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The Advocate • Summer 2012

The Advocate

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THE ADVOCATE EDITORIAL POLICY: The Advocate seeks to serve as a “meeting place” for Alberta social workers by publishing information about social work research, theory, practice, and education; professional affairs; social issues; the work of the College; books, journals, and other media of interest to social workers; continuing education and job opportunities; and the comings and goings of Alberta social workers. Members and the public are welcome to submit articles, stories, anecdotes, poems, thoughts and ideas. Letters to the editor, announcements, cartoons, artwork, and pictures are also welcome (suggested word counts: reports, letters, announcements — 400-900 words; articles — max. 1000 words). The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit submitted material. Please call the ACSW office for a copy of “Writing for the Advocate” before submitting material. Publication does not imply endorsement by the College.

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From our desk to yours

by Lori Sigurdson, MSW, RSW
ACSW Professional Affairs Coordinator

Social Policy Framework Update

We have updated data and added new research to the report published in 2010 by the Parkland Institute and ACSW. Changes, which focus on Alberta families’ quality of life, include updated statistics on inequality and indicators of increased pressures on families such as longer working hours, deficient support for social programs, lack of belonging to community, and shifting of taxes, fees, and other costs onto middle income families. The revised report is available at: acsw.ab.ca/news/social_workers_propose_new_social_policy_framework.

Our work is timely as it coincides with the Government of Alberta’s development of a social policy framework. Assistant Deputy Minister Shannon Marchand, Ministry of Human Services, spoke at our Saturday conference luncheon regarding this initiative. Diana Gibson of the Parkland Institute also presented updates on our framework.

Government of Alberta representatives asked for input on the development of their framework, and Edmonton’s Social Action Social Justice Committee submitted feedback on key elements. The submission is available here: acsw.ab.ca/social_workers/members_services_activities/member_interest_groups/social_action_social_justice_edmonton.

Our advocacy work in this area is ongoing.

Flourishing in Child Protection

We are working with Ministry of Children and Youth Services officials to implement research findings on high levels of stress experienced by front line protection workers, as well as high numbers of staff on medical leave, and low staff retention.

Val Kinjerski, PhD, RSW, of Kaizen Solutions for Human Services was contracted to complete the research, which was funded by an Alberta Employment and Immigration grant.

The project examined: What makes some social workers flourish while others struggle? How can social workers be supported to move from a place of struggling to one of thriving? Two key strategies were identified—reduce workplace stressors and increase social worker engagement.

The report and recommendations are available on our website at acsw.ab.ca/news_items/employee_well_being_key_to_job_satisfaction_and_commitment_for_government_social_workers.

Creativity workshop

Mary Peltier Martinello, supervisor, and Tanith Hodgkinson, assessor, both with the Edmonton Crisis Unit, practice their creative problem solving skills at a creativity workshop led by Advocate Editor Joan Marie Galat. The workshop was organized by the Alberta government Human Services, Enhancement Mediation Program.

Continued on page 4
Social Work Week in Alberta: 
Celebrating the Person and the Professional
March 4 – 10, 2012

Minister of Human Services Dave Hancock kicked off Social Work Week in Alberta by recognizing social workers in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. Those recognized are leaders in our profession in Alberta—particularly in the Human Services Ministry.

Minister Hancock’s Member Statement in Hansard reads:

“The work and influence of people who have chosen social work as a profession often goes unnoticed when it is done well because the public only sees the result of their efforts. With the help and guidance of these caring individuals, families are now able to support and nurture their children in safe environments, women have started new lives after being victims of family violence, or people heading down the wrong path have turned their lives around.

“I want to thank the social workers in our ministry who work with their teams to protect and support vulnerable Albertans. I know the work is challenging, but through my job as Minister I get to hear and see the enormous difference they make every day in the lives of individuals, children and families.”

As we do every year, ACSW published advertisements in weekly and daily newspapers across the province. In addition, we continued a practice we began last year, running radio advertisements identifying the work we do, specifically focused on our Social Policy Framework.

Social Work Week at the Alberta Legislature

Sitting: Lynn Labrecque King, Elizabeth Radian, Sheila and Ernie Schlesinger
Standing: Minister Hancock, Lori Sigurdson, Elaine Spencer

As we do every year, ACSW published advertisements in weekly and daily newspapers across the province. In addition, we continued a practice we began last year, running radio advertisements identifying the work we do, specifically focused on our Social Policy Framework.

Right: Social Work Week ad that ran in the Edmonton Sun, Calgary Sun, Canmore Leader, Cold Lake Sun, Edson Leader, Fort McMurray Today, Peace River Gazette, and the Wetaskiwin Times Advertiser

Social workers from the Human Services Ministry with Minister Hancock during Social Work Week

L to R: Laurie Lancaster, a family support for children with disabilities supervisor in Killam; Luisa Loria, Supervisor, Youth Services Unit, Red Deer District Office; Leigh Chisholm, caseworker, Rocky Mountain House District Office; Minister Hancock; Lisa Winnor, a child intervention caseworker in Edmonton; and Gail Appelgren, a child intervention supervisor in Edmonton

Social Workers Advocating for Social Justice

The Alberta College of Social Workers is committed to a social vision based on the principles of social justice and human rights. We believe all Albertans are entitled to equal opportunities to live in dignity in a society that is based on fairness, shared responsibility, and personal well-being.

Alberta is a rich province. Yet recent reports show that our inequality is growing. More Albertans are being pushed down the economic ladder, our middle class is shrinking and increasingly wealth is going to those at the very top of the income scale. We know that systems that are inherently biased create greater financial vulnerability, poorer health, political unrest and more political hardship for all Albertans.

We invite you to read our Social Policy Framework: Visioning a More Equitable and Just Alberta. It encourages creation of progressive policies that share Alberta’s prosperity fairly. Recommendations include strengthening public services, enhancing Albertans’ quality of life, investing in housing affordability and developing comprehensive taxation system.

Social Workers Make a Difference March 4 – 10 in Social Work Week in Alberta. You can find our Social Policy Framework and more at www.acsw.ab.ca.

The Alberta College of Social Workers regulates social work practice in Alberta. Its primary focus is to serve and protect the public interest by promoting skilled and ethical social work.

Social Work: Celebrating the Person and the Professional

www.acsw.ab.ca

From our desk to yours
continued from page 3
Proclamations of Social Work Week and gatherings of social workers were hosted by area coordinators throughout the province. Medicine Hat, Red Deer, Edson, Edmonton, and Fort McMurray held events ranging from meet and greets and an ethnic potluck to an expressive arts session.

Alberta Health Services (AHS) in Calgary and Edmonton hosted speakers covering a broad range of topics including *The Future of Social Work* by Dr. Jackie Sieppert, Dean, Faculty of Social Work, U of C; and *The Bio-Psycho-Social Treatment of Hoarding* by Dr. Al-Nuaimi. AHS also published a newsletter to highlight social workers.

In addition, Edmonton Children’s Issues Interest Group organized a Yoga Laughter lunch presentation. Evidenced by this photo, everyone enjoyed a lot of fun.

Members of the Children’s Issues Committee at the Laughter Yoga workshop


More photos from Social Work Week

Lina Filomena-Melchionna and James Venneear, Edmonton area coordinators

Workshop participant explaining the collage she made

Cake!

Workshop presenters Rick Guthrie and Lindsay Ames
Lac La Biche and Cold Lake celebrate Social Work Week
Submitted by Bonita Decaire, Janet Auger (CSW Instructor/Practicum Coordinator, Portage College), Lyla Allan (SW Instructor, Portage College) and Mike Dickinson

Social Work Week in Lac La Biche was celebrated with an interagency meeting where participants shared stories about their reasons for choosing the profession and discussed social work training, registration, and responsibilities.

Portage College students celebrated National Social Work Week: *The Person and the Professional* in a variety of ways, including:

- being interviewed by the *Lac La Biche Post* to share their experiences. The article appeared in the local paper and was published in *Town and Country*—an insert in the *Athabasca Advocate, Barrhead Leader,* and *Westlock News.*

- hosting an information sharing session about the profession with Academics for Career and Education (ACE) students

- creating information displays and posters portraying the theme and community based resources/services located in Lac La Biche and surrounding areas, as well as daily promotional draws for various products provided by the ACSW and the College.

- informing the local radio station—Big Dog, community events calendar about Social Work Week events.

- presenting on the social work profession to Cold Lake Off Campus School students.

- handing out scrolls celebrating Social Work Week to patrons entering Zellers.

- creating information displays for the Cold Lake Energy Centre, Cold Lake Native Friendship Centre, and the Centennial Centre (Bonnyville).

The students did a wonderful job promoting the CSW program as well as the social work profession. They were energetic, dynamic and very engaging in creating opportunities for the public to learn about this “noble” profession—as described by first year student, John Brockmeyer.

