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 over 90 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.

2019-2020 Board of Directors

Officers
President Jan Christianson-Wood
Vice-President Joan Davis-Whelan
Treasurer Vicki Coy Rachel Hollingshead

Board Members
British Columbia Glen Schmidt
Alberta Maxine Salopree Ajay Pandhi Hazel Berg
Saskatchewan Darlene MacDonald
Manitoba Vicki Coy
New Brunswick Barbara Whitenect
Prince Edward Island Kelly MacWilliams
Nova Scotia Debbie Reimer
Newfoundland & Labrador Joan Davis-Whelan Rachel Hollingshead
Northern Canada

CASW Board Committees

Ends Committee
Ajay Pandhi (AB)
Ray Hildebrand (MB)
Rachel Hollingshead (NU)
Joan Davis-Whelan (NL)
Fred Phelps (Ex-officio)

Policy-Governance
Jan Christianson-Wood (President)
Ray Hildebrand (MB)
Kelly MacWilliams (PEI)
Debbie Reimer (NS)
Sally Guy (Ex-officio)

CASW Federation Committee
Code of Ethics and Scope of Practice Committee
Jan Christianson-Wood (President)
Leya Eguchi (BC)
Maxine Salopree (AB)
Karen Wasylenka (SK)
Miguel Leblanc (NB)
Rachel Hollingshead (NU)
Debbie Reimer (NS)
Barbara Temmerman (MB)
Fred Phelps (Ex-officio)

Contractors
Code of Ethics Noela Crowe-Salazar, Pimatisiwin Consulting and Counselling
Scope of Practice Rhoda Hallberg, Barnes Management Group

CASW Staff

Executive Director Fred Phelps
Membership Coordinator Kate Hudson
Administrative Coordinator Heather Hallett
Director of Policy and Strategy Sally Guy
Social Policy and Communications Coordinator Alexandra Zannis
PROVINCIAL / TERRITORIAL PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Association of Social Workers in Northern Canada
President: Jim Watkin
Executive Director: Lesley Carberry
www.socialworknorth.com

British Columbia Association of Social Workers
President: Michael Crawford
Executive Director: Dianne Heath
www.bcassw.org

Alberta College of Social Workers
President: Ajay Pandhi
Executive Director: Lynn Labrecque King
Associate Registrar: Suzanne MacKinnon
Associate Director, Professional Practice and Advocacy: Jody-Lea Farrah
www.acsw.ab.ca

Association of Social Workers in Northern Canada
President: Jim Watkin
Executive Director: Lesley Carberry
www.socialworknorth.com

Manitoba College of Social Workers
President: Vicki (Verge) Burgess
Executive Director and Registrar: Barbara Temmerman
www.mcsw.ca

Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers
President: Wanda Miller
Executive Director and Registrar: Karen Wasylenga
www.sasw.ca

New Brunswick Association of Social Workers
President: Geraldine Poier Baiani
Executive Director: Miguel Leblanc
Registrar: Martine Paquet
www.nbasw-antsnb.ca

Nova Scotia College of Social Workers
President: Ezra Wexler
Executive Director: Lynn Brogan (Interim), Alec Stratford
www.nscsw.org

Newfoundland & Labrador Association of Social Workers
President: Henry Kiele
Executive Director: Lisa Crockwell
www.nlasw.ca

Prince Edward Island Association of Social Workers
President: Bruce Davison
www.peiasw.ca
“United by Diversity, Strengthened by Inclusion” is the National Social Work Month theme chosen for this year. At this point in our history, it delivers a message that is timely and a guide into the future; it has a fit that was intended and yet unexpected. In the past twelve months we have prepared for events that could not take place and worked through unexpected challenges and changes to how we communicate, practice and work as a national association of social workers.

The 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Federation was hosted by the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers in June at the historic Delta Bessborough Hotel in Saskatoon. The Board gathered again in October, this time in Ottawa, and welcomed three new Board members, Glen Schmidt (BCASW), Maxine Salopree (ACSW and the IFSW Indigenous Committee) and Darlene MacDonald (MCSW). The days were full as we reviewed reports, had an operational update from Executive Director Fred Phelps and a Financial Update from Treasurer, Joan Davis-Whelan (NLCSW). The information and action package reviewed by the Board was extensive.

