



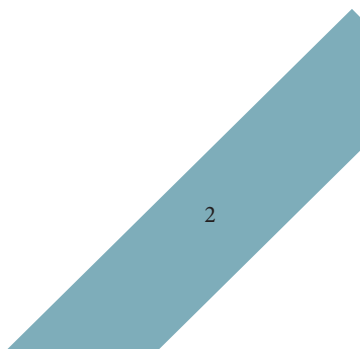
SOCIAL WORK: PROFESSION OF CHOICE

2015
Annual Report



Ce document est disponible en français

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Canadian Association of Social Workers

About CASW

The Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) is a federation of provincial and territorial social work organizations with its national office located in Ottawa. By joining the appropriate provincial/territorial organization, social workers automatically become affiliated with CASW.

CASW was founded in 1926 and has completed 89 years of service to social workers and to the Canadian public.

The Board consists of a President and one representative from each member organization. For one year immediately following her/his term of office, the Past President will also be a member of the Board of Directors.

CASW Staff

Executive Director	Fred Phelps
Coordinator of Membership and Communications	Sandra Veilleux
Administrative Coordinator	France Audet
Coordinator of International Social Work Education	Francine Tremblay
Social Worker- Policy/ Communications	Sally Guy

2014-2015 Board of Directors

Officers

President	Morel Caissie
Vice-president	Jan Christianson-Wood
Secretary/Treasurer	Ray Pekrul

Board Members

British Columbia	Phyllis Nash
Saskatchewan	Ray Pekrul
Manitoba	Jan Christianson-Wood
New Brunswick	Karine Levesque
Prince Edward Island	Margaret Kennedy
Nova Scotia	James Gouthro
Newfoundland/Labrador	Ian Shortall
Northern Canada	Lynn Sparks



Provincial/Territorial Member Organizations

British Columbia Association of Social Workers

President	Michael Crawford
Executive Director	Dianne Heath
Telephone	604.730.9111
Fax	604.730.9112
Toll Free (BC only)	800.665.4747
Email	bcasw@bcasw.org
Web site	www.bcasw.org

Nova Scotia Association of Social Workers

President	Lorna Griffin-Fillier
Executive Director & Registrar	Sheila McKinnon-Oke
Telephone	902.429.7799
Fax	902.429.7650
Email	nsasw@nsasw.org
Web site	www.nsasw.org

Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers

President	Kirk Englot
Executive Director & Registrar	Alison MacDonald
Telephone	306.545.1922
Fax	306.545.1895
Email	sasw@accesscomm.ca
Web site	www.sasw.ca

Prince Edward Island Association of Social Workers

President	Kelly MacWilliams
Telephone	902.368.7337
Fax	902.368.7180
Email	vrc@eastlink.ca

Manitoba Institute of Registered Social Workers

Interim President	Jan Christianson-Wood
President	Richard De La Ronde
Executive Director & Registrar	Miriam Browne
Telephone	204.888.9477
Fax	204.831.6359
Email	masw@mts.net
Web site	www.mirsw.mb.ca

Newfoundland & Labrador Association of Social Workers

President	Mona Romaine Elliott
Executive Director & Registrar	Lisa Crockwell
Telephone	709.753.0200
Fax	709.753.0120
Email	info@nlasw.ca
Web site	www.nlasw.ca

New Brunswick Association of Social Workers

President	Barbara Whitenect
Executive Director	Miguel LeBlanc
Registrar	Annie Rickett
Telephone	506.459.5595
Fax	506.457.1421
Email	nbasw@nbasw-atsnb.ca
Web site	www.nbasw-atsnb.ca

Association of Social Workers of Northern Canada

President	Anneka Westergreen
Executive Director	Lisa Mainer
Telephone	867.920.4479
Fax	867.669.7964
Email	lisam@northwestel.net
Web site	www.socialworknorth.com



CASW Interest Groups

CASW Health Interest Group

James Gouthro, Group Chair & CASW Board Liaison
Pam Robb (Manitoba)
Nancy Baker (British Columbia)
Alan Corbeil (Saskatchewan)
Stefan Mildenerger (New Brunswick)
TBA (Nova Scotia)
Tracey Steele (Newfoundland and Labrador)
Bobbi-Jo Flynn (Prince Edward Island)
Merle Just (Northern Canada)
Karine Levesque, CASW Board Liaison

CASW Aboriginal Social Workers Interest Group

Janine Cunningham (British Columbia)
Hazel Berg (Saskatchewan)
Glenda Peebles (Manitoba)
Cristine J. Rego (Ontario)
Lorise Simon (New Brunswick)
Joan Glode (Nova Scotia)
Wendy Groves (Newfoundland and Labrador)
TBA (Prince Edward Island)
Bonnie Nungnik (Nunavut)
Anne Gill (North West Territory)
Jayla Rousseau-Thomas (Yukon)
Lynn Sparks, CASW Board Liaison

