



March 2011 Issue

CASW Reporter

Information - Communication - Action

Farewell to OASW and ACSW after 35 years of Federation Membership

Farewell to OASW and ACSW

It is with deep regret that CASW acknowledges the formal loss of thousands of social workers in Alberta and Ontario from the CASW Federation as of April 1, 2011. This loss is due to decisions of the boards of their provincial associations to leave the national federation after over 35 years of membership. Please [click here](#) to access a statement from the Retired Social Workers Group (Edmonton) regarding ACSW's decision to withdraw from CASW.

OASW and ACSW members are encouraged to remain actively engaged in the CASW federation by continuing to receive CASW communications and, should individual memberships become available, choosing to become direct members of CASW if their provincial organizations continue to remain outside of the national federation. As an act of good faith, all members of OASW and ACSW will remain eligible for the CASW Professional Liability Insurance Program.

Farewell to OASW and ACSW members and thank you to all their members who have actively contributed to CASW over the organization's 85 years of building the social work profession in Canada.

CASW pays a special tribute to OASW and ACSW members who, in spite of losing their association with CASW, choose to remain active contributors to the national federation through their work on interest groups and representation on national forums and initiatives.

If you are a member ACSW or OASW and want to continue receiving CASW communications after April 1, 2011, please email casw-secretary@casw-acts.ca and let your wish to remain on the CASW e-mail distribution list be known.

Good luck, OASW and ACSW . . . the door will always remain open.

Strengthening the Profession

National Social Work Month Celebrations (NSWM)

CASW congratulates social workers from across Canada for a successful NSWM 2011, with celebrations happening on different weeks and different regions—all with the goal promoting our proud profession. If you missed out on the dynamic and inspiring CASW webcast on the upholding of human rights presented by Cindy Blackstock and David Turner, you can still catch the action by [clicking here](#).

The NSWM [Distinguished Service Awards](#) were also presented throughout the month. Biographies of the winners and further information about NSWM will be published in the April 2011 edition of the CASW *Bulletin*.

Canadian Social Work Journal –Special Edition on Settlement and Newcomers to Canada

CASW is pleased to announce that the Special Edition of *Canadian Social Work* journal (CSW), entitled Settlement and Newcomers to Canada (Volume 12/1), is now available on the CASW website. Please [click here](#) to read this new and timely publication.

Pursuit of Social Justice

Federal Budget 2011

Prior to its defeat on March 25, 2011, the Government of Canada released Budget 2011 on March 22. [CASW responded immediately](#), communicating its disappointment for the lack of commitment to substantial reforms to Canadian pensions, employment insurance, affordable housing and child care to meet the needs of thousands of modest income Canadians who are left behind or receive marginal benefits due to limited incomes.

Harper Government Response to the HUMA Federal Poverty Reduction Plan

The all-party [HUMA Federal Poverty Reduction Plan](#) report recently received an [Official Response](#) from the Harper Government. [Click here](#) to access reaction to the government's response from *Dignity for All: The campaign for a poverty-free Canada*, of which CASW is a founding member.

Speak Up: Start the conversation about end-of-life care

CASW is pleased to be one of 25 associations from across Canada that have joined together to champion April 12, 2011 as National Advance Care Planning Day, a day of awareness and action for Canadians. The Advance Care Planning National Task Force, a group representing professional organizations and non-governmental groups from across Canada, has developed the "Speak Up: Start the conversation about end-of-life care" campaign to remind Canadians to think about and talk about their wishes for end-of-life-care. Please visit www.advancecareplanning.ca to learn more.

International

International Women's Day (IWD)

International Women's Day was recognized on March 8, 2011 as a day to celebrate the economic, political and social achievements of women—past, present and future. [Click here](#) to view CASW's IWD news release.

2011 World Social Work Day (WSWD)

WSWD was celebrated on March 16, 2011 with the theme, "Social Work Voices Responding to Global Crisis: Together We Develop the Agenda." [Click here](#) to access CASW's release in honour of WSWD. Also, [click here](#) to access a video message from Darlene MacDonald, IFSW North American Region and CASW President for WSWD.

Election 2011

Poverty Reduction - Open Letter to the Elected Leaders of the Parliament of Canada

In anticipation of a 2011 election, CASW President Darlene MacDonald sent the elected leaders of the Parliament of Canada an [Open Letter](#) (January 12, 2011) seeking their pledge to make poverty elimination a central issue in the next election. CASW received only one response, from NDP Leader Jack Layton. Please [click here](#) to view this response.

National Settlement Funding Cuts

On the eve of Christmas 2010, the Harper Government announced \$53 million in cuts to settlement programs in Canada. [CASW's response](#) was swift, calling for full restoration of the funding. CASW President followed up with [a letter](#) to the Immigration Minister, Jason Kenney, requesting that the funding be restored immediately. Please [click here](#) to view his response. During Election 2011, CASW invites social workers to make their views on the issue known in order to ensure that the next government makes funding settlement programs in Canada a priority.

Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Dismisses First Nations Children on Reserves

On March 14, 2011, the Canadian Human Rights (CHR) Tribunal dismissed on a legal technicality the complaint filed in 2007 by the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada (FNCFC) and the Assembly of First Nations, which alleged that the Federal Government is racially discriminating against First Nations children by providing less child welfare benefit on reserves. CASW strongly supports the complaint and asks social workers to do the same by making this national issue one of local importance during Election 2011. Ask your candidates to become witnesses. Visit the FNCFC website to learn more by [clicking here](#).

Relevant Resources

One Hundred Years of Social Work

CASW recommends checking out the first comprehensive history of social work in Canada, entitled *One Hundred Years of Social Work: A History of the Profession in English Canada, 1900–2000* recently published by Carleton professors Therese Jennissen and Colleen Lundy (Wilfred Laurier University Press, 2011). This timely book discusses the long-standing struggle of CASW and individual social workers to reconcile advancement of professional status with the promotion of social action.

Modified: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 15:19