CASW received a welcome invitation in September to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Association of Black Social Workers in Halifax with three of the founding members present and former CASW President Veronica Marsman as a member of the organizing committee. I was very happy to accept the invitation to attend. The theme of the 40th Anniversary Event was “Still fighting for Justice.” The history of Black Canadians in Nova Scotia documents over 350 years of struggle for equality and for promised land rights to be fulfilled. The over-representation of Black children in provincial care continues to be a concern for the community. Speakers provided insight into the contributions of Black Nova Scotians both provincially and nationally. It was an inspiring celebration, both as a recognition of successes and the acknowledgement of work remaining to be done. Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard was an honoured guest and speaker; she is one of the founding members.

Following the World Social Work Conference in Dublin (July 2018), the University of Calgary’s Faculty of Social Work ramped up the planning the IFSW Social Work Social Development World Conference 2020 (SVSD2020 Calgary). CASW participated in the planning process, beginning in 2018, both as a member of the international Steering Committee and the local Program Committee.

We were supporters of the conference and contributors, with Federation members volunteering to read abstracts submitted for the conference. Regular meetings were held online and in-person in Calgary. We met monthly online in 2019 and 2020 as a larger group and in committee. Dr. Linda Kreitzer of the Edmonton social work campus and I shared the chairing of the Program Committee, working with the Conference Planner and University staff to plan a Canadian conference with a strong theme of honouring and acknowledging indigenous social workers in Canada and around the world.

The IFSW Indigenous Committee (with 3 CASW members) met during the planning process and was to be a critical contributor at the Conference itself. The Program Committee continued planning, accepting abstracts, scheduling speakers, and working to ensure that those attending would have a memorable experience in Canada and especially in Alberta. As you know, the emergence of the COVID-19 virus made it impossible for presenters and speakers to travel to Canada once international restrictions became necessary. The prospect that this would take months to resolve led to CASW, the University, with great regret on both sides, decide to cancel the World Conference. IFSW is planning a virtual AGM to be held over a period of 57 hours in July of this year in addition to a virtual presentation of the abstracts and presentations that could have been part of the Calgary conference.

CASW’s dual mandate of promoting and supporting the profession and of promoting social justice is at the forefront of CASW’s day to day operations. We advocate for improvements in health care, equitable access to health care, equity in mental health care and improved treatment for vulnerable groups in society. CASW was able to conduct a “Hill Day” in early March 2020 to visit members of the federal political parties. We shared our vision for a more just Canada and heard of efforts being made by the parties and proposals for the future.

This visit culminated in a reception hosted by members of the Senate who are or were social workers; this is covered elsewhere in the Annual Report. The event was well attended by social workers and social work students from the area and by our colleagues from CASWE and CCSWR. Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard invited one of her former students, Dr. Marion Brown to read a moving poem written from the view of a social worker. It was an evening of friendship, meeting old friends and making new ones. The emergence of a new virus named COVID-19 was discussed, with handshakes and hugs replaced by ‘elbow bumps’ as a potentially safer form of greeting.

Days after our visit to Ottawa, Canada was dealing with the emergence of COVID-19 and it was evident that our ability to meet face to face or to travel across Canada had been impacted by a ‘new normal’. CASW’s plans to hold a July 2020 AGM in Calgary or to meet at another location were cancelled. We moved into virtual meetings, ‘sharing’ our home spaces, patios, and office spaces with other Board members in the process, meeting family members and occasionally family pets. Social media became critical in staying connected with others and keeping in contact with Federation members. During this change in daily operations, CASW benefited from the skill of our staff in reaching out to members and keeping the Board connected with the governance side of the Association.

The COVID-19 crisis has shown us that a society without social justice can leave people in dire straits when a pandemic or other wide-ranging event shuts down the economy, denies access to a living income and to necessary services such as health care. Achieving our social justice goals, including a Universal Basic Income, would ensure that these critical components of a just society would always be present for all people in Canada.

During these difficult times, CASW has made concerted efforts to remain connected and be conscious that we can all do with support at times. CASW Vice President, Joan Davis-Whelan, is the Moderator of the Peer Support Facebook page for CASW. This confidential meeting place has grown to over 700 members since being set up by CASW Ottawa in response to the pandemic.