CASW Private Practice Interest Group

Barb Wilkins, Group Chair (New Brunswick)
Mary Leslie (British Columbia)
Jill Rodgers (Saskatchewan)
Nelda Armour (Nova Scotia)
Ruth Parsons (NL)
Ian Shortall, CASW Board Liaison

CASW Children's Issues Interest Group

Claude Savoie, Group Chair (New Brunswick)
Carol Ross (British Columbia)
Connie Zacharias (Alberta)
Noela Crowe-Salazar (Saskatchewan)
Pat Zacharias (Manitoba)
Anniemieke Vink (Nova Scotia)
Annette Johns (Newfoundland & Labrador)
Carmina Gaité (Prince Edward Island)
TBA (Northern Canada)
Margaret Kennedy & Ian Shortall, CASW Board Liaison

CASW Social Policy Interest Group

Annette Johns, Group Chair (Newfoundland and Labrador)
Merri-Lee Hanson (New Brunswick)
Michael Crawford (British Columbia)
Klaus Gruber (Saskatchewan)
Jim Mulvale (Manitoba)
Trish McCourt (Nova Scotia)
TBA (Prince Edward Island)
Michelle Rabeau (Northern Canada)
Ray Pékru, CASW Board Liaison
Phyllis Nash, CASW Board Liaison

President's Message 2015

I have to begin my report by expressing how proud I am to have served on the CASW Board over the last eight years. It has also been a privilege and an honour to serve as President of our Board. I believe strongly that our Association has a "raison d'être". Our current Strategic Plan is under review as we strive to be responsive to the aims and priorities established by the CASW Federation partner associations.

CASW has a proud tradition because of our values and ethics as a profession. It is especially important that we remain able and willing to question ourselves and our profession when we are not living up to those values and ethics. CASW is an organization that helps us maintain our focus on those values in many concrete ways through the work of dedicated volunteers and staff. I have every confidence that CASW will remain a viable and vibrant organization and a credible national voice for the social work profession because of our passion for social justice and our belief that social work is truly a **profession of choice**.



CASW President Morel Caissie

In reflecting back over the years, I am reminded of so many reasons why I believe that it is important for social workers to support their professional associations, both on the provincial and territorial levels, as well as the national level. Our support begins with our dues that are collected on behalf of CASW by the provincial and territorial partners. Without this financial support we would have no national office nor would we be able to bring social workers together across this nation to work together for a common cause.

Some of us have had the privilege and opportunity to become involved as members of CASW Boards or committees, or as volunteers for specific activities such as those held during social work month. Seeking to be better informed about association activities is a very concrete way that we support our association, and in this age of communication, this should not be a complicated task. There are so many reasons why social workers should support their professional associations, and these reasons should become evident while reading through CASW annual reports, publications (*Reporter and Journal*), and media releases.

Throughout the year, our Executive Director has provided the federation with a regular summary of on-going initiatives or activities. In this past year, CASW has advocated for more progressive policies on several fronts through letters, public statements and over a dozen media releases. There are an ever-increasing number of regressive policies and legislative proposals that merit our attention, and yes, even our outrage. It is incumbent upon us to choose our battles, always in consideration of our limited resources. Specifically, CASW has advocated on a number of fronts over the past year, including:



President's Message 2015

Continued

- Calling for action on Bill C-585, which would restrict access to social assistance for refugees; we have advocated for re-investment in social housing.
- Presenting a position paper to the Legal and Constitution Affairs committee of the Senate on Bill C-36 relating to prostitution and sex work.
- Pushing for support from the Council of the Federation for a national Children's Advocate.
- Advocating for a national action plan to address sexual harassment, violence, income inequality, and lack of affordable child care.
- Collaborating with CASWE on a joint statement relating to the affirmation of gender diverse children and youth.
- Re-releasing a statement on assisted death.
- Submitting a pre-budget 'Equity' brief to the Standing Committee of Finance, as well as a response to the most recent 'Robin-Hood Reversal' federal budget.
- Co-chairing an alliance with Canadian Medical Association calling for a National Senior's Strategy – demandaplan.ca.

CASW is fortunate to have the support of our Interest Committees, Board Members, Partner Organizations and knowledgeable content experts to undertake research and provide input into the development of position papers and media releases in a timely fashion. Our partnerships with national coalitions are crucial in opposing regressive policies, as well as in proposing alternative measures. CASW is currently an active member of 30 coalitions. We joined three new coalitions in the past year alone: The Canadian Harm Reduction Network; The National Association Active in Criminal Justice; and the Child Welfare League of Canada.

