

**BC Association of Social Workers**



***ANNUAL REPORT***

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***2017/2018***

## BCASW BOARD MEMBERS 2017-2018

### EXECUTIVE

President	Michael Crawford
Vice President	Carol Ross
Treasurer	Cayce Laviolette
Secretary	Cheryl Ash
CASW Representative	Leya Eguchi
Past President	Phyllis Nash

### REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD

Student Representative	Kyle Turone
Vancouver Sea to Sky Branch	Elizabeth Vondette
Fraser River Branch	Katen Jolly
Kootenay Branch	Shane Loukianoff
Northern Branch	Heather Lamb
Northwest Branch	Tessa Shaw
Thompson/Nicola Branch	Shirley Selski
Delta/Richmond/Burnaby Branch	Mobina Hassan
Okanagan Branch	Cheryl Ash
Vancouver Island Branch	Maxine Gibson

### MEMBERS AT LARGE

Ayesha Sackey  
Karis Bergsma  
Kelsey Pedro

### BCASW STAFF

Executive Director	Andrew Brown (Interim)/ Dianne Heath
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

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

submitted by Michael Crawford

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Our professional association is doing well and we should be proud of our accomplishments. BCASW staff, branch executives, and committees continue to work hard to ensure our members receive the service they need, that our profession and social work practice is promoted, and that our government is aware of our progressive ideas for social, health, and economic policy.

Our Board is energetic and experienced, always acting in the best interests of our members and our profession. Dianne Heath was warmly welcomed back this spring as she returned to her Executive Director post after a year away, spent with her family in Ontario. We thank Andrew Brown for his service as Interim Executive Director and wish him well in his new post in Victoria.

We are grateful for the work done regionally through our nine branches; the heart of our Association. Local members deliver workshops, write articles for *Perspectives*, consult with and mentor new graduates, engage in advocacy work, support social and health agencies in their areas, sit on our provincial committees, and much, much more.

Our Fall 2018 issue of *Perspectives* included interviews with Minister of Children and Family Development Katrine Conroy and Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Judy Darcy. In our next issue, we hope to have two other Ministers report on their accomplishments and challenges during the first year of a BC NDP government. We strive to build relationships with elected officials and senior bureaucrats in order to share with them our view that equality and social justice must form the basis of public policy.

BCASW committees continue to provide opportunities for our members to study issues, express concerns, and educate professionals and the public. I encourage all members to consider joining a committee as a way of connecting with like-minded social workers and promoting the profession. Our committees span a wide range of areas including health, multiculturalism, seniors, anti-racism, children and families, mental health, Indigenous, and addictions.

Our Association continues to work in partnership with other organizations and coalitions to achieve social justice. Our partnerships allow us to extend our work well beyond what we could do alone.

Through our relationships with the BC College of Social Workers and the Deans and Directors of BC Schools of Social Work, we have worked to ensure that our profession is supported through strong self-regulation and that excellence in post-secondary social work education is maintained.

This past spring, several BCASW Board members and Dianne Heath met with social work association leaders from across Canada in Ottawa at the Canadian Association of Social Workers Board Meeting. It was an excellent reminder of the need for associations such as ours, and the important role we play in promoting the profession.

In the year ahead, our Association will face our challenges with renewed strength and conviction knowing that we are a collective of dedicated, compassionate, and highly skilled social workers.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

submitted by Dianne Heath



Having been out of the office from March 2017–April 2018, I am at a bit of a disadvantage in capturing the details of 2017 in this report. Thank you to Andrew Brown and Lou Kawakami for continuing the work of BCASW during this time. Since returning, a major focus has been on

operations in order to implement new fees and simplify systems as well as to reconnect with members, our Board, and coalition partners.

Just under half of BCASW members (495) reported having a private practice. We encourage all practitioners to obtain professional liability insurance as the employer's coverage may not cover or be adequate. Our insurance carrier, BMS recently conducted an audit to insure that social workers purchasing insurance at the group rate negotiated for members by CASW have current membership.

Continuing member services include the private practice roster, findasocialworker, now at 36 listings; and the Mentorship Program with seven matches and five pending since my return. Social workers and members of the public frequently contact the office for consultation, information, and re-direction to resources.

The Awards Committee is having a busy year. So far we have awarded funds for CPD to seven members from the Murphy Battista fund, two from the BMS/CASW scholarship fund and reviewed seven nominees for the Inspiring Social Worker of the Year award. Our CASW Distinguished Service Award winner for BC, Melanie Abbott, was present for the November 2nd Networking and Education Afternoon panel of inspiring nominees and award recipients. The presentation was aptly called *Passionate about Social Work*. Student awards of \$250.00 have been sent out to BC universities and branches have provided additional awards.