It is my hope that the experiences of this past year lay the foundation of a stronger and more equitable society for everyone in Canada as CASW continues in our professional role to advocate for a just society for all people in Canada. Taking care of ourselves and one another will support our profession in the days ahead.

I hope that you will enjoy following the 2019-2020 activities in this CASW Annual Report.

Jan Christianson-Wood, MSW, RSW

Jan Christianson-Wood
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2020

Revenues
Membership Fees $531,004
FTSW assessment fees $90,237
ESDC $89,744
Advertising $37,813
BMS scholarship contributions $12,260
CSW Journal $9,848
Interest income $9,002
BMS sponsorship contributions $7,500
Other Income $5,531
$792,939

Expenditures
Salaries and related benefits $294,300
Professional fees $89,401
Travel $66,521
Rent $44,651
Fees to other organizations $39,051
Office $34,716
FTSW assessment fees $33,075
Continuing education - webinars $20,756
Strengthening the Profession $17,633
BMS scholarships $11,960
Website $11,236
Translation $9,093
BMS sponsorships $7,500
Telephone and utilities $5,703
Advertising and promotion $4,049
Insurance $3,439
Amortization $457
$693,541

Excess of revenues over expenditures before Project Fund expenditure $99,398

Project fund expenditures $69,913

Excess of revenues over expenditures $29,485

This information has been extracted from the financial statements reviewed by Numeris CPA.
United by Diversity
Strengthened by Inclusion

Pillar 1: Promoting the Profession

National Social Work Month
This year, National Social Work Month may have looked different. In March of each year, social workers throughout the country celebrate National Social Work Month (NSWM) in recognition of the important contributions of these social justice professionals. And although the Coronavirus pandemic changed the way in which we had to honour social workers, it did not change our message.

The theme adopted for the 2020 National Social Work Month celebrations was: United by Diversity. Strengthened by Inclusion, and we may have needed this unity now more than ever.

This year’s message is still one of hope. As we adjusted to the new normal COVID-19 brought, we saw social workers adapt and step up to battle the crisis head on, keeping clients’ and communities’ needs top of mind.

This was not the National Social Work Month we had planned. But as the world started to shift, we watched social workers unite through their diversity and ensure communities were strengthened by (albeit virtual) connection and inclusion. March is dedicated to celebrating all the ordinary social workers who make an extraordinary impact, and in this, we are extremely proud of our profession.

A Month to be Proud of
2020 was a very engaged National Social Work Month. CASW offered a weekly book giveaway to members; we had 332 individual entries of social workers sharing their stories on Facebook and Twitter received during our regularly scheduled engagement campaign asking social workers to share their stories of how they are United by Diversity and Strengthened by Inclusion. CASW also placed an advertisement in the iPolitics Morning Brief to thank social workers and invite Canadians from across the country to celebrate our profession.

- Launched a Facebook profile picture frame offered members the chance to add a message to their pictures saying “Proud to be a social worker!”

- Our second annual Social Work Day on the Hill was a huge success. CASW celebrated the profession of social work on Parliament Hill alongside hosts (and former social workers) Senators Wanda Thomas Bernard, Nancy J. Hartling, Margaret Dawn Anderson and Judith G. Seidman, CASW welcomed many other Senators, Parliamentarians, social work stakeholders and social workers to celebrate our amazing profession.
CASW HOSTS

‘SOCIAL WORK DAY ON THE HILL’

With Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard, Senator Nancy J. Hartling, Senator Margaret Dawn Anderson and Senator Judith G. Seidman – all former social workers - CASW hosted a sold out reception on Parliament Hill to welcome other Parliamentarians and stakeholders marking a pivotal moment to come together and celebrate our profession.

CASW Executive Director Fred Phelps with Dr. Marion Brown

CASW Executive Director and Social Policy Coordinator, provide opening remarks

CASW President Janice Christianson-Wood welcomes the crowd to the event

From left to right, CASW Executive with co-host, Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard

From left to right, CASW Social Policy Coordinator with Senator Kim Pate and Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard

Senator Bernard addresses a sold out crowd filled with Parliamentarians and Stakeholders in the iconic Senate Building of Canada

From left to right, the Honourable Minister of National Revenue, Diane Leboutiller, joined by the Honourable Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard and the Honourable Senator Mary Coyle

CASW Social Policy Coordinator with Brenda Morris from Carleton’s School of Social Work

MSW students presenting their research during the educational component of the evening

Senator Dr. Stan Kutcher and Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard

Senator Nancy J. Hartling
In collaboration with CASW federation partner organizations, the 2020 CASW Distinguished Service Award winners were announced during NSWM.