Activities that the Community Social Work year one students in Cold Lake have been or are currently involved in include the 911 Barbeque (MADD), SIDS walk, Dr. Margaret Savage Crisis Centre fundraiser, Relay for Life (Canadian Cancer Society), Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids, National Victim’s Awareness Week barbeque for Victim’s Services, and the Shoebox Program.
**An Unsheltered Evening:**
A unique Norquest College Social Work Program class project

To better understand and raise awareness of homelessness, students from NorQuest College’s Social Work with a Multicultural Focus Diploma program braved the elements, left their mobile devices and other comforts at home, and spent a night camped outside the college. Called *An Unsheltered Evening*, the event was held in conjunction with Social Work Week. It helped raise awareness for the Inner City Youth Housing Project which provides safe housing and supportive services for marginalized youth ages 14 to 17.

“Students participating in *An Unsheltered Evening* will spend a night outside, without creature comforts like mobile devices,” says NorQuest social work Instructor Robert Marvin. “Developing insight into conditions experienced by Edmonton’s homeless is another way our students will be workforce-ready upon graduation and better equipped to assist their clients.”

*An Unsheltered Evening* is a unique class project driven by NorQuest’s social work students, who came up with the concept. NorQuest’s Social Work with a Multicultural Focus Diploma program offers workforce-relevant education and training to prepare graduates for careers or further study in the field of social work.

“Social work supports individuals, families, groups and communities to overcome barriers to their individual and collective well-being,” says Lori Sigurdson, Professional Affairs Coordinator, Alberta College of Social Workers. “NorQuest’s social work students are to be commended for undertaking this project, which will enable them to better serve their clients.”

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**DEADLINE**
for the FALL 2012
*Advocate*

*is JULY 15, 2012*

Remember to keep current between *Advocate* editions with regular visits to [www.acsw.ab.ca](http://www.acsw.ab.ca), where you will find news updates, advocacy projects, social work resources, conference information, and much more.
President’s report

We have completed another successful conference and I want to particularly thank all staff and the conference committee for their hard work in planning and organizing, and all volunteers who assisted in the conference. Without the involvement of all of the ACSW staff and volunteers, our annual conference would not be a success. I look forward to our next conference in Calgary in 2013.

As part of the conference, we held our annual general meeting. This gave us an opportunity to highlight the business of ACSW and the accomplishments of staff and council. We also passed three resolutions pertaining to poverty issues, wage disparity issues, and the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW). Our awards ceremony was moved to another time period during the conference. Congratulations to all award winners and their nominators. (Please see our feature on the award winners on page 20.)

ACSW continues to be a strong contributing member of the Canadian Council of Social Work Regulators (CCSWR). Along with ACSW members, we participated in the Entry Level Competency Project. The first phase of this project is complete and CCSWR directors are looking at moving the project forward by developing mechanisms for measuring the competency levels of entry-level social workers across Canada. This will move us closer to meeting the requirements of professional mobility legislation in Canada. ACSW’s unique issue in this project is the mandatory registration of social workers with two-year diplomas.

As we move forward, I welcome three new council members: Linda Golding, Anne Marie McLaughlin, and Richard Shelson. All have served on council before. I also welcome returning council members Terry Wilson, treasurer, and Barbara MacPherson, secretary.

It’s a pleasure to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of departing council members Anna Malo, Kelly Stratford, and Derek Chewka. We have also had many members participate on regulatory and membership committees and I thank everyone who has given their time to this work. Participation on council and ACSW committees is essential to good operation of our organization.

I hope everyone has a good summer and gets some well deserved time off from their challenging social worker roles.
Looking ahead

Now that spring is here, bustling activity is everywhere, inside and outdoors. I hear a steady clamour as people tidy up their yards, hammer at things, prepare for the tasks to come, and look ahead to the new season. At the ACSW office, we’re looking forward as well. Just as the neighbourhoods are abuzz, we are also active—in conversation about our roles and how we can best serve the ACSW membership as we set new goals. This column is an opportunity to share perspectives, especially ideas we hear from you—our members. It’s a place to discover the goals we will work toward and the directions we hope to pursue together.

“How is it going in your new role?” is a question I’m often asked. I am enjoying the people, the work, and an impressive whirlwind of activity!

Since arriving six months ago, my time has been spent joining in to support fiftieth anniversary and holiday events; getting acquainted with staff and learning the details of each role in our organization; working with staff to complete a review of our operating structures; supporting staff projects; and attending events with students in college and university programs; as well as meeting with social workers in health and human services professions.

I have been attending meetings and consultations with partner organizations; meeting with council members; providing support to regulatory committee work; and participating in meetings with the Canadian Council of Social Work Regulators and the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB).

Taking part in ASWB board member training allowed me to attend sessions that focused on ensuring social work bodies understand and can carry out legislated responsibilities of the profession.

Completing projections and bringing forward the ACSW budget, now approved for 2012, heightened my appreciation for the complexity of our organization and the detailed work completed behind the scenes to regulate and provide support to the profession in our province.

Numerous professionals have worked hard to help build a recognized social work body in Alberta. The ACSW annual conference, which is Canada’s largest social work gathering, brought together members of our profession from around the province for inspiration, education, and networking.

Over the past months, I have listened to feedback and collected ideas, and will continue to ask questions.

Looking ahead, expect to see ACSW staff join our council’s efforts to look closely at membership engagement. We are committed to working on upcoming tasks together. I believe the intentions that inspire our conversations and commitments make us become and stay strong as a whole.

With recommendations in response to the recent member survey under review, I aim to continue to work at engaging with ACSW members and partner stakeholders so that we can all say we are proud to belong.

Lynn Labrecque King is the Executive Director & Registrar for ACSW. You can contact her at acswexd@acsw.ab.ca.
Let’s be friends

It is becoming more common these days to receive complaints where either one of the concerns or some of the evidence is coming from some type of electronic practice. We have known for many years that records include things like daytimers, but now we also have to consider what we put in e-mails and text messages, the contents of our Facebook pages and websites, and the content that others may post about us.

I’ve spent the past weekend at a conference where these issues were the focus, and while I thought I was fairly well informed, I was still surprised at the extent of the problems cropping up. For example, most social workers who have a social media site recognize the potential problems that might occur by “friending” clients, but what if one of your friends is friends with someone else who is a client or a friend of a client? Are your privacy settings high enough to prevent that level of sharing? Do you even know how to find out? (See facebook.com/help/privacy.) Technology is advancing so quickly that many of us simply don’t have a clue.

How about something even more basic like the telephone: recent research shows that people under the age of 30 are most likely to conduct their communications by text message. Suppose your young client texts you at 11:00 p.m. stating that she is feeling suicidal. Are you expected to be available 24 hours a day? What is your accountability if you don’t respond immediately and she kills herself?

While it would be difficult to anticipate all the potential problems, given the speed of change in the e-world, it may help to develop a policy for your agency and to share it with your clients. The policy can include things like when and how you are willing to communicate, a position on “friends,” information about privacy concerns with electronic communication, and other related matters. An example of such a policy can be found at:

inova.org/upload/docs/about-inova/Social%20Networking%20Policy.pdf

For more information check out the following web sites:
acsw.ab.ca/social_workers/practice_resources/standards_of_practice_1
ocswwssw.org/en/practice_notes.htm

Alison MacDonald is the Associate Registrar and Complaints Director for ACSW. She can be reached at acswreg@acsw.ab.ca.

The Health Sciences Association of Alberta represents more than 22,000 professional, technical, and support employees in Alberta’s health care system. We bargain for fair wages and decent working conditions for our members.

We also raise public awareness about the important role of allied health professionals including social workers.

www.hsaa.ca
Letter to the editor:

In response to “Workplace bullying or troubled supervision?”

Regarding the bullying discussion in previous editions of the Advocate [Alison MacDonald’s “Workplace bullying or troubled supervision?” in the Fall 2011 Advocate and the letter to the editor in the Spring 2012 issue], I appreciate the social worker’s situation because I too have been subjected to harassment inside the profession.

Upon entering my fourth year in social work, I struggled with my major paper and discussed this with my professor. I explained to her that since the theory of treatment was so complex I would need an extension to do a job I could be satisfied with. She informed me it didn’t matter because all I would get for the course was a C grade. This coupled with a placement where social workers were not welcome prompted me to contact my faculty adviser. It was decided I should take the optional courses for the social work degree and return the following year to complete my methods course and placement.

The next fall, a second instructor seemed to see me as being depressed—which I wasn’t. She offered to leave her door open to me should I need to talk. I finally graduated, but years later found out what both professors’ agendas really were. They believed being a person with a disability, I must also have psychological issues. It seems that part of both instructor’s training or maybe their own personal bias was to see people with disabilities as not suitable for the helping professions and actually in need of counseling to deal with their personal inadequacies—specifically in my case depression. Even though I turned in a paper for my methods course and was given an “A,” my final grade in the class was “C.” This made it certain I would never be able to carry on to graduate school.