We continue to partner with groups to support initiatives to improve and expand services to residents of BC. In this regard, I met with leaders at Trans Care BC and the Disability Alliance BC.

Michael Crawford, Leya Eguchi, and I attended the spring national meetings in Ottawa, benefiting from renewed connections and a deeper understanding of social issues across Canada.

We continue to work with coalitions, unions, and other associations to advance social policy initiatives and to continue discussions with ministries and other stakeholders.

## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Capacity issues inherent in a small office and volunteer-fuelled organization with numerous objectives require allocation of resources based on set priorities, member interest, and timely response to social issues. Board members address our concerns with government, stay abreast of the work of our regulatory body, and connect with BC universities. Moreover, they have assisted with operational tasks such as entering member renewals, testing the new data base, and posting on the website while the office continues with one staff.

Technology continued to present challenges. Thank you for your patience while our online payment system was under repair. I enjoyed speaking with each of you as you called to renew but I know that it was frustrating that your membership could not be quickly renewed from the website.

*Perspectives* newsmagazine remains in hard copy although many other organization newsletters are now electronic. We welcome articles submitted to the Editorial Review Committee for potential publication. *Perspectives* is partially funded by advertisers who see the opportunity in hard copy.

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Reliance on volunteer time will continue. New and sustained membership is essential to in order to meet the challenges requiring the promotion of our profession, increase accessible member services, and for thoughtful effective advocacy.

CASW continues to add services for members. Examples include the **Social Work Reference Center**, a searchable portal for social workers that offers factsheets, assessment tools, patient education, and Association of Social Work Boards Accredited Continuing Education Modules; the **SocINDEX**: an EBSCO portal to hundreds of academic journals, searchable to help support practice and research; and **Continuing Education webinars** posted on the website.

Room remains for improved efficiency using new technology and a database, long anticipated, now near completion. Membership connection and services will be expanded as we increase capacity.

My gratitude goes to our Board members, who continue to set our direction under policy governance, represent the diversity of BCASW, liaise with practice interest groups, and develop and sustain branches and membership locally.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

submitted by Cayce Laviolette



On September 11, 2018, the Board of the BCASW voted unanimously in favour to approve our 2018 budget. This was the second time this year a budget was passed. When the Board approved the budget in April 2018, we did so based on inaccurate membership and income numbers. Luckily the error was caught by ED Dianne

Heath and our accountants Marsh & Marsh, and we had the opportunity to take a few months to revise our budget based on actuals.

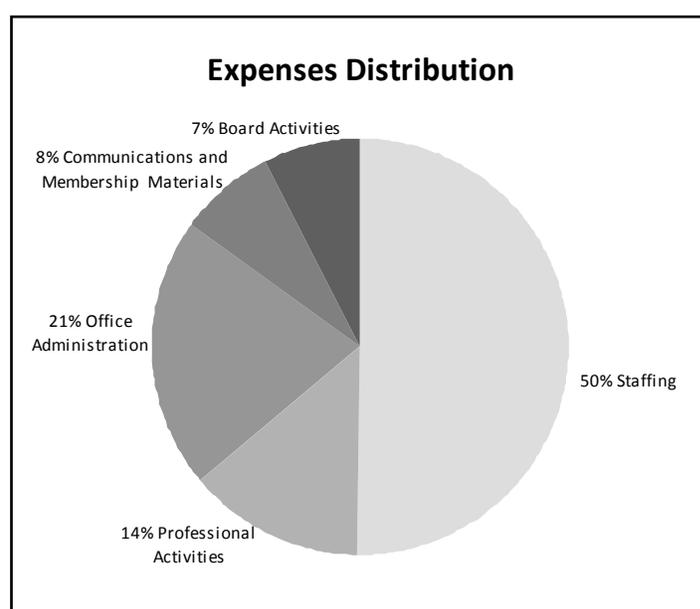
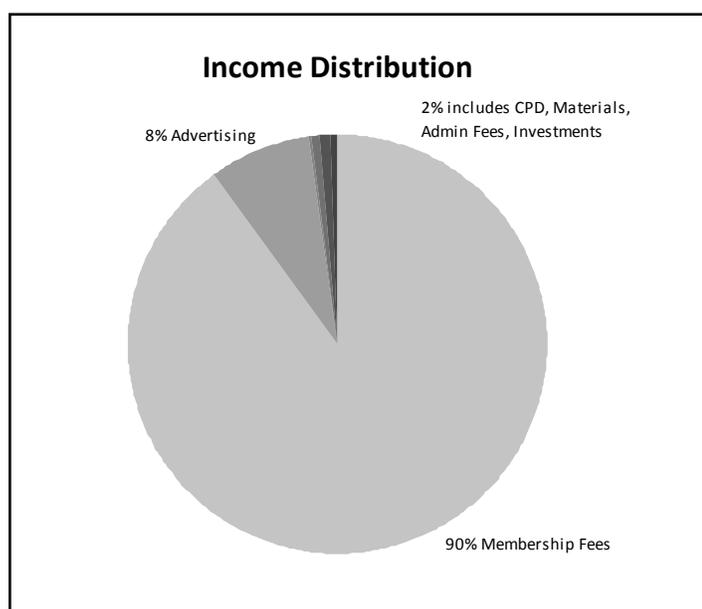
The most recent—and approved—budget reflects a considerable downturn in membership income for the first quarter. The BCASW is a membership-driven organisation, sustained by member fees and expanding interest in joining our Association. Last year we took steps to mitigate stagnant member numbers by reluctantly increasing membership fees. We also removed the subsidy for part-time practitioners. The impact of that change is not likely to be seen until 2019. Compounding this dilemma was a series of clerical challenges at the end of 2017 and the beginning of 2018 which led to social workers not being able to renew their memberships. Dianne