Each 2020 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.

Alberta College of Social Workers
Lynn Labrecque King

British Columbia Association of Social Workers
Mary Leslie

Manitoba College of Social Workers
Jennifer Douglas

New Brunswick Association of Social Workers
Brad Delong

Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Social Workers
Michelle Ryan

Association of Social Workers in Northern Canada
Annette King
Bryany Denning

Please note that the 2020 Glenn Drover National Award for Outstanding Service has not yet been awarded publicly due to COVID-19.

The Reporter

In 2019-2020, CASW continues the release of its monthly mailout, The Reporter, to ensure members remain informed and engaged in all things CASW. Look out in 2020 for a new CASW publication – The Social Worker.

CASW Social Media

CASW’s social media platforms continue to demonstrate strong growth, confirming our status as a visible and engaged organization to promote the profession.
Pillar 2: Pursuit of Social Justice

At a Glance

In 2019-20 Canada experienced a national election that returned a Liberal minority government with the balance of power held between a humbled Conservative Party of Canada, a resurgent Bloc Québécois and a waning New Democratic Party of Canada. CASW provided members with an Election Hub focused addressing the priorities of the profession.

For its part, in 2019-20, CASW made public its ongoing commitment to reconciliation – issuing an association apology that acknowledges, with humility, past and ongoing wrongdoings to begin an honest and transparent dialogue on the ongoing path of reconciliation.

CASW Welcomes New Direction on Indigenous Child Welfare

The Child Welfare League of Canada (CWLC) and CASW joined together in welcoming the seemingly new direction on Indigenous Child Welfare with the introduction of Bill C-92, an Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families.

Health Professional Forum’s Sub-group on Indigenous Health

In September 2019, CASW was invited to participate in the Indigenous Health Sub-group of the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) Health Professionals Forum. The purpose of the Indigenous Health Sub-group is to develop guiding principles for Indigenous engagement by health professional organizations, as well as support sharing of resources that can be used to enhance cultural awareness, competence, safety and humility among health professionals.


On June 4, 2019 CASW issued a statement applauding the comprehensive nature of the Report’s 231 recommendations, which affirm social work’s holistic understanding of well-being by acknowledging the role the social determinants of health and of Canada’s social and political systems in ending the violence and colonial genocide faced by Indigenous people and communities – atrocities most acutely inflicted upon Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA individuals.

Statement of Apology and Commitment to Reconciliation

In the fall of 2019, CASW acknowledged its role in supporting the implementation of residential schools and affirming the approach to child welfare that led to the 60s scoop through the promotion of discriminatory policies with the underlying motivation to dispossess Indigenous peoples from their land.

CASW deeply apologizes for contributing to the injustices imposed on Indigenous peoples and, in this statement, seeks to highlight some of the ways in which CASW was – and in many ways still is – responsible for the systemic denial and inequality that has been apparent in the field of social work.

CASW hopes that by publicly acknowledging, with humility, past and ongoing wrongdoings will begin an honest and transparent dialogue as we continue the path of reconciliation.

According to the TRC, “the importance of truth telling in its own right should not be underestimated; it restores the human dignity of victims of violence and calls governments and citizens to account.” This is CASW’s truth.

Standing with First Nations Children

In November 2019, CASW joined a national coalition, led by the Child Welfare League of Canada, calling for the Government of Canada to immediately drop its application for judicial review and stay of the ruling and work with the Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society to develop a plan for children, youth, and families to access compensation.

Statement on Wet’suwet’en Nation and Commitment to Reconciliation

On February 18, 2020 CASW called on the Government of Canada to uphold the guiding principles of Truth and Reconciliation. Specifically, to heed the TRC guiding principle that “Reconciliation requires political will, joint leadership, trust building, accountability, and transparency, as well as a substantial investment of resources.”

