

Social Workers: Inspired to Serve Humanity

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

ALBERTA COLLEGE of SOCIAL WORKERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MARCH 18 – 20, 2010 (Shaw Conference Centre)

EDMONTON, ALBERTA



The 2010 Alberta College of Social Workers (ACSW) Conference in Edmonton provides a venue for sharing fresh ideas and approaches for social workers working in a variety of settings all across Alberta. We see our profession as separate and distinct from other professions, and wish to enhance our understanding of the Code of Ethics, Standards of Practice, and the Health Professions Act.

Our 2010 theme highlights the third value of the Canadian Association of Social Workers' Code of Ethics (2005): Service to Humanity. "The social work profession upholds service in the interests of others, consistent with social justice, as a core professional objective. In professional practice, social workers balance individual needs, and rights and freedoms with collective interests in the service of humanity. When acting in a professional capacity, social workers place professional service before personal goals or advantage, and use their power and authority in disciplined and responsible ways that serve society. The social work professional contributes to knowledge and skills that assist in the management of conflicts and the wide-ranging consequences of conflict." We welcome your proposals for workshops fitting within our conference theme.

Conference Goals

- Provide a forum to share practice experiences
- Showcase recent developments and innovations in social work and visions for the future
- Highlight best practices that promote caring, self-fulfillment, autonomy, participation and independence for the populations which social workers serve
- Celebrate ethical practice by social workers to promote change and resilience

Benefits of Presenting

- Recognition as a leader in your field, at your workplace and among your peers
- Professional development opportunity to enhance your career potential and increase your professional portfolio
- Achieve a higher networking profile

Summaries of all workshops including presenter names and organizations are published in the Conference Program, which is sent to over 6000 registered social workers in Alberta. In addition, conference brochures are sent to professional organizations of social work across Canada and the United States, post-secondary institutions with social work education programs in Canada and the United States, agencies working with a wide variety of clients that social workers serve, and policy makers.

Presenters and participants from outside Edmonton often extend their conference stay to take advantage of shopping, cultural and educational amenities and to enjoy the leisure and recreational opportunities found a short distance away in Alberta's mountain parks.

Who attends the ACSW Conference?

Over its history, the ACSW Conference has grown to become one of the largest single gatherings of social workers in North America. For the past 4 years over 1000 social workers have attended our conference each year. Participants come from a variety of fields of practice/practice specializations including, but not limited to:

Submission deadline of September 15, 2009

Field of Practice/Practice Specialization

- Aboriginal
- Addictions
- Admin/Management
- Adoptions
- Child Welfare
- Children & Youth
- Clinical
- Community
- Criminal Justice
- EAP/Occupational SW
- Family Violence
- Generalist
- Gerontology/Seniors
- Health/Hospital
- Marriage & Family Therapy
- Mediation
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Organizational Consulting
- Policy/Planning
- Rehabilitation
- Research
- Rural
- Teaching

PREPARING WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

Considerations for Developing your Workshop Proposal

The ACSW Conference spotlights innovation and fresh ideas focused on ethics and professional practice. Presenters should clearly outline the needs, issues or opportunities that led to the development of their workshop. Conference evaluations indicate a strong preference for sessions with ideas that may be adapted or applied in current work settings and with specific client groups.

Concurrent workshops are: 3 hours, 6 hours, 9 hours or 12 hours in length in order to meet the Category 'A' requirements of ACSW competencies for registered social workers. Workshops must focus on educational objectives, be participatory and interactive (use popular education principles). Motivational and personal development workshops should have clear learning objectives and focus on practical approaches that can be integrated into practice.

Review and Evaluation of Proposals

Workshop proposals will be reviewed by the 2009 Conference Planning Committee. Proposals will be evaluated using the attached weighting scale. Points will be deducted for proposals that are incomplete, do not respect the word limits, or do not present information in a clear, well organized manner. Information should be written in plain language, and must accurately describe the material you intend to present. We reserve the right to limit the number and size of workshops based on room capacity.