has worked hard to bring those social workers back into the Association but our numbers as of mid-October are still down from one year ago.

Your Board recognizes the near-crisis we faced, and has made some significant changes in order to cut costs. Our thrice-annual in-person meetings have been reduced over the last 12 months to once per year. Board members are not compensated for attending the AGM and staff did not receive a raise in salary. At the same time, the Board Executive (president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, CASW rep, and past president) have committed to meeting monthly by phone in order to ensure we are actively involved in sustaining and growing this Association.

Other losses of revenue reflect diminished advertising in *Perspectives*, income from webinars, and the findasocialworker roster in 2017. I am pleased to announce that *Perspectives* remains a thriving and vital publication and advertising has risen considerably this year. I encourage members to pick up the Fall 2018 issue with Q&As from provincial Ministers.

Rest assured that the BCASW is adding members on a daily basis. October 2018 showed the highest growth this year! I am confident that by this time next year we will be back in a comfortable financial position. In the meantime, the Board, our committees and your local branches are doing amazing work to promote social work and promote inclusion in our Association.



## INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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To the Members of British Columbia Association of Social Workers

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of British Columbia Association of Social Workers that comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2017 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, 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 these financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of British Columbia Association of Social Workers as at December 31, 2017, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Burnaby, British Columbia  
June 29, 2018

  
Chartered Professional Accountants

**BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS**

**Statement of Financial Position**

**December 31, 2017**

*(Unaudited)*

	2017	2016
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	\$ 29,711	\$ 57,034
Investments	132,959	131,618
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	6,970	5,520
Prepaid expenses	1,953	1,175
	<u>171,593</u>	195,347
TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 4)	116	294
INTANGIBLE ASSETS (Note 5)	-	16,065
	<u>\$ 171,709</u>	<u>\$ 211,706</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued charges	\$ 41,398	\$ 5,100
Deferred revenue (Note 6)	74,034	95,262
	<u>115,432</u>	100,362
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Operating fund	<u>56,277</u>	<u>111,344</u>
	<u>\$ 171,709</u>	<u>\$ 211,706</u>
COMMITMENTS (Note 7)		

**BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS**

**Statement of Changes in Net Assets**

**Year Ended December 31, 2017**

*(Unaudited)*

	Operating Fund	2017	2016
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	\$ 111,344	\$ 111,344	\$ 146,181
Deficiency of income over expenses	(55,067)	(55,067)	(34,837)
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	<u>\$ 56,277</u>	<u>\$ 56,277</u>	<u>\$ 111,344</u>

**BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS**

**Statement of Operations**

**Year Ended December 31, 2017**

*(Unaudited)*

	2017	2016
<b>INCOME</b>		
Membership fees	\$ 202,532	\$ 201,058
Administration fees	1,000	-
Advertising	17,250	31,370
Conferences and workshops	575	49,259
Interest and investment income	2,136	1,930
Membership materials	1,126	4,583
Perspectives and publication sales	419	441
	<u>225,038</u>	<u>288,641</u>
<b>EXPENSES (per Schedule 1)</b>		
Office administration	58,910	42,940
Information services	21,093	26,353
Professional activities	38,190	98,538
Board activities	21,026	20,958
Staffing	140,886	134,689
	<u>280,105</u>	<u>323,478</u>
<b>DEFICIENCY OF INCOME OVER EXPENSES</b>	<u>\$ (55,067)</u>	<u>\$ (34,837)</u>

**For the complete  
financial statement,  
please refer to the Review  
Engagement Report at  
[www.bcasw.org](http://www.bcasw.org).**

# BCASW Membership Data Report

## Why this data summary?

To inform organizational review and future planning.

