and I look forward to the connections we continue to develop.

Tessa Shaw

FRASER RIVER

The Fraser River Branch began the year by joining SSWA as a co-sponsor of the First Annual SSWA Winter Dinner, an inspiring evening which included a wonderful meal, multiple draws, a Silent Auction and several interesting speakers. Shahbar Dadvand (Branch Representative to the BCASW Board) and Theresa Martin (Social Work Practice Leader) at Langley Memorial Hospital, hosted the Branch Meeting including the CPD training, Tele-Mental Health Workshop, offered by Marilyn Lauwrie.

In March 2017, Susan McMillan hosted the Social Work Branch event which highlighted the advocacy work of two outstanding Fraser River Region social workers. Gary Thandi, advocate for and creator of Moving Forward Family Services (a low/no cost counselling service to 500 people per week) and Amar/Alex Sangha, renowned anti-bullying advocate, multiple advocacy award winner, LGBTQ advocate and organizer of SHER (600 LGBTQ members) and Dignity House were joint recipients of the Roopchand Seebaran Legacy Social Work Advocacy Award. Their deeply moving addresses promoting the ongoing efforts of social work advocacy were then followed by a Q&A and a reception.

On April 7th, the Fraser River Branch continued its partnership with the University of the Fraser Valley, School of Social Work and Human Services and SSWA by supporting the "Preparing for Practice" 4th year BSW day. Hosts RoseMarie DePaoli and Faculty Representative Lisa Moy facilitated the networking luncheon portion of the event which was followed by a session that prepared students for their BCCAW College Exam.

On May 16th, Eve Fredricson and Katy Walls (BSW New Grad Representatives to the Fraser River Branch) presented on the *Challenges and Opportunities Experienced by New Social Workers*.

The BSW Grad Dinner was a highlight of the Fraser River Branch year as it represented a major Branch initiative to honor BSW graduating students while inviting them to make a smooth transition from their social work student community into the professional social work community represented by the BCASW and the Fraser River Branch..

The Fraser River Branch also actively participated in advocacy efforts opposing the de-funding of Fraser Valley Positive Living Society, worked with the BCASW Advocacy Committee in the creation of the Election 2017 Sample Questions for All-Candidate Meetings and continued to participate in BCASW Committees like the Health Practices Committee which organizes Health education opportunities for health social workers.

Prepared by Past President Paul Jenkinson

VANCOUVER ISLAND

Promoting the Profession

A large group of members enjoyed attending the "Celebrate Social Work" week event on March 16, 2017. Dr. Pamela Miller was presented with the CASW Distinguished Social Worker award.

In September, 2017, our branch student representative, Jillian Eastley provided information and an overview of BCASW membership at an Orientation session of first year Social Work students at the University of Victoria.

Services to Members

This has been a busy and productive year for the Vancouver Island branch. Given the current political climate, this year we focussed on bringing practical and timely information on a wide range of topics via our Professional Development Speaker series:

- Panel Discussion featuring community social workers: Erin Kelly, Social Work student, Jacqueline Walter, Island Health Coordinator of Social Work Services for South Island Residential sites. Adrienne Carter, Vancouver Island Counselling Center for Immigrants and Refugees and David Turner, Social Justice Advocate.
- "Dementia Supports for Adults Living in the Community with Diverse Abilities" presented by Nancy Jokinen, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, University of Northern B.C.
- Victoria Child Abuse Prevention and Counselling Centre Victim's Services overview and tour presented by Kelly Montgomery, Program Coordinator and Mattie Walker, Victim's Services Worker
- Transgender Research, Question and Answer period presented by Dr. Aaron Devor, World's Only Transgender Research Chair in Transgender Studies, University of Victoria

Advocacy & Social Justice

In April, 2017, our members were provided with an Election Tool Kit created by the BCASW Advocacy Committee to encourage members to attend and bring forth questions at All-Candidate meetings. After the election, members were given the opportunity to provide their suggestions for BCASW President, Michael Crawford and Interim Executive Director Andrew Brown to bring forward in their meeting with the newly appointed Provincial Ministers.

Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for October 18. Members will have the opportunity to become actively involved by participating in one or more of our sub committees: Services to Members, Promoting the Profession and Advocacy and Social Justice. Our next Executive meeting will involve planning events and activities for 2018. We look forward to an exciting year ahead!

Maxine Gibson

VANCOUVER SEA TO SKY

The Vancouver Sea to Sky Branch took the summer off, and resumed hosting Continuing Professional Development Events in September. Our September event was hosted at Ravensong Health Centre on the topic of *Trauma and the Body: An introduction to Sensorimotor Psychotherapy*. It was an informative and interactive evening hosted by Laura Montgomery. Sensorimotor Psychotherapy is a body-based talk therapy that synthesizes the latest research to offer practical interventions for working gently and skillfully with the body to resolve trauma-based symptoms.

We learned about how post-traumatic stress is exacerbated by implicit body-based memories and autonomic nervous system dysregulation and how trauma-related conditioned learning can be addressed with mindfulness-based techniques.

October's Continuing Professional Development Opportunity was on the topic of Ethics, allowing our membership attendees to fulfill their Ethics component of the BC College of Social Work Continuing Professional Development requirements for RSWs.

Elizabeth Vondette

RICHMOND/DELTA/BURNABY

Promoting the Profession

Social Work Week was celebrated with a book review and discussion around social work profession. Core members continue to meet monthly to brainstorm and share how they promote social work profession at work. 2018 plans are to have promotional themes for every month and provide members with suggested resources that they can use in their own communities.

Service to Members

Monthly branch meetings continue with one agenda dedicated to service to members. Members continue to provide support and discuss related work and life challenges during branch meetings. Members given the option to join branch meetings in person or over telephone. Role and responsibilities of branch executive completed in discussion with branch members. Ethics workshop organized in October for completing 3 CE hours for BCCSW requirement. Two social events were organized and members enjoyed networking and support. 2018 plans are to increase members engagement and survey for engaging and soliciting suggestions from members is being finalized. We are also working on having more social events and providing professional development opportunities virtually or in person.

Advocacy and Social Justice

Every branch meeting has an agenda for advocacy and social justice. We have started writing advocacy letters on topics aligned with pressing social justice issues and plan to send to relevant Ministries and decision makers. 2018 plans are to have the advocacy letters send to all members so that they can utilized their network and resources in own communities. Our members Carol and Barb are working on Social Action Cookbook: Recipe for Lending your voice to a cause.

Mobina Hasan

THOMPSON NICOLA

Promoting the Profession

This year has been another busy year for our Branch. We continue to keep our members informed of any upcoming workshops or events that we sponsor. So far this year, our Branch has hosted five different events that were well attended. We continue to send out emails promoting various events around the local area that improve the social work practice environment.

Services to the Members

In March, we hosted the annual Social Work Luncheon to honor Social Work Week. We had approximately 50 members attend the luncheon and awarded our Heart of the Grasslands award to Linda Thomas, who is the Executive Director of Secwepemc Child and Family Services. We also had Tony Nelson, Representative of Children and Youth in BC speak to Thompson Rivers University Bachelor of Social Work students about his experience and his role with the RCY office. In April, we hosted a social mixer at the local Red Collar brewery and enjoyed getting to know our members. In May, we hosted Lisa Chapeski, who is the clinical lead for the Fraser Health Authority. She presented a workshop on integrating expressive art therapies in social work practice. It was well attended and participants enjoyed her ideas. In September, we welcomed the new Bachelor of Social Worker students to Thompson Rivers University and encouraged them to become BCASW members. We also hosted Grant Charles, Associate Professor for UBC School of Social Work who gave an inspiring workshop on ethics. For October, we are hosting another social mixer at the Red Beard Café and look forward to meeting new members as well as networking with current members.

Looking ahead we are anticipating more members attending our social mixers and encouraging them to give us ideas and feedback regarding our local issues. We look forward to the year ahead!

Advocacy and Social Justice

Our Branch continues to send out emails about various local events that enhance the practice environment for all social workers. We continue to work hard at advocating for social justice!