Instructions for Preparing Proposals

All proposals received by the *deadline of September 15th, 2009* will be reviewed and must be prepared using the instructions below. Only those received as electronic submissions will be accepted for review (**Please use MS word attachments**).

1. **Contact Information:** Primary presenter's name, credentials, job title, employer, and all contact information (address, day and evening phone numbers, e-mail address). **Please note: All conference communication will be through the primary presenter. The primary presenter is responsible for communicating all conference information to their co-presenters.**
2. **Biography:** The primary presenter must submit a brief biography which is relevant to their workshop. This biography will be posted on the ACSW website as submitted and will be used for the introduction of the presenter at the beginning of their workshop.

3. **Additional Presenters:** If there are additional presenters, please provide names, credentials, brief biographies relevant to their workshop, job titles and organizations represented. **Please note: All conference communication will be through the primary presenter. The primary presenter is responsible for communicating all conference information to their co-presenters.**
4. **Title of Workshop:** The title should be brief (8 words or less) and specific; it should reflect the essence of the presentation. Please do not use abbreviations in the title.
5. **Conference Brochure Summary:** Include a brief (**maximum 25 words**) description of the workshop for the conference brochure. Submissions of more than 25 words will be edited.
6. **Long Description of Workshop:** Please submit a single spaced description of no more than **350 words**. This description will be posted on the ACSW website.
7. **Learning Objectives:** Identify the learning objectives of your workshop. Please be specific with regard to knowledge, skills or abilities social workers will gain from attending your workshop
8. **Target Audience:** Identify who your workshop would benefit. Parameters to consider are field of practice, level of education and length of experience of participants.
9. **Length of Workshop:** 3 hours ~ 6 hours ~ 9 hours ~ 12 hours
10. **References:** Please provide contact information (name, organization, phone number) of two references that can confirm the effectiveness of your presentation skills. References can be individuals or organizers at recent conferences at which you have presented.
11. **Audio visual:** Identify the audio visual equipment you will need for your workshop. (i.e. overhead projector, flipchart, slide projector, etc.) **LCD projectors and laptop computers will not be provided. These are the responsibility of the presenters.**
12. **Handouts:** ACSW is not responsible for photocopying handouts. Handouts and other information relevant to the presentation can be put on the ACSW website if received by ACSW at least 10 days prior to the conference.

2010 Annual Conference
*'Social Workers:
Inspired to Serve Humanity'*
March 18 - 20, 2010

Honourariums

Honourariums will be granted to primary presenters at a rate of \$200.00 per 3 hour workshop. For example, primary presenters offering a six (6) hour workshop, will receive an honourarium of \$400.00.

Submitting Workshop Proposals

Completed proposals are to be sent to Lori Sigurdson, ACSW Professional Affairs Coordinator, lsigurdson@acsw.ab.ca.

Deadline

Proposals must be received by September 15, 2009

Persons submitting proposals by the deadline date will receive a response by October 31, 2009. Submissions received after the deadline will be reviewed only if openings on the program remain.

Selection Criteria	Workshops	Weighting
1. Scope and Relevance	Is the proposal clear and relevant to the conference theme? Does it address one or more of the conference goals?	25%
2. Learning Goals	Are the learning goals clearly stated? Are they relevant to current social work practice?	20%
3. Impact and Added Value	What would be the impact of this workshop? How will it assist social workers in their daily practice? What tools will social workers leave with if they attend this workshop?	25%
4. Format and Methodology	Are there opportunities for audience participation and interactive learning?	10%
5. Target Audience	Is the target audience clearly defined? Will this workshop appeal to a broad range of social workers or to a group of social workers with a particular need? Will this workshop appeal to advanced practitioners (5 years + experience)?	10%
6. Previous Experience	Does the presenter have recognized expertise in the topic area and a demonstrated ability to share the information with others?	10%