But that wasn’t the end of the harassment. I was hired to work with geriatric patients at a hospital. Before this, I had worked at another hospital and received good performance evaluations! Yet the supervisor at this job denigrated the work I was doing with my clients at every turn. Because I was on probation, I could be let go without recourse, and was eventually fired.

It amazes me that a profession that holds social justice as part of its foundation could allow this to happen. Even today, when disability issues have become more high profile, I still find people who see me as a person with lesser value.

Name withheld upon request

Note from the Advocate Editorial Board

Have you experienced workplace bullying or troubled supervision? The Advocate may lead the next issue with this matter and invite your stories. All submissions must be signed; however, please discuss with us if you believe the content is such that you need to protect your identity.

Email or call Leslie MacKinnon at:
lesliem@acsw.ab.ca 780-421-1167
Spotlight on social workers in private practice in Alberta

Meet Anna Asgill-Winter

Anna Asgill-Winter, MSW, RSW, is a clinical social worker and certified Hakomi therapist working in the field of trauma. She uses a developmental model that blends attachment and trauma theories with body-focused interventions. Also a sessional instructor with the University of Calgary’s Social Work Faculty, she shares her love of clinical theory and practice with her students.

Jennifer Mansell: Can you speak about your path into private practice work?
I have been in part-time private practice for two years and am currently moving into private practice as a full-time venture. My path was slow and circuitous. When in the two-year Hakomi psychotherapy training program, I met many private practitioners and was intrigued by the flexibility and choice in their work. I was mentored by some amazing social workers who have been in private practice for many years. Their encouragement and reassurance helped support me as I got started.

What are the pros and cons of private practice work?
I love the freedom and am curious about the type of clients who decide my therapeutic approach and counselling style are the right match. It’s enjoyable to be able to work using clinical models that fit both my own style and the needs of the clients I work with. I’m able to develop lasting therapeutic alliances with clients which provide a strong context for the work.

Although it’s difficult, I am learning to manage the risk that is inevitable in private practice. I still sometimes find myself scared about the lack of financial security. Not having the camaraderie of colleagues in close physical proximity can be challenging, especially when I need to consult urgently.

What are your areas of specialty? How many clients do you typically see per week?
I am trained to do trauma work and have taken both level one and two of Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprogramming (EMDR) and level one of Sensorimotor Psychotherapy. A certified Hakomi therapist, I define myself as a body-focused psychotherapist and work mainly on an individual basis with adults who have experienced developmental and/or acute trauma. Clients include both men and women who have experienced some form of sexualized trauma.

I also work with other social workers and frontline service providers. Working with other professionals is amazing. I think we (social workers) can be challenging as clients, as we have more of an awareness of the interventions and what good therapy looks like. The depth and intensity of the work makes me feel honoured to support my peers.

While I typically book three to five appointments a day, this fluctuates. Right now I’m working three days per week but hope to work five as I move into full-time practice.
How do you incorporate social work values into work as a private practitioner?

The social work values and Hakomi principles blend well as ultimately they are about respecting the inherent dignity of clients. I try to be transparent about how I work, as well as support clients in defining clear goals and recognizing when they have met them. I’m committed to allocating a percentage of my schedule to subsidized counselling appointments. Accessibility is truly important to me.

What are some challenges you have faced in private practice and how have you managed them?

One of the major challenges is that I am unable to provide a “wrap-around” service for clients. Because I’m limited in this capacity, I refer more high-risk clients to the public or not for profit sector where they can access the support they need.

How do you deal with the common experiences of social workers in private practice, such as isolation or lack of support?

Through the years, I’ve developed some strong relationships with colleagues and created informal peer supervision with many of them. This seems to work. We either meet monthly or use phone consultation as needed. Creating this community of practitioners has really provided safety and a sense of connection for me. I do not feel isolated in my work. As well, over the past two years, my part-time private practice has been supplemented by my work with a large non-profit counselling agency, where support has been readily available.

How has being part of the ACSW Private Practice Registry or Clinical Registry benefited you?

The application for the Private Practice Registry was very involved. It made me think of business details that I may have previously overlooked. I feel more organized knowing that my peers have validated and approved my business plan. The Clinical Registry gives me more credibility when I speak to professionals outside of social work.

Would you recommend other social workers in private practice join these registries?

Yes, I know of many social workers in private practice who are not on either registry. If more were participants, perhaps we would be a stronger voice in the therapy community.

Do you see a need for more social workers in private practice to support and collaborate with each other?

Yes, because it would help us build stronger relationships, which would make it easier to offer supported referrals to other private practitioners, for clients who may not fit our mandate. Getting together more and organizing training to provide support in developing skills as clinicians and business owners would benefit social workers in private practice.

Though a registered social worker for eight years, this year was the first time I attended the annual ACSW conference. It was fantastic—a great opportunity to meet new people, hear what others are doing, and be inspired and challenged. Attending made me realize how large we are as an association and how necessary it is for all social workers to contribute.

For more information on Anna’s practice, email her at annawinter@shaw.ca, call 403-437-7557, or visit annasgillwinter.ca or hakomicalgary.ca.

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Are you looking to increase your knowledge and build skills about dementia?

The Dementia Care Training Centre (DCTC) offers a wide range of dynamic, interactive courses and workshops for health care professionals and care workers. Programs and workshops include:

- Dementia, Depression and Delirium: Understanding the Relationship, Recognize the Signs and Symptoms
- Practical Dementia Care
- Quality of Life at the End-of-Life: A Professional Framework

Call or visit our website 403-290-0110
www.AlzheimerCalgary.com

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Jennifer Mansell
Private Practice

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Call or visit our website 403-290-0110
www.AlzheimerCalgary.com
New RSWs
Membership as of May 10, 2012: 6,428

Nneka Chizoba Akata
Regine Alero
Saba Fawzi Amro
Lisa Deanne Andrews
Emmanuel Azuka Amigbagu
Mary Rose Olvina Asehan
Colleen Melinda Auqer
Linsay Barbier
Sheri Lynn Barnes
Sylvia Barnowski
Jessica Nyantakyiwa Bediako
Dawn Renee Beisel
Pamela Joanne Bell
Kelly Colleen Bennett
Claudia Faye Berland
Cheryl Candace Bird Townsend
Lindsay Adele Blatz
Megan Louise Boyd
Cheryl Lynn Joy Cairns
Kathy Lynn Cave
Ashley Louise Cavers
Gayle Marie Chase
Jennifer Robyn Clements
Suzanne Mary Crazy Boy
Stephanie Megan Dargis
Lindsay Paige Dartnell
Annie Elizabeth Davidson
Frederick Ian Denison
Debra Lynne Dohun
Sarah Audrey Dubreuil
Amanda Joyce Elford
Jennifer Tasha Enns
Breanne Nicole Evanisky
Victoria Eliza Fagan
Jennifer Mary Fast
Danielle Anne Fermin
Edwina Savia Fernandes
Gita Giroux
Alexandra Caroline Griesbach
Amanda Guindon
Rebecca Lynn Guthrie
Jennifer Lorraine Hack
Douglas James Harder
Michelle Anne Hendriks
Kassie Miranda Herman
Leanne Hill
Kayla Blair Jancsek
Merle Anne Just
Sally Ann Kahnapace
Evan Donald Kay
Helen Judith Kelly
Noorani Khaled
Mercy Nkrote Kigunda
Robert Lindsay Kushner
Meghan Elizabeth Lackenbauer
Lorraine Aileen LaRose
Kimberly Joan Lawrence
Jacob John LeRuyet
Jessica Anne Lloyd
Nicolette Henny Lubberding
Morgan Leigh MacLeod
Keltie Katherine Mastre
Carrie Anne McCaskill
Musi Madiatress Nahlela
Johann Elina Mitchell
Christine Sheila Molohon
Nicole Jean Mullen
Deirdre Jacqueline Nelson
Jennifer Nguyen
Stephanie Jane Okell
Kingsley Tochukwu Oriuwa
Emmanuel Salvador Pasion
Alexis Kalene Patience Petrie
Kristin Lynn-Ann Pitman
Jacelynn Dawn Plemel
Janna L. Plewes
Christina Marie Prasad
Thomas Kendall Rae
Valeria Andrea Raposo
Mary-Karen Reid
Priscilla Ann Ristau
Nathan Daniel Robbins
Lareesa Jacqueline Robertson
Nicole Ashley Robertson
Rocio Nathaly Rodriguez
Rachelle Louise Logan
Kelley Elizabeth Sallenbach
Anthony James Shimek
Kali Shire
Farrah Elena Smith
Tracey Kathleen Smith
Gail Patricia Spiller
Cassandra Lee St Peter
Jessica Rebecca Steeger
Megan Breanne Stevenson
Sarah Jane Stevenson
Danielle Renee Stone
Eric Robert Storey
Gurdeep Singh Tawana
Trista Kathleen Thomson
Natalie Joanne Trinh
Hayley Anne Walker
John Lloyd Walker
Elizabeth Marie-Louise Wolferstan
Jessica Kells Woodman
Esther Tsako Yirenkyi
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In Memoriam

Rose Salnikowski
1947 - 2012

Rose Salnikowski died February 11, 2012, at age 65 in Okotoks, after a short illness with cancer. She is survived by her second husband of 5 years, John, two children from her first marriage, and four grandchildren. Born in Poland, she immigrated with her family to Winnipeg in 1955 at age 9 and later moved to Alberta with her first husband and children.