A Response to Canadian Indigenous Community Priorities in Cancer

On March 3, 2020 CASW entered into a Partnership Agreement, led by the Canadian Indigenous Nurses of Canada with the goals of establishing evidence for policy to support equity in cancer prevention and screening and determine healthcare provider readiness to implement practice change that can contribute to improved cancer outcomes.
Commit to Resist

CASW endorsed the Action Canada for Sexual Health & Rights campaign that is committed to resisting the escalating attacks on reproductive rights in Canada. #CommitToResist

Proposed $1.2B Primary Health Care Transition Fund

On October 3, 2019 CASW held a joint press conference with the Canadian Nurses Association, Canadian Medical Association and the College of Family Physicians of Canada to call on federal party leaders to commit to establishing a targeted $1.2 billion Primary Health Care Transition Fund. On behalf of CASW, BCASW Executive Director extols the role of social work on primary care interdisciplinary health teams.

Solidarity Statement for Sex Workers’ Rights


In September 2019, CASW launched the 2019 Election Hub featuring a Party Platform Guide and Coalition Resources and Toolkits. CASW also hosted webinars, with all major parties that responded, so that members could engage directly on the issues that matter to the profession.

A Home for Everyone

CASW is a proud member of the Canadian Housing Renewal Association (CHRA) that has launched its pre-election campaign titled “A Home for Everyone” dedicated to making the federal election all about community housing.

International

IFSW Climate Justice Program Launched

On World Environment Day, June 5th 2019, the IFSW launched its Climate Justice Program that provides education, advocacy and social work action projects for climate justice worldwide.

Statement Condemning Trump Administration’s Proposed Mass Raids on Migrant Families

In June 24, 2019 CASW stood with the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) in their opposition to the Trump Administration’s policies and actions on migrants and their families.

“We are deeply concerned and apprehensive about the negative effect of the proposed mass raid policy. NASW insists that the Trump Administration completely and permanently abandon plans to launch a massive national round up of families with children. The consequences of such an initiative extend far beyond those asylum-seekers who are directly affected. Clearly, large-scale sweeps by federal law enforcement would create chaos, tear, and instability and inflict trauma on individuals, families and entire communities.”

IFSW Indigenous Committee

CASW Board members, Maxine Salopree (Alberta) & Hazel Berg (Saskatchewan) and Shannis Grey committed to participate, on behalf of CASW, on the newly active IFSW Indigenous Committee. The IFSW Indigenous Committee met in Calgary for its first full committee meeting on October 1-3, 2019.
More Advocacy Highlights

CASW Recommends Mental Health Parity
On October 23, 2019 CASW released Mental Health Parity in Canada, a position statement that seeks to recognize mental health as a human right through legislation. Among its recommendations is a call to create a federal Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing, implement a $1.2 billion decriminalization of personal use of psychoactive substances and adopt a Social Care Act.

“This requires the acknowledgment of mental health concurrently with physical health, as a foundational human right through the legislation of a Mental Health Parity Act and through the creation of a Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing as we work towards health equity.”

Joint Call for Federal Minister of Mental Health and Wellbeing
In October 2019 CASW coordinated six national organizations, including the representing over 238,000 health professionals to support a call for the creation of a new Cabinet position: Minister of Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Health Care Providers Band Together to Advocate for Investments in Primary Care
CASW joined the Canadian Medical Association, the Canadian Nurses Association and the College of Family Physicians of Canada in a joint submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance calling for the establishment of a targeted $1.2 billion Primary Health Care Transition Fund.

Decriminalization, Exit Strategies, and the Social Determinants of Health
In August 2019, CASW issued Decriminalization, Exit Strategies, and the Social Determinants of Health: A three-pronged approach to health, safety and dignity for sex workers – the position statement takes a holistic approach to creating a better Canada for sex-workers, proposing decriminalization as one piece in a larger suite of tactics.

“CASW recommends a three-pronged approach to increasing sex worker’s safety, health, and well-being: decriminalization of consensual adult sex work, a new office to fund and manage programming around exit strategies for sex workers, and recommendations to robustly strengthen the social determinants of health.”

Pharmacare Now
CASW joined over 150 national and provincial organizations from across the country calling on all parties to work together to adopt universal pharmacare within this government’s mandate. The joint Pharmacare Now Statement calls for this new program to be public, universal, comprehensive, accessible and portable.