Shirley Selski

KOOTENAY

The BCASW Kootenay Branch consists of numerous social workers employed in various social work settings over an extremely large rural and remote geographic area. This year our branch has seen a modest increase in our membership count. Active members continue to meet monthly for dinner and dialogue–focusing discussion on the complex and diverse needs of our communities as well as the innovative means for connecting, delivering services, and practicing social work.

The vast and mountainous geography of the Kootenays makes member connection challenging and even problematic at times. The Kootenay Branch has seen this struggle as a learning opportunity and has implemented teleconference calls to bypass this strain. However, over the past year the branch has placed significant importance on connecting with members' in-person. The branch has been organizing in-person meetings in various communities and turn out has been steady.

For this year's Social Work Week, the Kootenay Branch celebrated and honored the profession by attending the educational fair at both Selkirk College and the College of the Rockies for a second year in a row. Our attendance not only benefits prospective students but also promotes the profession in creating a presence in the lives of those who do not know what social workers do and/or those who possess a stereotypical view of the profession—it is also about creating a central identifying location for our Branch.

The Kootenay Branch has organized a continuing professional development (CPD) activity on ethics and is always looking into other CPD opportunities for members.

We look forward to another year of connecting.

Shane Loukianoff

COMMITTEES AND COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE 2017

BCASW SENIORS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Our Community of Practice continues to meet on the first Wednesday of each month from 5-6 pm to network, share information about issues, programs, resources, and upcoming events. Our accomplishments include hosting two successful sessions at the November provincial BCASW conference, preparing a letter for BCASW to send to the federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development about foreign ownership of residential care services for older adults and prepared questions for the Election Tool Kit produced by the BCASW. In addition, we are keeping tabs on a motion recently tabled in the federal parliament advocating for a National Seniors Strategy and plan to be writing in support of that. We have had a core of 6-8 participants and are always open to new members so please feel free to contact me about joining an upcoming meeting! It is a great time to be revisiting our priorities and planning action for the coming year. alisonleaney@telus.net

submitted by Alison Leaney

BCASW INDIGENOUS WORKING GROUP REPORT

The BCASW Indigenous Working Group continues to meet bi-monthly through teleconference to discuss best practices to support social work in aboriginal communities, how to decolonize our practice and explore pathways to reconciliation. We continue to receive requests to use the BCASW Reconciliation Toolkit from far and wide. We are in the process of creating a resource website for social workers working in aboriginal communities. As CASW looks towards revising its Code of Ethics, our group has been reviewing the current Code to see if we can come up with suggestions from an Indigenous and decolonization perspective. One of the suggestions was to add that it is a social worker's ethical responsibility to educate themselves and the public regarding Indigenous history in Canada. Our dialogue is ongoing and reflexive, and we will continue to seek opportunities to connect social workers and Indigenous communities across British Columbia.

submitted by Leya Eguchi

HEALTH ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The Health Advocacy Committee consists of five social workers who meet monthly by teleconference. This year, we have been focussing on housing and homelessness as our main advocacy issue. We researched what other groups have been doing, particularly the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. We created two letter templates that social workers can send to their local MLA and MP to advocate for more action on this issue. Please email me if you would like a copy of these letters to customize and mail. Committee members also submitted candidate questions to the BCASW Advocacy Committee in advance of the provincial election. Recently, we have begun looking into the issue of people being discharged from hospitals into homelessness. Feel free to contact me if you would like to share any information with us about this topic. Lastly, one of our members worked with the Health Practice Enhancement Committee on their successful Education Day focussed on poverty and marginalization. We are always looking for new members to join the committee from around the province. If interested, please email me at fclewis1944@gmail.com

submitted by Fiona Lewis

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MULTICULTURAL AND ANTI-RACISM (MARC) REPORT

In our present climate of increasing hostility towards minority and multicultural communities in BC and across Canada, MARC continues to advocate against any form of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion or culture by engaging social workers through workshops, articles and proactive letter writing.

In June, 2017 MARC and MOSAIC partnered with Mufti Aasim Rashid, the founder of the Al-Ihsan Educational Foundation, to develop and present the workshop "Islam Unravelling". This two hour workshop brought social workers and settlement workers together to learn and dialogue about basic Islamic beliefs, its values and practices with the goal of fostering an informed, respectful and open mindset when working with Muslim clients.