Over the last few years, CASW has undertaken a consistent and targeted government relations and advocacy strategy. In this regard, we have developed a series of position papers over the last three years: *The Canada Social Transfer and Accountability Matters* (2012); *The Canada Social Transfer and the Social Determinants of Health* (2013); and *Equity and the Future of Canadian Social Policy* (2014). Our next paper on a *New Social Care Act* is being developed by Allen Moscovitch and Ginette Thomas of Carleton University, and will form the basis of the CASW Advocacy Campaign for the 2015 Election. The intention is that this comprehensive paper will provide guiding principles for the delivery of social services in the provinces and territories.

We are grateful for the work of these scholars, as well as for our Social Policy Committee, and other experts such as Glenn Drover and James Mulvale, all of whose contributions over the years are immeasurable and invaluable.



President's Message 2015

Continued

Finally, I will take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the CASW Board, our sincere appreciation for the work and dedication of our staff at the CASW national office. It has been an especially difficult year, as we have had to proceed with staff restructuring and cutbacks to eliminate our structural deficit.

Two of our employees, Francine Tremblay and France Audet are no longer on our staff after over 20 years of loyal and dedicated service. We owe these special and wonderful women a debt of gratitude.

Sandra Veilleux has taken on additional duties, and Sally Guy has joined our organization as our social worker engaged in policy analysis and public relations. Both Sandra and Sally are very competent and talented employees and I thank them for their commitment to excellence.

CASW is also very fortunate that we have an Executive Director with strong management and networking skills. The implementation of our policy governance model, which we adopted following our 2010 organizational review, was facilitated and made possible through Fred's leadership, tenacity and strong work ethic. Finally, but not least, I wish to thank my colleagues on the Executive Committee, Board members, and interest committees, as well as Presidents and Executive Directors of our Partner Associations for your continued support of CASW.



Respectfully submitted
Morel Caissie, MSW, RSW

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

for the year ended March 31, 2015

Revenue

Membership Fees	\$356,585
CSW Journal	\$21,607
Other Income	\$88,775
	<hr/>
	\$466,967

Expenses

Salaries and benefits	\$213,956
Rent	\$72,604
Meetings and travel	\$49,713
Fees to other organizations	\$20,476
Professional fees and contracts	\$13,028
Translation	\$12,553
Office	\$12,069
CSW Journal and CASW Bulletin	\$11,386
Telephone, fax and e-mail	\$8,075
Interest Groups	\$6,353
Insurance	\$5,129
Amortization	\$2,764
Advertising and Website	\$2,560
	<hr/>
	\$430,666

Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses\$36,301

Project Fund

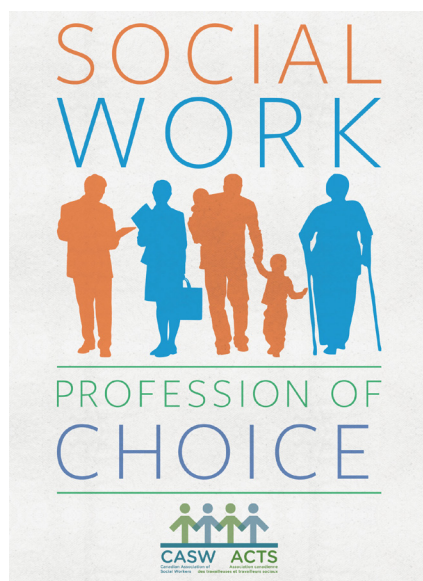
Beginning Balance	\$155,856
Joint National Conference	(\$16,993)
Balance Ending	\$138,863

This information has been extracted from the financial statements reviewed by Firas Nasser, CA. A complete financial statement is circulated to all member organizations.

Social Work: Profession of Choice

i. Promoting the Profession

In 2014-15, the CASW federation chose the theme Social Work: Profession of Choice to promote the profession, and to support the work of advancing the ends and corresponding directions of the organization.



Direction 1: Help to meet challenges related to the status, morale and influence of social workers

Direction 2: Clear and positive image of the social work profession

National Social Work Month (NSWM)

To launch NSWM, CASW issued a Proclamation that communicated the profession's unique scope and significance in meeting the needs of Canadians. The proclamation was issued through CNW Group and appeared on 231 websites with a potential audience of 72,182,000. The release itself was downloaded 5820 times from the CNW website with an engagement rating of 64/100 when benchmarked against similar releases.

CASW, in partnership with its national liability insurance carrier, Aon, coordinated a national strategy that served to both promote and strengthen the profession including:

- *Adding Further Value to Employee Benefit Plans* pamphlet was printed and shipped to each partner in the CASW federation. A special thank you to BCASW for their contribution to the content of this resource.
- Coordinated **Profession of Choice** social media campaign that engaged social workers on why social work is the profession of choice. The campaign garnered entries from all federation partners including 172 English and 17 French entries and received over 3300 views in both languages on the CASW website.



