



June 2012

CASW Reporter

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Pursuit of Social Justice

Reforming Old Age Security: A Social Work Perspective

CASW released a paper entitled *Reforming Old Age Security: A Social Work Perspective* that considers the position of the Harper Government that the current old age security program is not financially sustainable by assessing the financial burden on the federal government and by comparing the Canadian experience with Western Europe. [Click here](#) to read the full paper.

Opposed to the Last Federal Budget? Consider letting your voice be heard.

CASW was opposed to the last federal budget for a number of reasons including the raising of the age of eligibility for Old Age Security as well the lack of leadership for accountability of the [Canada Social Transfer](#) (CST) to name a few. Bill C-38, also known as the omnibus budget bill was a massive, unwieldy bill that went beyond taxes and expenditures to place great power in the hands of Cabinet. As in past years, CASW will submit to the Pre-Budget Consultations of the Committee on Finance however this year is different and CASW is seeking your support to let the voice of social work be heard.

Recently, the Committee on Finance, for the first time, launched on-line pre-budget consultations with specific questions on which the Committee is focussed on at this time. In practical terms, the Harper Government is not interested in hearing differing views to their set agenda rather the Conservative dominated Committee on Finance is attempting to control the outcome of the public consultations by dictating the terms on what they hear back from Canadians. Consequently, CASW is encouraging individual social workers and groups to log onto the [Committee on Finance website](#), ignore the controlled questions, and let the Harper Government know what you want reversed from the last budget for the next one!

If you're short on ideas, simply let them know that [Accountability Matters](#).

[CASW](#) would appreciate knowing if you choose to make a submission, the more, the stronger the voice.

Action for Refugee Health Care

CASW signed a [joint letter](#) expressing the deep concern of national health practitioner groups with respect to the federal government's announcement to cut off supplemental health benefits for refugee claimants effective June 30. Even with Canadians from coast to coast making their voices of opposition on the June 18th Day of Action, sadly it appears that the Harper Government is choosing not to reverse these short sighted cuts that will impact the health and social well-being of refugees who are now seemingly unwelcomed in Canada.

All-Party Anti-Poverty Caucus

CASW, through its active involvement with the [Dignity for All Campaign](#), was pleased to attend the first event of the newly formed federal All-Party Anti-Poverty Caucus (APC) on Parliament Hill on June 12th. The Anti-Poverty Caucus (APC) seeks to bring together parliamentarians, organizations, community leaders, and other key stakeholders to find concrete solutions to end poverty. The All-Party Anti-Poverty Caucus co-chairs are the [Hon. Michael Chong](#), MP (Conservative), [Jean Crowder](#), MP (NDP) and [Hon. Art Eggleton](#), Senator (Liberal). The caucus treasurer is the [Rev. Don Meredith](#), Senator (Conservative). CASW encourages you to send a message of thanks and support to each of them. (Click their names above to access their e-mail addresses.

Dignity for All Appeals to Provincial/Territorial Ministers of Finance

In an [open letter to the Provincial/Territorial Ministers of Finance](#), members of *Dignity for All: the campaign for a poverty-free Canada* note the provisions in Bill C-38 (Budget Bill) related to the increase in the age of eligibility for Old Age Security (OAS) and the new requirements for Employment Insurance (EI) recipients will hurt the people who can least afford it: low-income Canadians and their families. The signatories, including CASW, encourage the finance ministers to call for the reversal of the changes and a national conversation on retirement security to ensure that provincial and territorial concerns are adequately addressed.

Strengthening and Promoting the Profession

Looking for a new opportunity? Click the below link for New CASW Employment Listing:

- [Government of the Northwest Territories, Tlicho Community Services Agency – Manager of Child and Family Services / Mental Health and Wellness in Behchoko, NT](#)

CASW Supports Integration of Mental Health in Primary Care Research

CASW provided its support to a team of researchers, policymakers, health professionals and service users led by Dr. Jean Grenier and Marie-Hélène Chomienne from the University of Ottawa seeking funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for their project entitled "A Model for the Implementation of Evidence-Based Practices into Routine Primary Care for Patients with Anxiety Disorders." The ultimate goal of the project is to ensure better integration of mental health in primary care using the example of anxiety disorders and ensuring that treatments are based on evidence while ensuring efficiency and cost effectiveness.

CASW Webcast Recording Available – Michael Ungar

If you missed out on the inspiring CASW webcast on resiliency by Michael Ungar, [click here](#) to access a recording of the webcast.

Relevant Resources

Here At Home – In search of the real cost of homelessness.

When people with mental illness are homeless, everybody pays. An NFB Interactive production ***Here At Home*** is a web documentary about "At Home", a radical Canadian experiment that aims to prove there is a way to end chronic homelessness. Visit the web doc [***Here At Home***](#) and watch the films posted so far.

Mental Health First Aid

The Mental Health Commission of Canada is supporting the delivery of Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) courses. Just as physical first aid is administered to an injured person before medical treatment can be obtained, MHFA is given until appropriate treatment is found or until the crisis is resolved. [Click here](#) to learn more about the courses including how to become an instructor.

Celebrating a Day in the Life of Taxes

The Canadian Centre for Public Alternatives (CCPA) has made a video celebrating a day in the life of taxes. The video, produced in partnership with the Secrétariat Intersyndical des services publics, is available in [English](#) and [French](#).

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