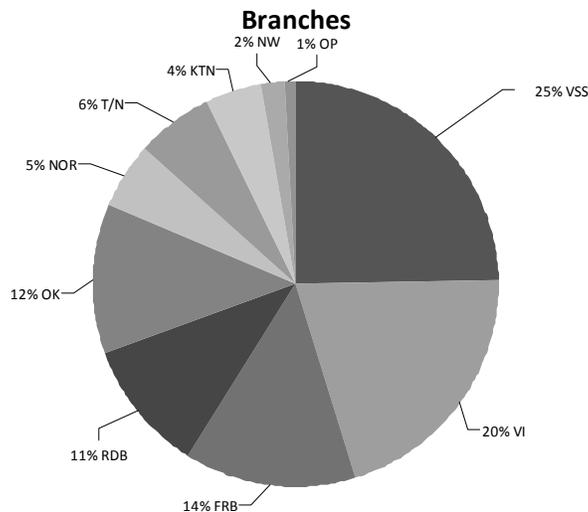
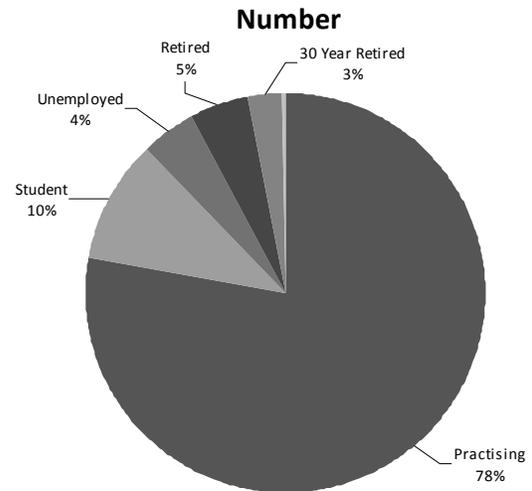
## When?

A snapshot of data taken October 15, 2018

## Who are we?

We are 1055 social workers, and associates

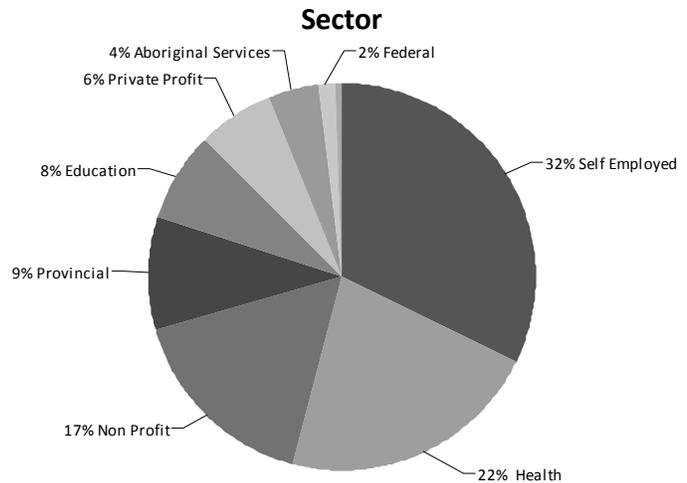
Member Category	Number
Practising	821
Student	105
Unemployed	46
Retired	51
30 Year Retired	28
Associate	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1055</b>



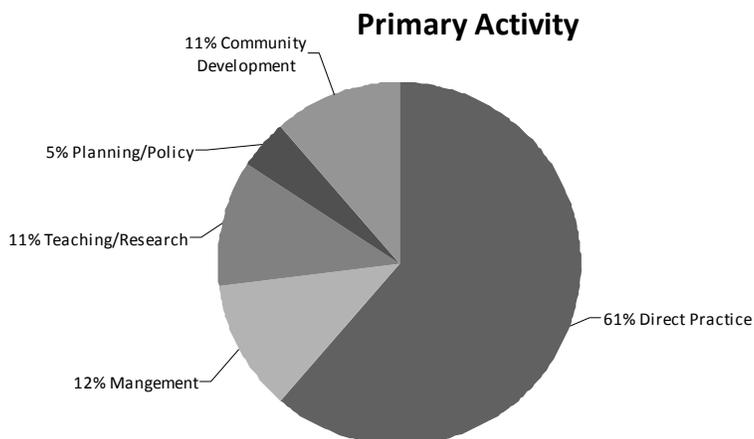
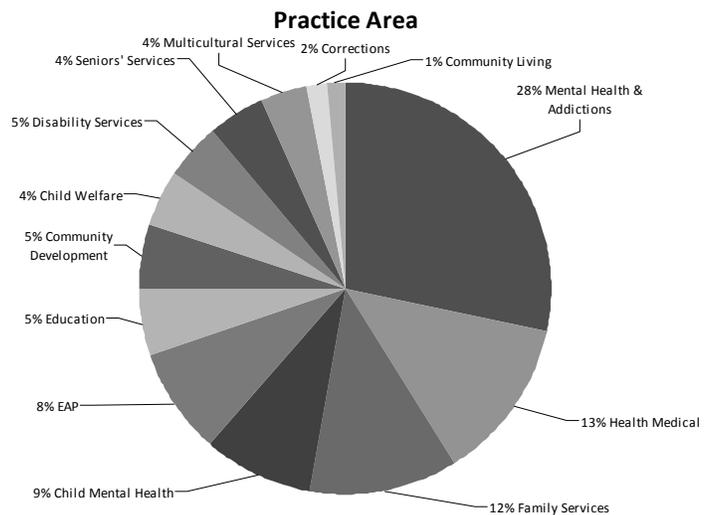
Name	Number
Vancouver Sea to Sky	261
Vancouver Island	216
Fraser River	143
Richmond/Delta/Burnaby	113
Okanagan	125
Northern	55
Thompson/Nicola	66
Kootenay	48
Northwest	20
Out of Province	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>1055</b>