2015 Profession of Choice Draw

Social Work: Profession of Choice *Continued*

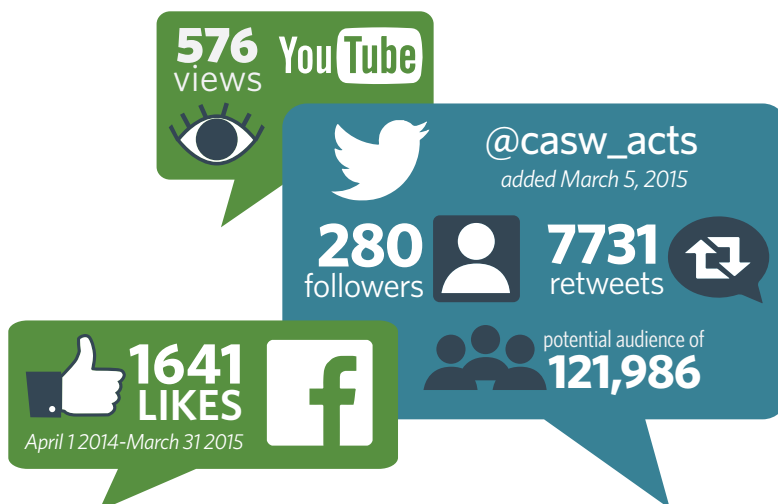
In collaboration with federation partners, the 2015 CASW Distinguished Service Award winners were announced in March. Each 2015 CASW Distinguished Service Award recipient has provided exceptional service to the populations they serve as well as upholding and exemplifying the best of our profession.

Glen Schmidt	BCASW
Suzanne Brake	NLASW
Alphonsine Saulnier	NSASW
Frank Bulger	PEIASW
Carole Bryant	SASW
Mary Bishop, Lynn Sparks and Rachel Hollingshead	ASWNC

In celebration of the regulations of the 2009 Social Work Profession Act finally approved by the Cabinet, the Manitoba Institute of Registered Social Workers awarded the 2015 CASW Distinguished Service Award to all past and present MASW and MIRSW Members.

Social Media

CASW continues to build its on-line presence through social media. The CASW Facebook page was established in 2013 and steadily grew in this last operational year from 4607 likes on April 1, 2014 to 6248 likes by March 31, 2015. The culture of the CASW Facebook page posts reflect our three priorities of promoting and strengthening the profession and addressing issues of social justice.



In this past year CASW added both a Twitter and YouTube to its social media presence. The Twitter page (@casw_acts) was established on March 5, 2015 growing to 280 followers with 7731 retweets of CASW tweets, 41 users mentioning CASW, and a potential audience of 121,986.

The Youtube channel growth has been much more modest with 5 subscribers and 576 views. The Youtube presence will steadily grow as CASW builds a library of continuing education videos that support the ongoing professional development of membership.

Social Work: Profession of Choice *Continued*

CASW Website

CASW launched the current CASW website in 2011 with new branding for the organization. The CASW website continues to be the main gateway to present the profession to the world and is constantly being upgraded to address new and emerging trends of the on-line world.

In terms of traffic on the CASW website, there was a year over year increase of sessions, up 23.91% from 203,895 in operation year 2013-14 to 252,647 in 2014-15. The number of users was up by 26.04% (195,004 vs 154,711) and the number of page views by 14.82% (523,457 vs 455,883). However the bounce rate was up 4.04%; an issue that needs to be addressed as this is an indication that users did not find what they were looking for. The CASW Website is a Drupal site that will require an extensive upgrade in this next year; providing opportunity for CASW to assess and address content and design.


With that being said, in this past year CASW began to move purchases of services and products online. This work will be completed in 2015. In addition, CASW added a new CiviCRM database management system with responsive HTML that allows for accessibility of all platforms (Tablets, mobile phones, etc) and the tracking of analytics that will support CASW in managing communication priorities.



*Members of the National Organizing
Committee for Clara's Big Ride*

Clara's Big Ride - Strategic Alliance

CASW participated on the National Mental Health Advisory Committee for Clara's Big Ride organized by Bell Canada. Focused on ensuring a long-term legacy of community based mental health initiatives, the committee represented a range of mental health disciplines and linkages to local health and community organizations across the nation. This positioned CASW as an official partner of the nation's largest mental health event, and provided opportunity for all Partner Organizations to engage in events across Canada.



Social Work: Profession of Choice *Continued*

Group of 7 Health Professions - National Coalition Member

G7 is a group of national health care professional associations who work collaboratively on health initiatives. In 2014 the G7 is began a collaboration with the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association (CLHIA) to develop a guidance document for providers to consider when providing services covered by extended healthcare plans.

ii. Pursuit of Social Justice

CASW addresses issues of social justice from a number of differing avenues, including internal CASW Interest Groups and external national coalitions, as well as strategic alliances. In terms of direction, CASW has positioned itself as a national leader on the Canada Social Transfer, Social Determinants of Health and the impact of both on the growing inequity in Canada. Using equity as a guide, CASW addressed a number of issues of social justice in this past year:

Direction 1: Policy makers will understand the impact of policy decision on social justice.