Rose received an MSW from University of Calgary. Her Master’s thesis explored the experience of being a therapist and the adult child of an alcoholic. Rose did a practicum at Calgary Family Services and is remembered for her exceptional work there. She enterprisingly always took a spring/summer class in another country so that she could have travelling counted as credits! She did hospital social work and private practice. She worked at the Salvation Army Children’s Village, Early Childhood Education Program for a number of years. As well as bringing clinical talents to her clients and colleagues, Rose also shared her creative talents by face painting, and making and decorating gingerbread houses and Easter eggs with both staff and children. Rose was a dedicated social worker who retired early due to a long struggle with environmental sensitivities. She built an environmentally friendly house in Okotoks where she enjoyed her garden and her many creative hobbies including crocheting, quilting and recently watercolors.

Rose was an avid outdoorswoman, hiking and cross country skiing both alone and with friends. Rose loved to travel simply and for lengthy periods, preferring to stay in hostels, and once in a tree house! She was always open to adventure. She took many trips to Central America, usually travelling solo. In recent years, she explored her roots in Poland and hiked to Everest Base Camp while visiting her brother in Thailand. As her grandchildren reached about age 12, she took each one individually on a trip. Rose took stunning photographs of her travels, which she shared with friends. She submitted an exceptional photo she had taken while on a trip to Mexico with her husband John to a WestJet photo contest.

Rose will be remembered for her many talents, kind and generous nature and wonderful sense of humour.

Submitted by her 5 social work colleagues from the Salvation Army Children’s Village:
Patricia Cowen, June Churchill, Janet Coglich, Sue Harris and Alixe Ryane.
Book review:

**Social Work in Africa**

*Social Work in Africa: Exploring Culturally Relevant Education and Practice in Ghana*

by Linda Kreitzer


*SociaWork in Africa: Exploring Culturally Relevant Education and Practice in Ghana* looks at practical ways to change social work curricula to make it more relevant to the African, and in particular, the Ghanaian setting. It is written by Linda Kreitzer, MSW, PhD, RSW, Associate Professor for the University of Calgary Faculty of Social Work, Central and Northern Alberta Region. She draws upon her experience as a social work instructor in Ghana and uses field research from her master’s and doctoral theses.

Published by the University of Calgary Press, Kreitzer’s book provides a backdrop to the historical factors that have influenced the rise of social work in Africa. It challenges African social workers, practitioners, and academics to critically examine their curricula and continually evaluate teaching practices.

“Social work history in Canada, like Africa, tends to reflect a Eurocentric perspective and Aboriginal social work curriculum should reflect Aboriginal history of social caring and social issues,” says Kreitzer, who advocates for a critical examination of how appropriate African cultural traditions can be blended more into the social work courses presently taught. She examines increased teaching on African social work history, African philosophy, and traditional cultural ways that meet the needs of vulnerable people.

You can find *Social Work in Africa: Exploring Culturally Relevant Education and Practice in Ghana* through the University of Calgary Press at [uofcpress.com](http://uofcpress.com) and any major online or bookstore outlets.

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Eldon Duchscher is the Director of Communications for the University of Calgary Faculty of Social Work.
Diploma Dialogue
Elaine Spencer, MSW, RSW
Chair, Red Deer College Social Work Program

Developing the whole professional at Red Deer College

Can you guess what these positions have in common? Family school liaison worker, community addictions supervisor, child welfare caseworker, AIDS Network advocate, Red Deer College Social Work Diploma Program incoming chair, and executive directors at Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Alberta College of Social Workers. Recent history has seen a Red Deer College (RDC) graduate hold each of these jobs. And as our late program founder, Don Snow, used to say, “once an RDC grad, always an RDC grad!”

Graduating students since 1969, we continue to focus on developing the whole professional, in strong partnership with humanities and social science instructors. Currently more than 100 learners strong, our two-year program has been extremely over-subscribed in recent years. Applicants are considered on a “first qualified, first accepted” approach. Registrants must submit a personal profile and three references as well as undergo an interview with a faculty member. They are also required to complete 100 or more volunteer hours or demonstrate previous social work employment.

Students report many highlights in their learning, often citing the importance of being able to integrate their studies into real life situations through two full-year social work field placements, agency research in the Social Issues, Social Problems course, and face-to-face interviews in methods courses. They also value experiential learning in groups, the fundamentals of ethical practice, and opportunities to explore the challenging concepts of oppression, colonialism, and racism.

A recent Red Deer College graduate noted that the program led her from initially feeling “kind of unsure of what social work really is” to feeling ethically informed and “solidly ready” to practice.

Skills that support social work
A student survey completed in spring 2011 revealed learners often place great emphasis on options, as well as required courses beyond core social work content. English, communications, developmental psychology, and other sessions are essential in enabling students to broaden their knowledge, think critically, and develop the writing skills so vital to social work practice.

Continued on page 19
Diploma Dialogue

Continued from page 17

Around the province

The Alberta Association of Social Work Diploma Programs (AASWDP)

College Social Work Educators Coming to the Rockies!

The Association of College Educators in Social Service and Social Work Diploma Programs in Canada—Association des enseignant-e-s des collèges en techniques de travail et de service social du Canada (ACCESS) is holding the ninth annual national conference in Canmore in June. Alberta’s social work diploma programs are hosting this year’s event under the theme Sustainability and Social Work. Peter Vogels, PhD, and Margaret Waterchief, Treaty 7 are keynote speakers.

Grant MacEwan University, Social Work Program

by Alan Knowles, PhD, Chair

In recognition of its fortieth anniversary, the MacEwan University Diploma Program was pleased to co-host the reception at the recent 2012 ACSW Conference in Edmonton.

This year, 12 second-year social work students participated in a two week study tour to Ireland, in partnership with students from our Bachelor of Child and Youth Care program. Led by Assistant Professor Kathaleen Quinn, the study tour included participation in joint classes with social care students in Ireland, agency visits in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, and learning about Ireland’s social, political and cultural history.

Two faculty members received recognition during the winter term. Dr. Peter Vogels received a leadership award from the Chair Academy for his leadership in chairing the MacEwan University Visioning Committee. David Hannis was granted professor emeritus status.
Five ways to enhance your writing

1. Think about who your audience is before you start writing. Ask, will this person understand my context? Am I assuming too much? Is this interesting?

2. Consider whether you can make your sentences more meaningful by choosing specific over vague words. Compare the difference in these two sentences: “The man went to the event, where he met a nice lady,” versus “The social worker attended the conference, where he met the woman he would one day marry.”

3. Write a call for action. If you are aiming to achieve something beyond awareness, make a specific request rather than just delivering information. Replace, “It’s important to be an organ donor” with “Make sure your loved ones know you wish to be an organ donor.”


5. Streamline sentence length by using possessive wording instead of explanatory phrases. Choose “The results of the test indicate a passing grade,” rather than “the test results indicate a passing grade.”

For occasional writing tips “Like” MoonDot Media on Facebook: tinyurl.com/6qrexa

Diploma Dialogue

Continued from page 17

Poor written communication skills can undermine social workers’ effectiveness and credibility. Certainly, writing skills are necessary for continued academic success. I have listened to educators from other institutions ponder what can be done to improve social work students’ writing skills and heard concerns that students in general are not writing well.

Two English courses are required to obtain our social work diploma. “There is a heavy grammar component and lots of work practicing the elements of argumentative essays—creating a thesis, learning how to use quotations, supporting one’s argument, and putting one’s work in the context of a larger conversation,” says Dr. Heather Marcovitch, incoming English head.

English 220 includes a research component that teaches how to use a library database and integrate sources. Students learn how to synthesize secondary sources with observations from their work and are taught methods for citing texts and formatting papers.

While not all students will fully embrace James Michener’s words, “I love writing. I love the swirl and swing of words as they tangle with human emotions”—we hope graduates are stronger, clearer, and more able writers than when they began their social work journey at Red Deer College.

Along with classroom and field learning, community events and college activities expose students to different facets of life and the profession. This term, one group assisted families with seriously ill children by organizing meals at the newly opened Central Alberta Ronald MacDonald House. Students also arranged an appreciation dinner for our field supervisors.