Sector	Count
Self Employed	385
Health	260
Non Profit	197
Provincial	111
Education	92
Private Profit	75
Aboriginal Services	49
Federal	19
Municipal	5

495 members have a Private Practice



Practice Areas	Count
Mental Health & Addictions	668
Health Medical	300
Family Services	276
Child Mental Health	204
EAP	198
Education	125
Community Development	115
Child Welfare	107
Disability Services	107
Seniors' Services	100
Multicultural Services	85
Corrections	42
Community Living	33



Primary Activity	Count
Direct Practice	740
Management	140
Teaching/Research	134
Planning/Policy	54
Community Development	138

## PUBLICATIONS, POSTINGS, & COMMUNICATIONS

### PERSPECTIVES NEWSMAGAZINE

Editor: Dianne Heath/ Andrew Brown

Editorial Committee: Cayce Laviolette, Dawn Hemingway, Linda Korbin, Carol Ross, Phyllis Nash, Ayesha Sackey, Heather Lamb

Layout and Design: Heather MacNeil

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

- January challenged the constant refashioning of hate
- May explored innovation and technology in social work
- September: Two Ministers responded to four questions from BCASW

### E-BULLETINS

- Ebulletins listed events, providing updates and information.

### EMAIL

- Dialogue with members- questions, concerns, and responses
- CASW and Branch communications
- Opportunity Ads- job advertisements, continuing professional development, events

### WEBSITE [www.bcasw.org](http://www.bcasw.org)

Member information, services, and benefits including:

- Branch events, committee updates, news
- Job advertisements
- Continuing professional development
- [bc.findasocialworker.ca](http://bc.findasocialworker.ca) practice roster- 34 listings
- Link to BMS insurance online application

### SOCIAL MEDIA

This project is led by Tanyss Knowles

- Facebook – reviewed current usage, guide for Board and Branches developed, Facebook re-launch pending
- Twitter – launch pending

### PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

- Two new posters designed for Social Work Week 2018, vintage posters available
- Brochures on *Social Work Skills and Knowledge in Health Care*
- Ethics posters
- *Social Work Services in Health Care Settings* patient/client brochure in English, Punjabi, Chinese, and French; for sale at cost
- Promotional flyer for inclusion in BCCSW mailouts to new registrants – *Why Belong to BCASW?*
- Member benefit postcards

### REPORTS

- *Annual Report 2017/2018*

### COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC

Issues addressed in partnership and/or as a single organization included:

- Poverty reduction
- Racism in British Columbia

# CASW REPORT

submitted by Leya Eguchi



This is an exciting time for the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW), as we embark on new projects that lend well to creativity and innovation. Over the past year, CASW has stayed steadfast in its commitment to social justice and reconciliation, and being a strong voice for social workers in Canada.

Reconciliation continues to be an important focus, which is reflected in the online CASW Reconciliation Hub. In 2018, CASW has begun a the process to revise the 2005 *Code of Ethics and Scope of Practice*, with a strong focus on Indigenous perspectives and practice, and meaningful consultation. This is an opportunity to engage Indigenous and non-Indigenous social workers and stakeholders in an ongoing dialogue that we hope will further our goals of reconciliation.

CASW released several position statements including a strong opposition to conversion therapy that seeks to repair an individual's sexual orientation, *Decriminalization of Personal Use of Psychoactive Substances* and advocating for the *Innovation and Improving Health System Performance, with Focus on Seniors' Care and Mental Health* (in partnership with the Organizations for Health Action). CASW also made a 2019 pre-budget submission on *Supporting Social Workers for Better Social Outcomes*. CASW also wrote a letter to the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness to stress the importance of the inclusion of social workers in future research and initiatives around the topic of first responders/public safety officers and the incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). CASW recently endorsed the Pharmacare consensus principles spearheaded by the Canadian Health Coalition.