Direction 2: Social service development will be responsive to the social needs of Canadians.

Equity and the Social Determinants of Health

CASW issued *Promoting Equity for a Stronger Canada: The Future of Canadian Social Policy*, proposing Canada adopt an equity framework for the development of future social policy. The paper is in response to CASW's growing concern over the federal government's diminishing role in social programming, and dwindling federal fiscal contribution to provincial and territorial social programs. The paper was released via CNW and was downloaded 86 times, appeared on-line on 254 websites with a total potential audience of 71,089,000.

On National Housing Day (November 21), CASW continued its appeal to the Government of Canada to provide leadership in developing a national long-term affordable housing plan.

CASW endorsed the College of Family Physicians of Canada policy document entitled *From Red to Green. From Stop to Go*. Recommended actions to improve home care and child and youth health.

CASW submitted its 2015 Pre-Budget submission focused on equity with input from the CASW Social Policy Interest Group.

Dignity for All - National Coalition Member

Dignity for All (DFA) is a multi-year, multi-partner, non-partisan campaign with a vision to create a poverty-free and more socially secure and cohesive Canada. DFA launched a *National Anti-Poverty Plan for Canada* that is a culmination of the five summits that CASW participated and helped facilitate. The Summits included addressing early childhood education and care, housing, income security, food security, and labour, employment and poverty.

Social Work: Profession of Choice *Continued*

Mental Health

CASW sent a letter (November 14) to Health Minister Ambrose in support Partners for Mental Health's request to the federal government to invest \$100 million over 5 years in a National Youth Suicide Prevention Fund.

Mental Health Commission of Canada – CASW Strategic Alliance

CASW participated in Mental Health Commission of Canada roundtables on developing a *Mental Health Action Plan*.

CASW supported World Suicide Prevention Day event on Parliament Hill and attended a Economic Club luncheon focussed on Mental Health in the Workplace.

Attended the launch of “308 Conversations” a national suicide prevention awareness project hosted by the Honourable Andrew Scheer and Ms. Louise Bradley, President and CEO of the Mental Health Commission of Canada with Senators and Members Parliament.

Canadian Alliance for Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH) – National Coalition Member

CAMIMH is a non-profit organization comprised of health care providers as well as organizations which represent individuals with lived experience of mental illness. As Chair of the CAMIMH Public Affairs Committee, the CASW Executive Director helped develop and implement the CAMIMH Government Relations strategy including advocating for the renewal of the mandate of the Mental Health Commission of Canada that was realized in Budget 2015.

CAMIMH provides ongoing advocacy on mental health and illness delivering two marquee events in Ottawa in October - “Faces of Mental Illness” and May - “CAMIMH Champions”.

Mental Illness Awareness Week (MIAW)
-- CASW attended a Parliamentary Breakfast and attended 6 meetings with MP's including Minister Goodyear, Elizabeth May and Marc Garneau. It is clear that there is momentum behind the issue of mental illness, and high hopes that this will be addressed in the platforms of the parties for next election.



CASW ED with Minister Clement and Rick Mercer at the 2014 Champions of Mental Health Event

Vulnerable Populations

CASW endorsed an Open letter to Finance Minister Joe Oliver Budget in opposition to sections of Bill C-43 that would allow provinces and territories to impose a minimum residency requirement on refugees to access social assistance. CASW also submitted its own brief in opposition to the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration.

Social Work: Profession of Choice *Continued*

CASW issued a joint statement with CASWE on the *Affirmation of Gender Diverse Children and Youth*.

CASW submitted its *Prostitution Discussion* paper to the Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs with a request to witness on Bill C-36 (Canada v. Bedford).



ChildCare2020: Thomas Mulcair and CASW Vice-President, Jan Christianson-Wood

CASW ED attended “Urgency Around Permanency: A Stakeholders Summit” organized by the Adoption Council of Canada.

CASW Vice-President Jan Christianson-Wood joined attended ChildCare2020 (Winnipeg) on behalf of CASW.

As follow-up to Roundtable on Family Violence and Child Abuse held in Calgary, CASW, along with several health organizations committed to making progress on improving guidance and training for health professionals in the area of family violence.

Seniors

CASW participated in a National Seniors Council National Roundtable on Social Isolation of Seniors. The Honourable Alice Wong, Minister of State (Seniors) hosted the roundtable discussion to support the Seniors Council in prioritizing and assessing how social isolation affects seniors and exploring ways to prevent and/or reduce it in Canada. CASW was the only national professional association invited to attend the Roundtable.