We hope these encounters encourage students to seek exciting and meaningful job experiences like the liaison worker, addictions supervisor, caseworker, and other RDC graduates described above, as well as further their social work education.
Presenting our Award winners

The ACSW Awards recognize those who have exhibited exemplary skills and commitment to the ACSW Code of Ethics and mission while providing direct client service. Awards were presented at the annual conference to recipients from a variety of practice settings. Here is a closer look at the award winners.

L to R: Bob Johnson, ACSW President; Lynn Labrecque King, ACSW Executive Director & Registrar; Brenda Brochu, John Hutton Memorial Award winner; ACSW Council member Timothy Wild, Excellence in Social Work Practice winners Colleen Elizabeth Clark and Sandy Lyon; Judith Mason; and Joe Ceci, John Hutton Memorial Award winner. Missing from photo: ACSW Honorary Member winner Kristjanna Grimmelt.
Brenda Brochu, BA, BEd, RSW
John Hutton Memorial Award

What led you to enter social work?
A personal experience with domestic violence.

Please briefly describe your journey from graduation to present.
Before becoming a social worker, I was a journalist and school teacher. I was grandfathered into ACSW in 2000 while working as the executive director of the Peace River Regional Women’s Shelter.

Please share a short anecdote.
I escorted a former shelter resident the first day she was permitted to leave Alberta Hospital. I had previously gone to court and had her apprehended under the Mental Health Act. The transformation was amazing! I had her with me for 11 hours and she was able to maintain her focus the entire time. She did not hallucinate or get into any scraps with service people!

What is your fondest social worker achievement?
I’m very proud of being instrumental in bringing a transit service to Peace River.

What are some things you’ve been surprised to learn during your career?
The resiliency of some people who have experienced multiple traumas.

How does receiving the award impact you?
It reinforces my beliefs that advocacy is an honorable endeavor and social justice is worth striving for.

What advice do you have for those just entering social work?
Listen with your whole heart to the vulnerable people who turn to you for help. Work with them in trying to figure out what they need, and be tenacious in trying to help them get it!

Joe Ceci, MSW, RSW
John Hutton Memorial Award

What led you to enter the field of social work?
An interest in psychology and helping others.

Please briefly describe your journey from graduation to present.
1976-1980: BSW, University of Western Ontario, King’s College
1980-1995: Parenting Group Co-Leader, City of Calgary; Family Worker at Cambry Counselling; MSW, University of Calgary; Youth Counsellor, Inter-Faith Youth Services; Community Developer, City of Calgary
1995-2010: Alderman, Ward 9, City of Calgary
2011-present: Social Policy Consultant on multi-city initiative—Action to End Poverty in Alberta

Please share a short anecdote.
My first position in Calgary was as a parenting group co-facilitator. I was 23 years old, single, and childless. The Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP) literature became my bible. If it wasn’t in the behavioral management course material, we improvised. I likely learned more than I taught group members.

What is your fondest social worker achievement?
The life successes achieved by many of the participants in the single moms’ workshops I helped organize.

What are some things you’ve been surprised to learn during your career?
Failure can be helpful. Connect constantly. Always attribute good intentions to other’s actions even when what they do is a problem.

How does receiving the award impact you?
It reminds me to take risks.

Continued on page 22
Award winners
Continued from page 21

What advice do you have for those just entering social work?
Make a ruckus, make waves, be public in your views about social justice issues, seek elected office, help others seek office. Address root causes.

Kristjanna Grimmelt, BA, MFA
Honorary Membership

What led you to your involvement in social justice issues?
Work as a journalist opened my eyes to a range of environmental and social issues in Northern Alberta.

Briefly describe your educational and career background.
I earned a Bachelor of Arts Honours at York University’s bilingual Glendon College and a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia. My thesis was a collection of short stories set in northern Alberta. I was editor of the Peace River Record-Gazette prior to becoming regional manager of communications for Northwest Alberta Child and Family Services in 2011.

Please share a short anecdote.
Once, a classmate challenged an environmental stance I held on the risks of nuclear power. I felt defensive then; now I feel she taught me that what is just is not always easy.

What has surprised you during your interactions to achieve social change?
In Grande Prairie, I recently led a group advocating against closure of a 30-year-old aquatic centre. This success taught me people do listen when you speak out as a citizen.

How does receiving the award impact you?
I was thrilled that my mom, Alix McLauchlan, nominated me. She is an incredible social worker and my role model.

What advice do you have for people who want to advocate for social change?
I encourage people to listen to their intuition. Be respectful and listen to others, no matter their stance.

Colleen Elizabeth Clark, MSW, RSW,
Clinical Social Worker
Excellence in Social Work Practice

What led you to enter the field of social work?
In grade eight I knew that I wanted to be a social worker. This was affirmed when I worked as a teacher’s aide.

Briefly describe your journey.
I completed all of my education in Calgary. At Mount Royal, I received a diploma and the Louise McKinney Scholarship. I got my BSW and MSW, with a specialization in clinical practice, from the University of Calgary in 1994.

My career has been so rewarding, with an amazing scope of practice that includes child welfare, private practice, manager, director of programs and services, clinical supervisor, sessional instructor at the University of Calgary, trauma therapist, field instructor, and even working in Hawaii. My scope of practice has included adoption, trauma, death, dying, sexual abuse, and other areas. I currently work with the RCMP and military at the CareWest Operational Stress Injury Clinic as a trauma therapist. It’s incredible work!

Please share a short anecdote.
One day I was sitting in with a 15-year-old (it was our first session), when a mouse ran across the floor! We both jumped around the room squealing...talk about “the engagement phase.” Every day of my practice has been such a day—being with someone dying, reuniting a birth family after
Listen with your whole heart to the vulnerable people who turn to you for help. Work with them in trying to figure out what they need, and be tenacious in trying to help them get it! — Brenda Brochu

50 years; hearing that a child I apprehended 20 years ago remembers me and the difference that made in her life. Seeing the hope in someone’s eyes for the first time.

What is your fondest achievement as a social worker?
Knowing that I have made a difference; that I have advocated for change and social justice.

What are some things you have been surprised to learn during your career?
The critical importance of self-care and reflection. Social work has been so rich to my personal life, development, and growth as a human being.

How does receiving the award impact you?
It is an amazing honour. I am humbled and so impacted by the students who nominated me.

What advice do you have for those just entering social work?
Follow your calling with determination. Speak and be your truth for change. Come with presence and compassion for all you do and serve. The rewards will be unparalleled.

Sandy Lyon, BAHSA, Dip SW, RSW
Excellence in Social Work Practice

What led you to enter social work?
I am naturally drawn to people and found a real interest in understanding and helping others.

Please briefly describe your journey from graduation to present.
I graduated with a diploma in social work from Humber College in Ontario and received an award for the highest academic standing. Twenty years forward, I was grandfathered into the profession and later went back to school graduating with distinction with a degree in human service administration. As a senior consultant, I now support clinician engagement as a normal part of business in Alberta Health Services.

Please share a short anecdote.
My first week in a hospital setting, a patient asked to me to pour some water and I reached for the urinal!

What is your fondest social work achievement?
I opened the first group home in Edmonton for children with mental illness, wrote a series of books on anger management, and trained hundreds of staff to advance their skills.

What are some things you have been surprised to learn during your career?
The greatest gift is turning challenges into opportunities.

How does receiving the award impact you?
To be recognized by my peers is the highest honour and validation of the passion I feel for social work.

What advice do you have for those just entering social work?
Without compassion, caring, and a high standard of excellence, your grades will only be numbers on a page.
Over 1100 social workers attended the conference this year. Our keynote, Dr. Brené Brown, was extremely well received with 99% of those who completed evaluations rating her as good to excellent. Other highlights from the evaluations are as follows:

- 97% rated the online registration as good to excellent
- 91% rated the Social Policy Framework Luncheon presentation as good to excellent
- 92% rated the number of workshop options as good to excellent
- 92% rated the quality of presenters as good to excellent

Many thanks to the conference co-chairs, Louise Guenther and David Flomo, as well as the entire planning committee. Their significant contributions helped to make this year’s conference one of our best.

See you next year at the 2013 Conference!

— Lori Sigurdson, ACSW Professional Affairs Coordinator
Conference Highlights

Social workers attended the ACSW annual conference to refresh and become inspired, build skills, and share ideas with like-minded peers. Conference feedback from the 123 participants who provided overall evaluations reveals 83 percent of attendees find the event enhances their practice. While the debate on whether or not participants are willing to pay a higher registration fee to include a luncheon sits at a 50-50 split, other feedback was more indicative of both overall satisfaction and suggestions for improvement.

