



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

	BC Association of Social Workers (BCASW)  The Member Services Association	BC College of Social Workers (BCCSW)  The Regulatory Body
Mandate	To support members, strengthen the profession, and advocate for social justice.	Protect the public interest by establishing and supporting high standards for RSWs.
Activities	Communications with governments, media and members; advocacy for social justice; promotion of the profession; research; professional development activities; the provision of member benefits, publications, promotional resources; peer support	Establishes, monitors, and supports standards of practice and a code of ethics. Superintends the practice of social work through Entry to Practice Standards and an Exam, Regulation, a Continuing Professional Development Program and processing complaints against RSWs.
Governance	Board executive and three members at large are elected by members. Branches appoint representatives from nine BC regions. The Board appoints a representative to the CASW and a student representative. The Executive Director is employed by the BCASW.	Governed by a twelve-member board, composed of eight social work members elected by registrants and four appointed by the provincial government to represent the public interest. The College's Registrar directs day-to-day operations.
Why Belong?	Membership is voluntary. Membership strengthens the voice of social work in BC and Canada. The benefits of joining include professional development opportunities, networking, communications and news highlighting social work, access to professional liability insurance, job postings, research databases, and mentorship.	The College controls the title, <i>Registered Social Worker</i> , and <i>Registered Clinical Social Worker</i> . Persons describing themselves as social workers generally must register with the College, unless exempt from registration through the BC Social Workers Regulation. Social workers who register with the College benefit from professional accountability, work within specific legislation, and can receive practice consultations to guide professional practice.
Eligibility and Application	A social work degree recognized by the BCCSW or enrollment as a student in a recognized social work degree program is required. Individuals not eligible for professional membership can choose to affiliate with the BCASW. Applications and fees can be submitted online and memberships are renewed annually.	Applicants must submit an application package. Following approval of the application, applicants are authorized to write the ASWB Entry to Practice exam. After successful completion of the exam, applicants are awarded the title of Registered Social Worker (RSW). Registered Social Workers holding a master's degree in social work, and meeting the clinical application requirements, may apply through the College for Registered Clinical Social Worker (RCSW) designation.
Further Info	http://www.bcasw.org 604 730 9111 bcasw@bcasw.org	http://www.bccollegeofsocialworkers.ca 604 737 4916 info@bccsw.ca