



## CASW Reporter

### Information - Communication – Action

#### Strengthening the Profession

##### **National Social Work Month (NSWM) 2011**

CASW is celebrating March 2011 as NSWM with the theme, “Social Workers for Dignity and Inclusion: Upholding Human Rights.” To purchase CASW mementos for your NSWM celebrations, please [click here](#).

CASW encourages social workers to share their stories of NSWM celebrations. Tell us what you’re doing to celebrate ... share your story ... inspire others ... and win a prize! To share your stories of celebration on the CASW website, contact [casw-socialworker@casw-acts.ca](mailto:casw-socialworker@casw-acts.ca).

##### **National Educational Webcast**

##### **Registration Open**

In celebration of NSWM, CASW is offering a free one-hour National Educational Webcast for social workers who are members of CASW member organizations on the 2011 NSWM theme, “Social Workers for Dignity and Inclusion: Upholding Human Rights.”

**When: Tuesday, March 29, 2011**  
**Time: 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. (EST)**

**To register for this free webcast, please click the following link and follow the step-by-step instructions:** [http://www.snwebcastcenter.com/custom\\_events/casw-20110329/site/index.php](http://www.snwebcastcenter.com/custom_events/casw-20110329/site/index.php)

##### **Webcast Synopsis**

CASW presenters will draw on a wealth of life and practice experience to motivate social workers in their efforts to advocate for the dignity and inclusion of all. Presenters will share their national and international experiences as human rights defenders who continually inspire others to support marginalized populations in the upholding of human rights.

The event will be introduced by CASW President Darlene MacDonald. The webcast will be delivered in English only and the format includes a 30-minute interactive audio-streamed PowerPoint presentation, followed by a question and answer session.

## Webcast Presenters

### **Cindy Blackstock (MM, PhD)**

Cindy is the Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada. She is a member of the Gitksan Nation and has worked in the field of child and family services for over 20 years. An author of over 50 publications, her key interests include exploring, and addressing, the causes of disadvantage for Aboriginal children and families by promoting equitable and culturally based interventions. Cindy was the recipient of the 2010 CASW National Award for Outstanding Service.

### **David Turner (LLB, DipSW, RSW)**

David currently works on human rights education in Ethiopia from an indigenous, capacity-building perspective. He is professor emeritus in social work from the University of Victoria. David has worked as a probation officer, community developer, human rights advocate, politician (Past Mayor of Victoria, Chair of the Police and School Boards), activist and teacher in law and human rights for social workers. He tries to use his white privilege and credibility for social justice, especially in poverty and homeless issues.

(Annette Bourque (BSW, MSW, RSW) from the Ombudsman/Child and Youth Advocate's office in New Brunswick was also scheduled to present. Unfortunately, unanticipated commitments have made her unavailable for NSWM Webcast 2011.)

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### **Farewells and Welcomes to CASW**

CASW bids farewell to Melanie Mood-Deveau as NSASW's representative to the Children's Issues Interest Group. CASW welcomes Florence Flynn as the CASW's new representative to the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN) Integration of Palliative and End-of-Life Care Competencies advisory team and thanks Debra Wiszniak from SASW for her time on the project. CASW also welcomes Michelle Rigby (NSASW) as a CASW representative to the CASN stakeholder forums in Ottawa for the same Integration of Palliative and End-of-Life Care Competencies project.

## Pursuit of Social Justice

### **CASW meets Michael Ignatieff and Senior HRSDC Officials with Dignity for All (DFA)**

As lead up to the deadline (March 17, 2011) for the Government of Canada's response the HUMA *Federal Poverty Reduction Plan: Working in Partnership Towards Reducing Poverty in Canada* report, DFA met with Opposition Leader Michael Ignatieff to gain commitment from the Liberal Party of Canada to a national poverty reduction strategy. DFA appreciated Ignatieff's preparation for the discussion and were greatly encouraged by the Liberal Party's intention to act on poverty in a comprehensive, strategic way, with linkage to the broader theme of equality of opportunity.

DFA also extended an invitation to meet with the Minister Responsible for Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), Diane Finley, but she was unable to attend. Instead, DFA met with HRDC Assistant Deputy Minister Alan Sutherland and the head of Income Security, Doug Murphy, to better understand the Government of Canada's intentions in responding to the HUMA report. Little has been done on the HUMA report, and neither gave an indication as to what could be expected in the official response.

### **Dignity for All Policy Summit**

CASW is pleased to announce its participation in the *Dignity for All Policy Summit* scheduled for March 3–4, 2011 in Ottawa. As a DFA partner, CASW has been active in helping coordinate this important summit that will bring together analysts and advocates from across the country for in-depth sessions on housing and early childhood education and care. Guided by a professional facilitator and subject matter experts, the goals are to develop a deeper understanding of issues at the core of poverty elimination, and to establish a national consensus on key DFA policy recommendations for the federal government in the context of a proposed poverty elimination plan. Stay tuned to the Reporter for updates on the consensus positions established.

### **CASW Supports Pink Shirt Day**

CASW encouraged social workers to participate Pink Shirt Day (February 23, 2011) in solidarity against all forms of bullying on February 23, 2011. [Click here](#) to learn more.

## **International**

### **International Women's Day (IWD)**

International Women's Day (March 8, 2011) is recognized around the globe as a day to celebrate the economic, political and social achievements of women—past, present and future. The theme for 2011 is “*Equal access to education, training and science and technology: Pathway to decent work for women.*” To learn about IWD events planned around the world, please [click here](#).

### **2011 World Social Work Day (WSWD)**

World Social Work Day (WSWD) 2011 will be celebrated on March 16, 2011 with the theme, “*Social Work Voices Responding to Global Crisis: Together We Develop the Agenda.*” The 2011 WSWD poster and news release will be available soon on the [IFSW Website](#).

### **Human Rights Website – International Federation of Social Workers**

The [Human Rights Website](#) is a living website for the social professions to keep up to date with current human rights issues. Visit the [Human Rights Website](#) and get involved by contributing to the material available on the site, your issues, your dilemmas and your examples of good practice.

## **Relevant Resources**

### **Leadnow**

Leadnow intends to bring generations of Canadians together to share ideas and goals in order to draft a *Declaration for Change*, a commitment to create a better future for all Canadians.

Leadnow intends to challenge politicians to work together for progress on the Declaration's goals, and call on people to commit to take action and vote for the politicians who will rise to the challenge. Visit [www.leadnow.ca](http://www.leadnow.ca) for more information on this grassroots initiative.

### **Know Your Rights, Have Your Say!**

Children under the age of 18 are entitled to all of the human rights defined in the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, but most children (and adults!) are unaware of it. Visit [www.childandyouthrights.net](http://www.childandyouthrights.net) to learn more.

### **An Act Respecting a National Strategy for Suicide Prevention**

Member of Parliament, Megan Leslie (Halifax), launched a campaign in support of her private member's bill, [An Act Respecting a National Strategy for Suicide Prevention](#), introduced in the House of Commons in November 2010. The Act directs the Federal government to establish a national suicide prevention strategy in consultation with the provincial, territorial and First Nations governments. To learn more about this campaign, please [click here](#).