As MARC is committed to helping professionals deliver culturally sensitive/safe and racially non-discriminatory services through training materials, the Committee is currently developing a Tool Kit on "How to Respond to Racist Remarks".

Articles promoting multiculturalism and anti-oppressive, anti-racist practice are also regularly submitted to the BCASW toward the Perspectives Newsletter to raise critical awareness about racism and human rights.

As MARC monitors the activities of groups, political parties and educational institutions, the Committee responds with advocacy letters. Earlier this year, for example, MARC sent a letter of concern to the then Premier of BC requesting that the provincial government develop a vigorous approach to address the growing atmosphere of intolerance and racism in BC as indicated by the the distribution of racist flyers, the desecration of Muslim and Jewish sites, the recent presence of the BC Soldiers of Odin and the newly formed Cultural Action Party of BC. Amongst the recommendations submitted to the Premier was the re-establishment of the Human Rights Commission and the establishment of an Anti-Racism Secretariat.

MARC's current activities include the development of a MARC social media page on Facebook, a formal letter to the federal government to support their opposition to Quebec's Bill 62, and a Consultation submission to the Parliamentary Secretary for Sport and Multiculturalism with recommendations toward the soon to be re-established Human Rights Commission.

submitted by Marisa Tuzi & Dave Sangha

Chairs of the Multicultural and Anti-Racism Committee of BC

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT

For the greater part of the fiscal year, Paul Jenkinson was the faithful chair of the committee. Paul now lives in the Maritimes and sadly he is a bit too far away to carry on in the role. The committee would welcome new volunteers. We continued our focus on poverty related advocacy action and education as well as on issues of importance to children and youth in foster and kinship care. The hard work of Paul along with David Turner and Robert Hart meant key Ministers heard our recommendations to raise welfare and disability rates; increase the minimum wage; increase access to affordable child care; and make safe, affordable housing a priority.

The committee worked extensively on drafting questions for the May election and that list was expanded by excellent input from the Health Advocacy and MARC Committees and other Board members. We also worked on responses following the release of Broken Promises: Alex's Story by the Representative for Children and Youth Bernard Richard and continue to follow closely all RCY reports and press releases. We maintained a strong connection to the work of First Call.

During the year there was discussion about the role of advocacy and this committee within BCASW; how to collaborate better with each other on advocacy action; how to support other branches or committees, and in general how to improve coordination, collaboration and visibility.

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Committees and Communities of Practice...continued from previous page

A more recent advocacy action by Barb Keith and Carol Ross was to design a simple mechanism to teach and share advocacy skills via Facebook. Over the coming year, sample advocacy “recipes” will be gathered to allow any and all social workers to learn specific advocacy skills. We are now recruiting writers to share their advocacy expertise and once we have at least 20 “recipes”, we will post one a week until we run out of ideas.

In the coming year, we must build momentum to keep government focused on addressing the BCASW priorities for children, families and all citizens who struggle against injustice in this province.

Carol Ross

THE CHILD WELFARE ADVOCACY COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE REPORT

It has been a difficult year for this work and we recognize that child protection is complex in all respects. Advocacy for parents and grandparents is scarce to non-existent. The disproportionate numbers of indigenous children living in poverty, in foster care, not finishing high school, ending up on the street, dying far too young, is appalling and inexcusable. Solutions and reconciliation must be our collective priorities.

A one person committee cannot manifest the results children and families deserve nor that child protection workers deserve. The Association needs a strong cohort of dedicated child protection advocates to build new awareness and productive strategies.

There are some new advocacy members and more could truly make a difference. It is important to continue the valuable relationship with the Representative for Children and Youth as well as with organizations such as First Call. A priority will be to connect with all key Ministries and provide our professional insights and recommendations. We need active members with a passion for: keeping all children safe, healthy and loved; ensuring all front line workers are supported and recognized for the difficult roles they play; and making sure those in positions of power hear from BCASW about essential services, spending, and change.

Carol Ross