Participated in Press Conference on Parliament Hill with Member of Parliament, Charlie Angus, in support of Motion M-456 calling on the establishment of Pan-Canadian Standards on Palliative Care




National Seniors Council Roundtable on Social Isolation of Seniors – CASW Executive Director Fred Phelps

Strategic Alliance – Canadian Medical Association (CMA)

NBASW Board member, Karine Levesque represented CASW on a CMA working group focused on health promotion, prevention and wellness specific to seniors' care.

CASW accepted an invitation for CASW to co-Chair the Alliance for a National Seniors Strategy with CMA and launched– demandaplan.ca.



Social Work: Profession of Choice *Continued*

Published *Toronto Star* Commentary with CMA and CNA entitled: “Canada needs a national seniors’ strategy”.

Health

CASW provided the social work perspective to a STBBI Prevention Expert Reference Group managed by the Canadian Public Health Association.

CASW provided a statement on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide and re-released of CASW’s *Statement of Principles* (February 6).

CASW endorsed a Consensus Statement on Community Water Fluoridation developed by the Canadian Dental Association. CASW attended two Canadian Oral Health Roundtables symposiums and brought focus on the social determinants of health.

CASW partnered with CMA in the launch of the second phase of “Choosing Wisely Canada.”

Health Action Lobby (HEAL) – National Coalition Member

HEAL is a national coalition committed to sustaining and enhancing the health of Canadians, and in the continuous improvement of fair, equitable, efficient and effective health services and systems.

In 2014 CASW participated in HEAL Committee that developed a consensus statement on the role of the federal government in health and healthcare. The Canadian Way was launched in December 2014.

CASW is participating in the HEAL Committee tasked to develop a national coalition campaign for The Canadian Way (#TheCanadianWay) in lead up to the 2015 federal elections. SUMMA Strategies and Hillbrooke Communication have been contracted by HEAL and the HEAL Implementation Committee will coordinate their efforts with the 41 members of HEAL.

iii. Strengthening the Profession

Strengthening the profession by providing the membership of the CASW federation with opportunities enhance and support their practices is an ongoing goal. In 2014-15 CASW built a stronger offering of continuing educational opportunities and plans to persistently move forward in soliciting and meeting the evolving needs of the profession.

Direction 1: Help to meet challenges of recruitment of members to provincial/territorial associations.

Direction 2: All social workers have access to a broad base of information they need to enhance their practice.

Direction 3: Promote membership both individual and partnership.

Social Work: Profession of Choice *Continued*

National Joint Conference 2014

In collaboration with the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE), CASW delivered a National Joint Social Work Conference from May 26 to 29, 2014. Entitled *Borders without Boundaries: Navigating the New Frontiers of the Social Work Profession*, the conference was held in conjunction with the 2014 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences.



Borders without Boundaries featured keynotes by Paul Born, the co-founder and President of Tamarack: An Institute for Community Engagement, Gary Bailey, President, International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and Jacquie Green Kundoqk, Director and Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Victoria (UVIC).

With 489 social workers and academics attending over 50 differing presentations, the conference provided ample opportunity for all participants to engage in learning opportunities to strengthen their practice.



2014 National Joint Conference Organizing Committee with Keynote Speaker, IFSW President Gary Bailey

National Award for Outstanding Service

As a federation of provincial and territorial social work organizations, CASW provides a national leadership role in strengthening and advancing the social work profession in Canada. One component of this mandate is the promotion of high standards of professional conduct. Many individual social workers exceed the normal expectations and make outstanding contributions to social welfare and to the social work profession in Canada. The 2014 Award for Outstanding Service was presented at the National Joint Conference to Madeleine Dubé, Social Development Minister in New Brunswick.



Madeleine Dubé receiving the National Award for Outstanding Service from CASW President, Morel Caissie

Continuing Education - Educational Webcasts

"Negligence and Documentation for Social Workers" – Dr. Robert Solomon

The first half of this webinar reviewed the basic principles of law governing a social worker's potential civil liability in negligence. The second half of the webinar reviewed the general principles of law governing documentation.

Social Work: Profession of Choice *Continued*

"Intimate Partner Violence and Social Work Practice" – Rina Arseneault and Suzanne McKenzie-Mohr delivered a 3 part webinar series on Intimate Partner Violence and Social Work Practice

- [Webinar 1](#): Developing Capacity to Respond in Intimate Partner Violence Situations
- [Webinar 2](#): Acting as Allies to Women Counter-Storying their experiences of Sexual Violence
- [Webinar 3](#): Nurturing Vicarious Resilience to counteract the challenges of IPV Work in Social Workers' Lives

Membership Benefits

CASW renewed our national liability insurance program with **Aon** that included an increase of \$1 million in coverage and no increase in fee. CASW offers the best coverage for the best price in Canada for social workers. Cost - \$125 - Coverage \$4 million (up from \$3 million). Option for \$5 million liability for \$175 also provided.