In August 2018, CASW published a major research paper, titled *Understanding Social Work and Child Welfare: Canadian Survey and Interviews with Child Welfare Experts*, which painted a bleak picture of child welfare systems in each province and territory. The research involved a survey of over 3200 social workers, as well as interviews with child-welfare leaders and experts from different jurisdictions.

Some of the most salient statistics revealed include: 75% of social workers report that unmanageable workloads are a critical issue in their practice; 44% have experienced threats or violence on the job; 45% of social workers who left the field did so due

to stress and/or vicarious trauma and; 72% say administrative responsibilities prevent them from spending adequate time with clients. Additionally, a shocking 65% of caseloads include Indigenous children and families. These statistics paint a picture of social workers who practice under conditions that prevent them from remaining in their positions and developing relationships with communities, children and families, resulting in more children in care and more families in crisis. This research has enabled CASW to step up advocacy efforts with real data to back up requests for change.

CASW released cutting-edge professional development webinars which are available on demand, including titles such as *Effective Workplace Response to Intimate Partner Violence*, *How social workers can prevent compassion fatigue*, *Indigenous Perspectives & Social Work Series*, *Honouring Jordan's Principle: Putting Kids First*, *Trauma Informed Social Work Practice*, *Family Systems and Kinship Care: Challenges and Opportunities*, and *Before Cannabis Becomes Legal: Social Work Practice Within a Changing Drug Culture*. BCASW members get free access to these webinars, and we highly encourage you to check out the roster of upcoming and on-demand titles.

CASW is continuing to strengthen partnership with regulators, educators and allied professions, as well as our partnership with NASW and the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW). We encourage you to explore the CASW website and view the array of resources, professional development and membership benefits available to you as BCASW members.

To access CASW BCASW member resources, create an account at [casw-acts.ca](http://casw-acts.ca). New accounts may take a couple of days to activate as your information is checked against the membership list. If you have any trouble, or need immediate access, call 1-855-729-6668 or email Membership Coordinator, Kate Hudson, at [kate.hudson@casw-acts.ca](mailto:kate.hudson@casw-acts.ca) for assistance.

# BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS 2018

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## VANCOUVER ISLAND

- Our last AGM was held October 18, 2017, with guest speaker, Dr. Aaron Devor. Members were given the opportunity to join three sub-committees, as outlined in the provincial BCASW Strategic Plan, 2017-2010: **Promotion of the Profession, Services to Members and Advocacy/Social Justice.**
- November 21, 2017 we hosted The Honorable Katrine Conroy, Minister of BC Ministry of Children and Family Development to celebrate Adoption Awareness month and to honor the life of our colleague, Dr. Brenda McCreight. Brenda was a member of BCASW, a gifted writer, speaker and champion for adoption rights.
- June and George Preston hosted a holiday celebration in their home on December 7, 2017.
- We celebrated Social Work Week by joining the School of Social Work, University of Victoria to participate in the Alayne Hamilton Community Social Work Award reception on March 22, 2018. Another celebration of Social Work was held on International Social Work day, March 20, 2018 at the Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo. They had a thought provoking discussion about Community and Environmental Sustainability and the role of social workers.
- February 21, members attended a *Communication and Behaviours in Dementia* presentation with Staci Hunter-Noble, Branch Chair and Jillian Eastley, student representative.
- A memorial event to honour Margaret Martin was held on April 26, 2018 at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club in Victoria. Marjorie was a poverty activist, past Executive Director of the BCASW, and the first Coordinator of Field Education practice at the School of Social Work, University of Victoria.
- May 24, 2018, Gary Brandstadt presented on the topic of chronic pain management.
- A *Spring Into Summer* networking event took place on June 13, 2018
- Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, October 23, 2018 5-6 p.m, panel discussion *Exploring meaningful responses to Indigenous child welfare*
- Annual General Meeting October 24, 2018, *The Intersection of Law and Social Work*

Maxine Gibson

## VANCOUVER SEA TO SKY

The May CPD event, entitled *Self-Care: How do you look after yourself?* was unable to proceed in its original format as there was unexpected flooding which compromised our meeting space. The four attendees proceeded to Starbucks and spent some time meditatively colouring and supporting one another.

An event, scheduled in June, was on the topic of fostering. A foster parent and one of his former foster children attended and spoke on their experiences and provided insight on the complexities of foster relationships.