Volunteers and staff

Volunteers Theresa Pelletier and Holly MacKesy

Volunteers Natasha Holmkvist and Lacey Peters

More of our tireless volunteers: L to R: Maria Lyrintzis, Adiza Penddah, Brenda St. Germain, Jade Ho, Val Courchene, and Danielle Tabler

Leslie MacKinnon, ACSW Membership and Advocacy Coordinator

Anna Malo, ACSW Council Secretary, with ACSW staff, Kim Chiles and Jane Berry

Lori Sigurdson, ACSW Professional Affairs Coordinator

Ilona Cardinal, ACSW Promotions Coordinator, and Jennifer Catt, Competency Secretary

Monica Vasconez, ACSW Registration Secretary
Vendors

AUPE, Conference sponsor

City of Edmonton, Conference sponsor

Work of Your Hand display

iHuman display

Home Instead Senior Care

Creative Learning Solutions

Did you know?

ACSW subsidized Saturday’s box lunches. Purchasers paid $10 and the ACSW paid an additional $6.50 for each lunch.

The low cost “no frills” conference format was appreciated by 78% of participants who filled out surveys.

Social workers with more than 10 years experience made up 48% of conference participants.
Keynote speech and AGM

Audience for Keynote Speaker, Brené Brown (inset)

ACSW Council President Bob Johnson and Council member Derek Chewka

Lori Sigurdson, ACSW Professional Affairs Coordinator

Voting at the AGM
Celebrating the Person and the Professional

Five social work students from across Alberta received a one hundred dollar TD Meloche Monnex student scholarship to help finance their attendance at the ACSW annual conference. Each year, applicants living outside the conference hosting city may apply.

Valerie Walton, BSW, RSW
University of Calgary

The 2012 Alberta College of Social Workers conference, *Celebrating the Person and the Professional*, fully lived up to its billing—celebrating all aspects that make social work a fantastic profession to be a part of. This was my first time attending the conference and it wouldn’t have been possible without the generous funding made available through the TD Meloche Monnex Student Scholarship. I have just completed the final semester in my BSW, and as a poor student, the generosity of the scholarship made this experience an excellent capstone to my degree.

I think the theme was especially apt for students at the conference. After returning to university to work on my degree, I have sometimes felt disconnected from the world of professional social work. While it is wonderful to be surrounded by engaging theory and other eager students, the university can be somewhat insular and local social work issues can feel far removed.

Being able to attend the conference and spend time amongst hundreds of committed social workers reconnects us to the social work community and serves as a reminder that we are part of something larger. It offered both professional development opportunities through wonderful workshops, but also opportunities for personal development and connections.

I think this aspect of the conference, the melding of personal and professional goals, echoes the keynote address from the fabulous Dr. Brené Brown. By coming together for these development opportunities, we acknowledge that we are always learning and never fully expert. This admission makes us vulnerable amongst our peers. In a world where worthiness is measured by perfection, admitting you have room to grow is akin to exposing weakness. However, Brown’s work challenges us, personally and professionally, to lean into that discomfort and refuse to be ashamed. By practicing in this way, we will improve ourselves, our profession, and (if I may be so optimistic) the world.

Samantha Leonard, ACSW Student Member
Mount Royal University

As a first-year student in the social work program at Mount Royal University, attending the ACSW Annual Conference was an opportunity for me to meet and connect with a wide range of inspirational professionals in the field. Being a first-year student, this was also an opportunity to step outside traditional classroom learning and benefit from hearing experts speak on topics such as integrating sexual health and mindfulness into practice. I had the privilege of meeting Dr. Brené Brown, and attending her innovative seminar on shame and vulnerability!

Lindsay Evans, ACSW Student Member
University of Calgary

I was glad to attend this year's ACSW conference in Edmonton. I was especially excited about the keynote speaker, Brené Brown. I was introduced to her research about a year and a half ago, and was pleased that ACSW invited her to the conference. Her research focuses on shame, vulnerability, authenticity, courage and what she calls “wholeheartedness.” Her research is extremely relevant to social work practice, and her workshop was full of concepts and ideas that I think most people can relate to.

She states in her book, *The Gifts of Imperfection*, “Authenticity is a collection of choices that we have to make every day. It's about the choice to show up and be real. The choice to be honest. The choice to let our true selves be seen.” (p. 49). This is easier said than done, but for me it was a great reminder of the impact that practicing authenticity can have on my social work practice, as well as in my daily life.

I feel that attending the conference and listening to the different speakers was a great opportunity and a great way to connect with other social workers here in Alberta. I was grateful to be able to attend thanks to being a recipient of the TD Meloche Monnex conference scholarship. ■
Workshops

Mark Nicoll, Kay Feehan, and Lea Nicoll Kramer

Rapid Fire Theatre improvisational group performing

Celebrate Your Life With Yoga

Diana Gibson and Lori Sigurdson

Dennis Whitford, presenter of The Case for Aboriginal Technology

Judy Atkinson, presenter at Healthy Vibrations: The Healing Power of the Drum

Hakomi Therapy: Mindful Exploration of the Self’s Organization
2012 Conference
Continued from page 29

The University of Alberta Faculty of Social Work, one of our conference sponsors

The pictures of the ACSW convention (front cover, awards, and this feature) were taken by Anton Quon—someone with a passion for capturing events and people in their moment and showing them at their best.

You are invited to browse his website to learn more about what services he offers.

Please visit www.nshorizons.com

We all can use more fun at work!

Attendee feedback

Most common compliment:
“Brené Brown is a dynamic speaker that inspires social workers.”

Most common complaints:
“Sound quality in the workshop salons is not good and the Edmonton Shaw Conference Centre has too many stairs.”

A selection of comments
“I did not fully understand the ACSW’s current work in policy development prior to the conference. I am very happy with the direction of advocacy with the ACSW.”

“Parkland Institute presentation put Alberta’s situation in a province-in-environment perspective—very helpful.”

“Was missing the Aboriginal component to opening ceremony/recognition of traditional lands and Aboriginal component of social work.”

“Banquet does not contribute to learning. Important to keep conference costs as low as possible.”

“I always learn new things and meet new people!”

“It would be helpful to know which workshops would be most suited for advanced, experienced social workers. I am sitting here filling in this form in a workshop that seems to be for beginners. As a social worker with 20-plus years experience this is frustrating.”

“We miss tremendous networking opportunity since we went to this ‘no frills’ format.”

“I would rather pay more to have snacks and beverages available in individual rooms on breaks.”

“As a professional organization it’s embarrassing we are so cheap.”

“I believe social workers from all levels could learn something at each of the workshops I attended!”

“I appreciate Shaw’s green/sustainability initiatives. I am so glad they did not have bottled water available at breaks! Tap water is a much better alternative. Thanks!”

“The extras appear to have provided the extra time and opportunity for networking in the past. The networking opportunities are just not there—we need them.”
MacEwan University

Celebrating 40 years of social work graduates!

MacEwan.ca/SocialWork
Like many social work jobs, the role of associate pastor requires an individual who can demonstrate a wide range of skills—compassion for those who struggle, creativity to help solve problems, and leadership to encourage new direction. An individual in both roles may spend time providing counselling, encouraging collaboration, and establishing partnerships. Each position is guided by strong values.

Nancy Allen, SW dip, RSW, has spent the last 10 years at the West Edmonton Christian Assembly (WECA). After three years part-time, she took on the full-time position of associate pastor in this congregation of about 2000 people. Hired because she was a social worker, Allen did not anticipate a ministerial career.

“It’s not common to be a social worker and a pastor. I can only think of one other in this position,” says Allen. “It’s a good fit for me because the work is so interesting. Now that I’m in it, I think every pastor should take some social work courses.”

She describes an incident where a suicidal woman came in during an interagency meeting at the church. “My social work skills helped me be able to de-escalate her. It confirmed my decision to come on staff was the right one. My purpose is important in the church. The others may not have known what to do.”

Allen’s day begins with checking voice mail and answering crisis calls. This may lead to conducting an initial assessment and referring callers to counselling.
services specific to their needs. She is responsible for recovery programs, support groups, and the Rainbow program, which helps young people cope with separation, divorce, and other types of grief or loss. Allen serves on a number of community committees, including the West Edmonton Interagency Group and the West-end Interagency Coalition on Poverty. They work together to address joint concerns and fill gaps in charitable community service. One project has involved organizing church members to work with the West-end Interagency Coalition on Poverty on behalf of the Jasper Place Health and Wellness Centre. The centre provides a non-judgmental atmosphere where homeless people and others in need can obtain food, showers, clothing, Internet access, and résumé building assistance, as well as emotional, spiritual, and other supports.

“I was able to help the church better understand homelessness and poverty,” says Allen. “Out of that grew a group that offers lunch every Tuesday at the Jasper Place Health and Wellness Centre.”