CASW negotiated with **Aon** and **RSA** to offer CASW members a 10% discount for their group home and auto insurance program. Aon will promote Home & Auto more with its Liability insurance marketing.

CASW dispersed over \$20,000 in **Aon** Sponsorship to social workers to attend the 2014 National Joint Conference.

CASW provided members of its Partner Organizations over \$15,000 in Aon Scholarships over the past two years to support differing educational opportunities.

Services

CASW completed 137 individual assessments of applicants from 17 different countries seeking equivalency of their internationally obtained social work education to Canadian standards. This CASW service is recognized by all provincial and social work regulatory bodies in Canada with the exception of Québec and British Columbia.

- [CASW's Media Monitoring Service](#) – a daily e-mail service of national news relevant to the social work profession received by 576 individuals and organizations.
- [CASW Reporter](#) – Monthly e-newsletter that informs on CASW activities, advocacy and national professional resources to strengthen the profession.
- [CSW Journal](#) – published in October of each year and available to federation members on the CASW Members Site and on-line to subscribers. For subscribers, EBSCO carries the *CSW Journal* in searchable full-text and was viewed a total of 1011 times in operational year 2014-15.



National Coalitions

CASW leverages the power of coalitions to advance the three ends foundational to the CASW Strategic Plan. In addition to the specific strategic alliances and coalition work already highlighted, CASW joined new coalitions in in this past year including:

- [Canadian Harm Reduction Network](#) - unites individuals and organizations dedicated to reducing the social, health and economic harms associated with drugs and drug policies. As a part of this Network, CASW will continue to elevate its profile as national organization abreast of best practices in areas that impact social service consumers.
- [National Association Active in Criminal Justice](#) - goal is to enhance the capacity of member organizations to contribute to a just, fair, equitable and effective justice system, which will enhance CASW's capacity to contribute to conversations on equity.
- CASW endorsed the [UP FOR DEBATE](#) campaign launched November 4, 2014. Up for Debate is a pan-Canadian conversation on gender justice and equality, and a call for all political parties to make meaningful commitments to change women's lives for the better.
- Rejoined the [Child Welfare League of Canada](#) - plays a significant role in promoting best practices among those in the field of child welfare, child rights, children and youth mental health and youth justice.

CASW is associated and active in over 30 national coalitions including:

- Adoption Council of Canada
- Campaign 2000
- Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health
- Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange
- Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
- Canadians for Tax Fairness
- Canadian Coalition for Public Health in the 21st Century
- Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children
- Canadian Coalition for Seniors' Mental Health
- Canadian Harm Reduction Network
- Canadian Primary Health Care Research Network
- Canadian Public Health Association - National Literacy and Health Program
- Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada
- Child Rights Education for Professionals
- Child Welfare League of Canada
- Coalition on Community Safety, Health and Well-being
- Dignity for All: The Campaign for a Poverty-Free Canada
- Egale Canada
- Group of 7 Health Professions
- Health Action Lobby
- International Social Services
- Mental Health Support Network of Canada
- National Alliance for Children and Youth
- National Association Active in Criminal Justice
- National Coalition on Housing and Homelessness
- National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly (A National Centre of Excellence)
- Partners for Mental Health
- Promoting Relationships and Eliminating Violence Network (PREVNet)
- Quality End-of-Life Care Coalition
- Up For Debate

Canadian Social Work Journal

Co-Editors

Karen Schwartz & Elizabeth Sheppard Hewitt

Editorial Board

- Glen Schmidt (British Columbia)
- Caroline Corbin (Manitoba)
- Nuelle Novik (Saskatchewan)
- Donna Ronan (Newfoundland and Labrador)
- Isabel Lanteigne, Francophone Representative
- Kelly Cooper (Northern Canada)
- Selvi Roy (Prince Edward Island)
- Elaine Campbell (Nova Scotia)
- Jan Christianson-Wood, CASW Board Liason
- Morel Caissie, CASW President (ex-officio)
- Fred Phelps, CASW Executive Director (ex-officio)

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travailleurs sociaux

Co-Editor Report

It has been another successful year for *Canadian Social Work*, the CASW journal. We have embarked on a number of initiatives to improve the journal and become more efficient reviewers of potential articles. We have expanded our editorial board and launched a pilot of giving editorial board members an expanded role in reviewing and steering articles through the review process. Initial anecdotal reviews of the pilot are that the editorial board members are enjoying their roles and articles are making their way through the process more quickly.