Elizabeth Vondette

## OKANAGAN

The fall startup included the Orientation for the UBCO School of Social Work Students. The Branch has been invited to provide information about the BCASW at the UBCO HomeComing Event at the Foundry on October 19. Additionally, the Branch Breakfast Meetings started back up in late September in Kelowna. The next one will be in late October in Penticton. The Branch Breakfast Meetings are a fantastic opportunity to network with social workers around the valley. The OK Branch Facebook page continues to grow with new members. We share news, advocacy, job opportunities, and CPD opportunities to our members without the worry of anti-spamming laws. The *Okanagan Branch of the BCASW* page has 118 members! It is not easy to send a direct invite to all the branch members via email, so if you'd like to join, please search *Okanagan Branch of the BCASW* on Facebook and request to join.

Cheryl Ash

## **KOOTENAY**

The last few months of 2017 have been spirited. The Branch has been engaging with a outreach approach to promoting services to members. During the past year and specifically at the end of 2017, our Branch has held monthly member meetings in various communities including Cranbrook, Ainsworth, and Nelson.

Our monthly Branch meetings have evolved into multi-faceted forums for advocacy and social justice, particularly conversation starters—dialogue on social work related matters such as discussing and examining social work ethics at our September meeting in Cranbrook, talking about making a contribution to the BCASW Social Action Cookbook at our October meeting in Ainsworth as well as watching a webinar titled *Anti-Aboriginal Racism in Canada: A Social Determinant of Health* at our November meeting in Nelson. Rural and remote social work practice is an inevitable topic that always surfaces.

*Shane Loukianoff/Kimberly Stanyer*

## **NORTHWEST**

It has been a busy year in Northern BC – both with success and some hardship. The Northwest Branch organized a successful Social Work Week in March, focusing on our community in action. We were honoured to present the CASW Distinguished Service Award to one of our members, Melanie Abbott, recognizing her innovation and dedication to the social work profession.

Branch members met to discuss some of the growing concerns in the northern region, with a focus on the housing crisis. The BC Housing Task Force presented in a number of communities and we met as a team to discuss what we thought could be done to create long-term, sustainable change, and promote safety and security for both renters and owners. Our suggestions were added to the provincial-wide forum with hopes of contributing to a solution.

As you know, our province experienced a stifling number of wildfires this year, displacing many of our northern remote communities. Branch members were encouraged to participate in relief efforts by means of volunteering at donation centres, making and delivering meals, and supporting organizations in crisis intervention.

As the leaves start the change and we settle in for winter, our branch is working on plans for next year's social work week celebration. Traditionally, Terrace hosts a Ring Ceremony for the UNBC Terrace Campus BSW graduates. The ceremony symbolizes both the student's commitment to their new profession and our commitment, as practicing social workers, to welcoming and supporting graduates.

We are bracing ourselves for some significant changes in the north as development is underway for the recently approved pipeline project. The Branch is eager to connect with social workers and continue supporting and advocating for our communities during the transition period.

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

*Tessa Shaw*

## **RICHMOND/DELTA/BURNABY**

The Branch hosted an event in February where the BCCSW presented on the use of technology and standards of practice. We had a good turnout and members left with better understanding of challenges and benefits of use of technology in social work practice. In March, we had a social to celebrate Social Work Week. We met at a restaurant and informally members shared their expectations from the Branch.

Monthly meetings are continuing and we are working towards increasing more in-person meetings and exploring methods of engaging members that have not been very actively involved.

We are brainstorming the goals and engagement policies of our Branch Facebook page. Continuing education opportunities is the primary request from members and we hope to use technology for learning and developing.

*Mobina Hasan*

## THOMPSON NICOLA

This has been a year full of events in the Thompson Nicola Branch of the BCASW arranged by our Executive comprised of Jacqueline Judd, Jennifer Friend, Lorry-Ann Austin, Michael Crawford, Sue Peterson, and Sydney Annetts (Student Rep).

We celebrated BC Social Work Week 2018 with MCFD Minister Katrine Conroy. Minister Conroy spoke to social work students and faculty at Thompson Rivers University (TRU) and at a luncheon attended by community social workers. Maureen Doll, a social worker at Interior Community Services (Kamloops), received the Heart of the Grasslands Award for her outstanding social work service to the community.

Our branch attended and provided financial support for a year-end pizza and beer social hosted by students at TRU. We also presented on behalf of BCASW at a professional development day hosted by TRU social work faculty member Rebecca Sanford.

This fall we met with new BSW students at TRU and welcomed them to join the BCASW and become involved in our local professional and social activities.

In September and October, 2018, Tanis Collinge, Katherine Gulley, Sue Peterson, and Fern Strain, from Kamloops Child & Youth Mental Health, presented evening workshops on understanding attachment trauma and personality disorder in youth and families. Proceeds from registration fees supported the annual Thompson Nicola BCASW Bursary at TRU.