Allen also works with WECA members to build a prison ministry called No More Leftovers. They offer support to inmates at the Edmonton Institution for Women and have plans to expand to the men’s prison.

“We want to help restore their dignity. Our slogan is ‘treat all with dignity, no matter what the circumstance,’” says Allen. “We started the No More Leftovers program, which gives each new inmate a package of personal care products, such as shampoo, conditioner, dental floss, and other items. These items are in short supply or nonexistent in prisons.”

Allen also organizes volunteers to offer support to paroled women so they can stay free. Volunteers are trained to escort inmates to church, go with them to a hearing, and take them to visit their children. “Apparently after five years, visitors to prisons drop off. We mentor to provide personal support and offer encouragement with where they’re at in their faith—to help keep them strong. Having someone who supports them can make a tremendous difference.”

As part of her involvement with church related activities, Allen runs prayer and care ministries. She arranges or goes on hospital or home visits and may assist in service planning for funerals. “I like it because it is an honour to be invited to that depth of sorrow. I pray with people a lot.”

At times, she runs support groups for sexually abused women, a grief course, and a recovery program called Celebrate Recovery—a faith-based program for people with addictions. “As we grow, we may have groups for individual types of addiction.”

Allen says the variety of work required for her role has involved “a huge learning curve” and notes “I really like the one-on-one with people. It feels good to be able to get someone who’s really stuck back on track and give them hope. I like the community work—connecting community with the church.”

“This work is challenging,” says Allen. “A lot is because I’m alone. We’re so big—the church and community we reach out to—and the need is so large. The church is 100% supportive of what I do but there are not enough bodies to do the work or enough hours in the day.”

One way Allen tackles the need for services is by establishing partnerships with other social workers involved in programs such as HALO for high-risk youth or the Neighborhood Empowerment Team (NET), which works to reduce and prevent crime. Allen also reaches out through public speaking. She addresses women’s groups on prayer, sexual abuse, and healing from past hurts.

Allen brought abundant experience to WECA. She previously worked for a private counselling agency called Creating Solutions, beginning as a youth worker and later becoming a family intervention worker. She provided direct community-based services to families with Alberta Government Child Welfare status, supervised the youth program, oversaw human resources, and served as an intake worker. In addition, Allen worked as an outreach worker at a seniors outreach center, providing direct community-based services to isolated seniors.
A day in the life
Continued from page 33

"...I think every pastor should take some social work courses." - I think every pastor should take some social work courses.

A day in the life
Continued from page 33

"...I think every pastor should take some social work courses." - I think every pastor should take some social work courses.

Caregiver Toolkit
An Online Toolkit to Facilitate Support for Caregivers of Seniors

The Caregiver Toolkit contains two resources: The Service Providers’ Resource Guide (SPRG) & The Caregiver Policy Lens (CGPL). Both of these resources are user-friendly and designed to raise awareness, and provide information about, issues faced by caregivers of older adults.

The Service Providers’ Resource Guide provides evidence-informed information and tools about caregiver assessment and interventions, and resources and suggestions to address issues in case management.

The Caregiver Policy Lens is an evidence-informed principle-based framework for reviewing and developing policies, programs and practices that affect caregivers, from the perspective of caregivers and in order to avoid any unintended negative effects on caregivers. It can be used at any stage of development, implementation or evaluation.

The CGPL is designed as a series of 11 categories of questions, organized as a checklist. Questions are designed to be answered with a yes/no/don’t know/need more information. Responses are then scored and developed into an action plan.

These resources are designed to be used by a diversity of front line workers, program managers, policy analysts, administrators, health educators, advocates, and anyone interested in strengthening caregiver resiliency through service provision to address caregiver needs across Canada.

Using the Caregiver Toolkit can help build a shared community of practice without adding to workload or resource issues. In turn, including caregivers’ needs strengthens their resiliency and the sustainability of systems that support them.

These, and other resources designed to help support caregivers, can be accessed at:

caregivertoolkit.ca

No More Leftovers
“Treating all with dignity no matter what the circumstance” Matthew 25:35-36

No More Leftovers serves the women at the Edmonton Institution for Women in West End Edmonton. This project provides each new inmate with a care package consisting of care products, a New Testament, and an inspirational book.

You can support by donating approved items (see the website for details), by giving cash donations, or becoming a volunteer with No More Leftovers.

For more information on this and other WECA programs, or how to become a volunteer for No More Leftovers, please visit weca.com.
For your information

PLEASE NOTE: For more listings, please see “Calendar of Events” at: www.acsw.ab.ca/calendar_of_events

Alberta Health Services
Protection of Children Abusing Drugs (PChAD)
If your team/group would like to learn more about PChAD or for a presentation at your site, please contact:

Donita Armstrong (780) 422-2850 or
Sharon Roberts (780) 644-2998

SAVE THE DATE
June 18-19, 2012
Sheraton Hotel (formerly the Capri), Red Deer, AB

Overview: 1 ½ days of category “A” professional development workshops & networking. Special presentation on “hoarding” from 6:30 - 8:00 PM on June 18. Registration Costs: $75.00 or $30.00 for students, refreshment breaks and luncheon included.

For more information:
Evelyn Konshuh enkonshuh@gmail.com
Bob Palichuk bobpalbobpal@gmail.com
Brenda Joyce brenda.joyce@rdc.ab.ca
Elizabeth Radian elizabeth.radian@rdc.ab.ca

Canadian Association on Gerontology
41st Annual Scientific and Educational Meeting
Aging in a Changing World
October 18 - 20, 2012
Hyatt Regency, Vancouver, BC

The CAG Annual Scientific and Educational Meeting is the primary multi-disciplinary conference in Canada for those interested in individual and population aging. It features world renowned keynote speakers from the health and social sciences, cutting-edge symposia, opportunities to present papers and posters, and an exciting social program. We also invite participation in our exhibit hall and sponsorship opportunities.

For more information, visit: cagacg.ca

Home Ownership For Calgarians
PEAK Home Ownership assists hard working Calgarians who need a “hand-up” to achieve home ownership.

For more information please visit www.peakcalgary.ca
403-253-9393  email: peak@habitatsouthernab.ca

2012 Alberta FASD Conference: Creating Connections, Building Relationships, Growing Communities
October 22-23, 2012, Delta Edmonton South Hotel and Conference Centre Edmonton AB

This year’s multidisciplinary conference on FASD will have a special focus on creating connections, building relationships, and growing communities. Three keynote speakers—Dr. Patch Adams, Dr. Samantha Nutt, and Dr. Michael Ungar—will each bring a unique perspective on how we can work better together at a family, community and global level to help those in need.

For more information: Amanda Amyotte at Alberta Human Services: Amanda.Amyotte@gov.ab.ca or 780-422-6494 fasd-cmc.alberta.ca.

Continued on page 36
Health & Wellbeing in Children, Youth and Adults
With Developmental Disabilities
Challenging Behaviour—The Tip of the Iceberg
November 15-17, 2012, Vancouver, BC

Conference objectives:
• To promote best practices in physical and mental health for individuals with developmental disabilities
• Recognize the multifactorial determinants of challenging behaviour
• Recognize the role of traumatic experiences in understanding challenging behaviour
• Maximize health and wellbeing in order to minimize disability and improve quality of life
• Share knowledge and common experiences with others working in the field.

For further information please visit interprofessional.ubc.ca or contact us at ian.ipce@ubc.ca or 604-827-3112.
DIABETES, OBTUSITY, & HEART DISEASE

Instructors: Beverly White, Ph.D., R.D. (Sept. 27 & 28)
Laura Pawlak, Ph.D., M.S. (Oct. 17 & 18)

6 HOURS CREDIT (Social Workers)

PROGRAM / LECTURE

Conference registration is from 7:45 AM to 8:15 AM. The conference will begin at 8:30 AM. A lunch break (on your own) will take place from approximately 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. The course will adjourn at 3:30 PM, at which time course completion certificates are distributed.

