



January 2011 Issue

CASW Reporter

Information - Communication – Action

Strengthening the Profession

CASW Advocates for Medical Expense Tax Credit Qualification

CASW President Darlene MacDonald sent a letter to the Minister of Finance requesting that the Government of Canada include the services of Registered Social Workers (RSW) within the category of medical practitioners qualifying for the refundable and the non-refundable medical expense tax credit (METC). To read more, please [click here](#).

2011 National Social Work Month (NSWM)

CASW is celebrating the 2011 National Social Work Month (NSWM) in March with the theme, “Social Workers for Dignity and Inclusion: Upholding Human Rights.” Provincial and territorial social work organizations choose which week in March to hold their own celebrations. To inquire about dates of celebration by CASW member organizations, [click here](#).

2011 National Educational Webcast

Mark your calendars! In celebration of NSWM, CASW will be 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)

Presenters

Annette Bourque (BSW, MSW, RSW)

Annette is the Clinical Director in the Ombudsman/Child and Youth Advocate’s office in New Brunswick. In her 28-year social work career, Annette has worked in a variety of domains including child protection, addictions, as well as in health and mental health services. Annette also teaches social work at the University of Moncton on a part-time basis and has advocated for the rights and best interests of children and adults throughout her career. Annette will deliver a bilingual presentation.

Cindy Blackstock (M.M., 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. Dip.SW. 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 Police Board and of School Board), 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.

Stay tuned to the *Reporter* for registration and presentation details in the coming months.

Stories of Celebration

CASW encourages social workers to share their stories of National Social Work Month (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 Fred Phelps at casw-socialworker@casw-acts.ca.

CASW Evaluates the Mental Health Commission of Canada

The Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) was created in 2007 as a result of recommendations made in the groundbreaking report, *Out of the Shadows at Last—Transforming Mental Health, Mental Illness and Addiction Services in Canada*. CASW, via the Health Interest Group, provided evaluations on the progress of MHCC since its inception.

Farewells and Welcomes to CASW

Farewell to Kellie Tennant, who was a member of the CASW Aboriginal Social Workers Interest Group, and Tracey Young, member of CASW Children Issues Interest Group. CASW expresses gratitude for their dedication and contributions to the interest groups and welcomes Carol Ross, who is the new BCASW representative for the Children Issues Interest Group.

The CASW Editorial Board for the *Canadian Social Work* journal (CSW) welcomes Elizabeth Sheppard-Hewitt as the new representative for Newfoundland and Labrador.

Pursuit of Social Justice

CASW Seeks Pledges from National Leaders on Poverty Elimination

CASW President Darlene MacDonald sent a letter to each of Canada's major party leaders seeking their pledge to make poverty elimination in Canada a central issue in the next election. [Click here](#) to read more.

CASW Supports Repeal 43

As a coalition partner of Repeal 43, the CASW Children's Issues Interest Group wrote Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette in support of Bill S-204, the renewed effort to repeal Section 43 of the Criminal Code. If you are interested in demonstrating your support for Bill S-204, Senator Hervieux-Payette (hervic@sen.parl.gc.ca) would appreciate receiving e-mails of support, since the opposing viewpoint is inundating the discussion. Please [click here](#) for more background on Bill S-204 and Repeal 43.

CASW Pressures Federal Government to Restore National Settlement Funding

On the eve of Christmas 2010, CASW issued a press release appealing to the Government of Canada to reverse its decision and restore the \$53 million cut from national settlement funding. To read more, please [click here](#). To access the CASW President's follow-up letter to Minister Jason Kenney, please [click here](#).

CASW Evaluates the Quality Worklife—Quality Healthcare Collaborative

Members of the CASW Health Interest Group provided evaluation that will help shape the future priorities of the Quality Worklife—Quality Healthcare Collaborative (a coalition of 12 National healthcare organizations working together to create healthier workplaces).

International

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](#).