Also in October, Natasha Files, MSW, RSW presented a two-day workshop to 50 registrants entitled Emotion-Focused Family Therapy Clinician Training. Many members used this workshop as continuing professional development hours in support of renewal of registration with the BCCSW.

This month we invited our members and TRU students to gather at a local pub for a networking social event.

Planning for BC Social Work Week in March is already underway and we have issued a call for nominations for our Heart of the Grasslands Award for distinguished social work service.

Our branch looks forward to working with other branches to fulfil our Association's mission and we thank Executive Director Dianne Heath for her ongoing support.

*Jacqueline Judd*



*Minister Katrine Conroy, Maureen Doll, Michael Crawford*

## NORTHERN

- Membership for the Northern Branch was down this year, at 59 people. Most members are located in Prince George but we do have a few from other locations in Northern BC and a few who have moved away but wished to remain branch members.
- Communications with members (email and Facebook) are working well. I have had requests both via email and on Facebook from members outside of Prince George, looking for social work resources and support and they were able to easily find Branch contact information either from the BCASW website or by searching on Facebook. We have more Facebook group members than we do paid branch members; discussions are happening at the provincial level about how to balance providing service to social workers and how to keep value for paid members (and encourage more people to pay).
- We were unable to hold a social work week event this year due to challenges organizing the event, cost of catering and inability to get sponsorship. Social workers were encouraged to celebrate with coworkers and/or donate to a local non profit what they would have spent on lunch. We will look at other options for next year. Our Christmas event at the New Hope Society was a success this year [December 2017], both in terms of fundraising for that organization and raising their profile, and attendance at the event. This is largely due to the efforts of our student reps who organized the event and made the excellent soup.
- We held our annual pizza night with new social work students at UNBC in September 2017

- We have had excellent speakers at our branch meetings and interesting ethics conversations. Members participated in Poverty Reduction consultations, the UNBC social work accreditation review and other advocacy and development activities in our community, both as branch members and as individuals.
- Monthly meetings continue for members, and others interested in participating, the third Thursday of every month. Most recently we had a presentation on “Proportional Representation. What is it that we’re being asked to vote on in the upcoming referendum?” by FairVote Canada – BC. Future discussion topics will centre on the poverty reduction strategy in BC as well as a new initiative between UNBC and Northern Health’s Gateway facility wherein a Nordic model of students/ youth live with elders and study at a long-term care facility.
- Coming events: locally hosted provincial AGM event on November 2<sup>nd</sup> which will include a networking lunch and local guest speakers prior to video-streaming the event in Vancouver. Student representatives of the local branch are leading the organization of our annual holiday fundraising event. This year it will be with the Council for Seniors. The branch will fund a lunch so that local social workers can learn about the Council for Seniors, meet staff and council members, socialize with colleagues, and offer a donation. Student representatives are organizing a social work networking event for January 2019.
- The branch is exploring membership/social work practitioner needs and brainstorming/strategic planning around bringing in new members.
- We continue to participate in social justice actions in our city. Members have attended “Take Back the Night” and “the Red Dress Campaign” events.

*Heather Lamb/Karla Bloomfield*

## COMMITTEES AND COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE 2018

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### SENIORS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

This year we:

- co-hosted a Professional Development with Vancouver Sea-to-Sky Branch on Medical Assistance in Dying with social workers Tammy Dyson and Amy Schuster
- drafted letters to federal and provincial governments expressing concern about foreign ownership of seniors care
- educated ourselves about pending changes to Assisted Living coming in BC
- informed ourselves about policy developments at the national level that will impact older adults such as the National Housing and Poverty Reduction Strategies
- started working on a letter/brief outlining the important contributions social workers would make with additional social work positions in new provincial initiatives such as Primary Care Networks and with new funding in community, assisted living and care home settings

*Alison Leaney*

### HEALTH ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The Health Advocacy Committee continues to meet monthly by phone to plan advocacy efforts. A new member joined the committee in the spring, bringing our total membership to seven social workers. We continue to focus on housing and homelessness.

We spent the last three months refining the survey that we plan to send to acute care social workers to learn more about the experiences of homeless people as they are discharged from hospital. Depending on the survey results, we may be able to advocate for better discharge planning for homeless patients or share best practices for working with this population.

Other plans include renewing our advocacy work around access to dental care. Please contact the committee chair, Fiona Lewis, [fclewis1944@gmail.com](mailto:fclewis1944@gmail.com) for more information.

*Fiona Lewis*

# Social Work



## IN ACTION

*I look at the world through the prism of social work. That's who I am,  
that's who I'll always be. You become a social worker because you want  
to reduce human suffering. It's not for the status.*

*Akua Benjamin, Social Activist*



BC Association of Social Workers

[www.bcasw.org](http://www.bcasw.org)