- A Deadly Trio: Cardio-Diabesity (Heart Disease, Diabetes, and Obesity).
- Metabolic Syndrome: Is it a Useful Concept? Why Do Risk Factors Cluster?
- The Epidemic of Insulin Resistance, Prediabetes, and Diabetes. The Glucose-Heart Disease Connection. The Link between Diabetes and Cancer.
- Insulin Resistance, Abdominal Obesity, and Cognitive Decline.
- Diabetes Drugs: Current Controversies.
- The Changing Paradigm for Cardiovascular Disease. No Longer a “Plumbing Problem.”
- Heart Disease as a Chronic Inflammatory Condition. Role of Endothelial Dysfunction. Women and Heart Disease.
- Vascular Age: What is the Physiologic Age of One’s Arteries?
- Vulnerable Plaque: What Causes It? How to Detect Subclinical Atherosclerosis.
- Early Life Determinants of Metabolic Risk. Are We Programming Our Children for Cardio-Diabetes through Prenatal Exposure?
- The Curse of Maladaptive Lifestyle: A Mismatch with Our Paleolithic Genome.
- The Fit Food and Beverages: Role in Health.
- Sugar and Heart Disease. Fructose and Metabolic Chaos. The Fitness, Obesity, and Heart Disease Equation.
- Sleepless in America: A Pathway to Cardio-Diabetes. Abdominal Fat and Sleep Apnea: the Chicken or the Egg?
- Dental Health: Periodontal Infection and Systemic Disease: The Role of Oral-Hematogenous Spread of Pathogens. Brushing to Prevent Heart Disease?
- Diabetes and the Incidence of Periodontal Disease. Tooth Loss and Control of Blood Sugar Levels. Periodontal Disease and Inflammation.
- Oral Health Symptoms of Diabetes: Xerostomia, Wound Healing, and Burning Mouth Syndrome.
- Oral Health, Antibiotics, and Blood Sugar.
- Lifestyle, Pharmaceutical and Alternative Therapies to Improve Blood Lipids, Blood Pressure, and Insulin Sensitivity. What Do We Know?
- Interventions to Improve Endothelial Function and Reduce Inflammation.
- Eating for One’s Genome. How to Become a 21st Century Hunter-Gatherer.
- Dark Chocolate: Pleasure or Therapy? Cardioprotective and Insulin Sensitizing Effects of Alcohol.

Biomed’s Website: www.biomedglobal.com

Meeting Times & Locations

EDMONTON, AB
Thu., Sept. 27, 2012
8:30 AM to 3:30 PM
Edmonton Hotel & Conv. Ctr.
4520 76th Avenue
Edmonton, AB

EDMONTON, AB
8:30 AM to 3:30 PM
Edmonton Hotel & Conv. Ctr.
4520 76th Avenue
Edmonton, AB

CALGARY, AB
Fri., Sept. 28, 2012
8:30 AM to 3:30 PM
The Glenmore Inn
2720 Glenmore Trail SE
Calgary, AB

CALGARY, AB
Thu., Oct. 18, 2012
8:30 AM to 3:30 PM
Executive Royal Inn & Conf. Ctr.
2828 23rd Street NE
Calgary, AB

INSTRUCTORS
Dr. Beverly White (Ph.D., R.D.) obtained her doctorate in nutrition from Oregon State University. Dr. White holds a degree in dietetics from the University of California, Davis and a masters degree in nutritional sciences from San Jose State University. To acute and long-term care facilities, Dr. White has provided nutritional counseling services. She has also worked as a clinical dietician. Dr. White’s research at Oregon State University covered management of diabetes and related conditions. Dr. Laura Pawlak (Ph.D., M.S.) undertook her graduate studies in biochemistry at the University of Illinois, where she received her masters and doctoral degrees. Author of 22 scientific publications and many academic books, she conducted her postdoctoral research in biochemistry at the University of California San Francisco Medical Center. On such subjects as brain biochemistry, geriatric care, pharmacology, women’s health issues, and nutrition, Dr. Pawlak frequently speaks to audiences of health professionals. Biomed reserves the right to change instructors without prior notice. Every instructor is either a compensated employee or independent contractor of Biomed.

FEE: CHEQUES: $109.00 (CANADIAN) per person with pre-registration or $134.00 (CANADIAN) at the door if space remains. CREDIT CARDS: Charges by credit card will be processed in U.S. DOLLARS at the prevailing exchange rate. The tuition includes all applicable Canadian taxes. At the seminar, participants will receive a complete course syllabus. Tuition payment receipt will also be available at the seminar.

TO REGISTER: Please complete and return the registration form below. Or register toll-free with Visa, MasterCard, American Express®, or Discover® by calling 1-888-724-6633. Or fax a copy of your completed registration form—including Visa, MasterCard, American Express®, or Discover® Number—to (925) 687-0860.

ACCREDITATION INFORMATION
In order to grant CE credit, Biomed must be in compliance with special procedures established by the Alberta Association of Social Workers. Biomed is in compliance with these procedures. Course completion certificates will be distributed to social workers completing this course.

Please check course date:

 Thur., Sept. 27, 2012 (Edmonton, AB)
 Fri., Sept. 28, 2012 (Calgary, AB)

Please print:

Name:
Home Address: City: State: Zip:
Home Phone: Work Phone: E-Mail: 

Please enclose full payment with registration form. Check method of payment. (needed for confirmation & receipt)

- Check for $109.00 (CANADIAN) (Make payable to Biomed)
- Charge the equivalent of $109.00 (CANADIAN) to my Visa MasterCard American Express® Discover®

Card Number: Exp. Date: 

Signature: Please provide an e-mail address above to receive a confirmation and directions to the meeting site.

For all inquiries, please contact customer service at 1-877-246-6336 or (925) 602-6140.

REGISTRATION FORM
(This registration form may be copied.)

Please return form to: Biomed
Ste. 877 101-1101 W. Broadway Vancouver, B.C., V6H 4E4
TOLL-FREE: 1-877-246-6336
TEL: (925) 602-6140 • FAX: (925) 687-0860

REGISTRATION INFORMATION
Please register early and arrive before the scheduled start time. Space is limited. Attendees requiring special accommodation must advise Biomed in writing at least 50 days in advance and provide proof of disability. Registrations are subject to cancellation after the scheduled start time. A transfer at no cost can be made from one seminar location to another if space is available. Requests canceling up to 72 hours before a seminar will receive a tuition refund less a $35.00 (CANADIAN) administrative fee or, if requested, a full-value voucher, good for one year, for a future seminar. Other cancellations requests must be made in writing. If a seminar cannot be held for reasons beyond the control of the sponsor (e.g., acts of God), the registrant will receive free admission to a rescheduled seminar or a full-value voucher, good for one year, for a future seminar. A $35.00 (CANADIAN) service charge applies to each returned cheque. Fees are subject change without notice.

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Due to provincial legislation, our auto insurance program is not offered in British Columbia, Manitoba or Saskatchewan.

*No purchase required. Contest organized jointly with Primmum Insurance Company and open to members, employees and other eligible persons belonging to employer, professional and alumni groups which have an agreement with and are entitled to group rates from the organizers. Contest ends on January 31, 2013. 1 prize to be won. The winner may choose the prize between a Lexus RX 450h with all basic standard features including freight and pre-delivery inspection for a total value of $60,000 or $60,000 in Canadian funds. The winner will be responsible to pay for the sales taxes applicable to the vehicle. Skill-testing question required. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. Complete contest rules available at www.melochemonnex.com/contest.

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For your information
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Canadian Association of School Social Workers & Attendance Counsellors (CASSWAC)
National Conference 2013
Date TBA
Calgary, AB
The CASSWAC National Conference 2013 will be held in Calgary, Alberta. Details TBA.
Please keep checking the website for more information: casswac.ca

University of Southern California Social Work
7th International Conference on Social Work in health and Mental Health
Research to Practice: Completing the Circle
June 23-27, 2013
Los Angeles CA
Visit pathways2013.com for more information.

Another day, another crisis averted.
The Alberta Union of Provincial Employees is proud to represent more than 75,000 Albertans who provide quality public services to the people of our province. Among these hard-working Albertans are more than 2,500 social services workers including Child and Youth Care Counsellors, Human Services Workers, Psychology Assistants and Psychologists who work every day to make sure their clients are safe and on track to successful lives.
AUPE is committed to a society in which all Albertans can expect fair public services provided by committed, well-trained public employees. www.aupe.org

Alberta Association of Services for Children and Families
Workshop and Conference Resource
Alberta Association of Services for Children and Families has an extensive list of workshops and conferences, searchable by location and topic. Visit aascf.com and go to Workshops/Conferences.

ACSW’s Partners in Advocacy

Alberta Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health
aamimh.ca

Arusha
arusha.org

Canada Without Poverty
cwp-csp.ca

Canada Council on Social Development
ccsd.ca

Edmonton Social Planning Council
edmontonsocialplanning.ca

Friends of Medicare
friendsofmedicare.org

Greater Edmonton Alliance
greateredmontonalliance.com

Public Interest Alberta
pialberta.org

Parkland Institute
ualberta.ca/parkland

Alberta Association of Services for Children and Families
Workshop and Conference Resource
Alberta Association of Services for Children and Families has an extensive list of workshops and conferences, searchable by location and topic. Visit aascf.com and go to Workshops/Conferences.

DEADLINE
for the FALL 2012 issue of the Advocate is
JULY 15, 2012
Thanks to our 2012 Annual Conference door prize donors for their generous contributions!

The Courtyard by Marriott

The Coast Edmonton House

Crowne Plaza Chateau Lacombe

The Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel

John Bruce, Author

Health Sciences Association of Alberta

Parlee McLaws LLP

Kathy Archer, Silver River Coaching