A survey was sent out to our reviewers asking for updated and more complete information about their areas of expertise. This was also successful and we now have a database which enables us to make better matches between the subject matter of the articles that we receive and the expertise of our reviewers which results in higher quality reviews.

In November, a group of MSW students conducted an online survey investigating what our readership would like to see in the journal. One piece of feedback that we will address in the coming year was that most of the respondents (who are members of CASW or an affiliate) found it very difficult to find the journal online. We will look at increasing the visibility of the journal and the ease of access.

Interestingly, the journal receives many more international hits (633 over the past 3 years) than Canadian hits (348 in the last 3 years), so students may be accessing the journal through their local libraries as well as a broad international audience. When asked what they liked most about the journal 23% of those who read the journal said that they liked the Canadian content. When asked what they would like to see more of in the journal, the majority of those who read the journal wanted more clinical content (30%)¹.



Canadian Social Work Journal *Continued*

The high quality of the journal reflects the expertise of the members of the Editorial Board, the reviewers across the country, all those who submitted articles and the copy editors Paul Sayles (English) and Gaston St-Jean (French). Unfortunately, France Audet, who was the project manager for the journal for many years, has moved on but she has been ably replaced by Sally Guy.

We welcome Nuelle Novik (SASW), Elaine Campbell (NSASW), Selvi Roy (PEIASW) and Kelly Cooper (ASWNC) to the board and thank them in advance for their expertise. Thank you also to our hard working board members that continue to contribute to our journal: Glen Schmidt (BCASW), Caroline Corbin (MIRSW), Donna Ronan (NLASW), Isabel Lantaigne (Francophone Rep) and Morel Caissie (CASW President). Please note we are seeking a representative from NBASW. If interested please contact your professional association. Heart-felt thanks also go out to Fred Phelps for his assistance in problem solving and being a supportive listener as Executive Director.

We look forward to producing another interesting and informative edition of the journal this year and to your continued support and participation in the journey.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Sheppard Hewitt MSW, RSW
Co-Editor CSW

Karen Schwartz, MSW, PhD
Co-Editor CSW

¹ Thanks to Susan Gauthier, Christine Dinnery and Enohuomen Ahiaegbe for all of their hard work on this project.



International Federation of Social Workers

Since the last General meeting held in July 2014 in Melbourne, IFSW has admitted 6 new members as follows: Egypt, Grenada, Mexico, Morocco, Romania and Nepal. Three other applicants are under review: Greece, Haiti and Panama. IFSW is also in preliminary discussions with India who are considering joining. IFSW currently has 117 members worldwide and the membership is growing.

IFSW Aims

Social workers make a unique and critical contribution to society. They facilitate social sustainable outcomes that enable people and their communities to reach their potential for this and future generations. IFSW supports social workers to achieve this through the following aims:

- **Partnerships:** Building external partnerships with people who use social work services and their wider communities; to ensure that social services recognise people's inherent strengths and build on them to meet community aspirations.
- **Action:** Facilitating international and regional cooperation for shared learning and joint action.
- **Policy:** Developing ethical statements and policies that enhance best social work practice.
- **Advocacy:** Advocating at global, regional and national levels for social justice, and individual, group, civic and cultural human rights.

New Definition of Social Work

The social work profession promotes social change, problem solving in human relationships and the empowerment and liberation of people to enhance well-being. Utilising theories of human behaviour and social systems, social work intervenes at the points where people interact with their environments. Principles of human rights and social justice are fundamental to social work.

IFSW Mission

The International Federation of Social Workers is a global organization striving for social justice, human rights and social development through the promotion of social work, best practice models and the facilitation of international cooperation

IFSW Executive Committee Meeting

Two full day meetings were held at John Knox Center in Geneva, Switzerland (March 15-17). Many of the Agenda items related to specific tasks outlined in our strategic action plan. Considerable discussion and debate was held around our proposed policies as well as the development of a process or template for updating or adopting new policies. The Regional Observatories for the Global Agenda theme for 2014-2016: Promoting the dignity and worth of peoples was also discussed at length in order to agree to terms of reference and a process to go forward.



International Federation of Social Workers

Continued

A review of the constitution and By-laws is a high priority in the IFSW action plan. The review is being led by a sub-committee led by Daniel Asiedu and Morel Caissie. This is a major under-taking requiring hundreds of hours of work, skype meetings and e-mail exchanges over a period of two years. Considerable discussion was held on proposals developed to date. There will be several more steps to follow to get feedback from the entire executive as well as all 117 member associations before a draft is brought to the general meeting in Seoul in July 2016.

The next day following the meetings, all executive committee members attended meetings at UN -Aids where the 32nd annual Social Work Day at the United Nations celebrations were held. The theme of the meetings for March 17th, 2015 was Ending Aids, Promoting Dignity and Respect for All.



Morel Cassie, President for North America
IFSW Executive Committee

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