CASW Endorses Statement on Flaws in Current Needle Exchange Program
On August 9, 2019 CASW joined organizations from across Canada to urge the federal government to fix the flaws in its current “Prison Needle Exchange Program.”

Middle Road for Middle Class: Election Budget 2019
On March 19, 2019 CASW provided immediate response to federal budget 2019 – expressing support for national investments in seniors, housing, harm reduction, internet access and the potential of universal pharmacare however that this Budget missed an opportunity to fully engage the profession of social work towards the goal of a better Canada.

CASW Witnessing at Senate Committee on Human Rights
In February 2019, CASW Vice President, Ajay Pandhi, presented to the Senate Committee on Human Rights on factors that lead to criminal justice system involvement.

Renewed Call - National Action Plan on Violence against Women
On September 24, 2019 CASW joined the renewed call of Women’s Shelters Canada’s for a National Action Plan on Violence against Women. CASW was one of 20 organizations that contributed to the development of the Blueprint for Canada’s National Action Plan last election.
Coalition Memberships

CASW leverages partnerships and relationships with other organizations and stakeholders to strengthen our advocacy voice.

CASW is active in:

- **Extended Health Providers Coalition**
  EHPC together with the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association produced a new guide that will help healthcare providers and their patients better understand how private health insurance works. Launched in November 2019, the guide, Supplementary Health Insurance Explained for Healthcare Providers, describes the kinds of benefit plans patients may present to their healthcare provider and how they work, including healthcare and explains many terms and concepts commonly used by health insurers. CASW is the current EHPC Chair.

- **Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health**
  CAMIMH is a coalition comprised of national organizations representing both health providers and those with lived experience of mental illness, and consistently pushes for a better mental health future in Canada. Notably, CAMIMH delivers the Champions of Mental Health Awards each year, recognizing the contributions of amazing Canadians in different categories related to mental health.

- **Canadian Coalition for Public Health in the 21st Century**
  For Election 2019, CCPH21 launched Public Health Matters Campaign that called on the next federal government to take leadership in six key issues: Basic Income, Climate Change, Core Housing Need, Early Childhood Education & Care, the Opioid Crisis and Racism & Health. The Canadian Coalition for Public Health in the 21st Century (CCPH21) is a national network of non-profit organizations, professional associations, health charities and academic researchers who share the common goal to improve and sustain the health of Canadians.

- **Canadian Coalition for Seniors’ Mental Health**
  - Steering Committee Member

- **Dignity for All: The Campaign for a Poverty-Free Canada**

- **National Association Active in Criminal Justice**

- **Substance Use and Addictions Project**
  - CASW is an Advisory Committee Member

- **Quality End of Life Care Coalition of Canada**
  - CASW is an Advocacy Committee Member

- **Organizations for Health Action**
  HEAL is a coalition of 40 national health organizations dedicated to improving the health of Canadians and the quality of care they receive. In March 2019, HEAL established a COVID-19 Task Force to coordinate efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent back to normal transition period. CASW is a member of the HEAL Management Committee.

- **Coalition for Safe and Effective Pain Management**
  The coalition is committed, as part of the federal government’s opioid strategy, to develop recommendations to promote a better approach to pain management at the practitioner level. In June 2019, the coalition released its final report - Reducing the Role of Opioids in Pain.

- **Winning Cheque® Campaign**
  - CASW Online Auction Committee Member

CASW supports:

- Adoption Council of Canada
- Campaign 2000
- Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange
- Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
- Canadian Coalition for Seniors Mental Health
- Canadian Harm Reduction Network
- Canadian Housing and Renewal Association
- Canadian Public Health Association
- Child Care Now
- Child Welfare League of Canada
- EGALE Canada
- International Social Services
- National Alliance for Children and Youth
- National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly
- National Right to Housing Network
- Promoting Relationships and Eliminating Violence Network (PREVNet)
- Repeal 43 Committee

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Executive Director Report

In 2018-2019, CASW launched a review process for the CASW Code of Ethics, Guidelines for Ethical Practice, and Scope of Practice. The direction of the CASW Board was to ground the review of these critical and foundational documents to the profession in the principles of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I commend the CASW Board for its leadership and ongoing commitment to following the path of reconciliation.

In 2019-20, the process of reviewing our foundational documents moved forward with a full review of the national CASW Scope of Practice, that potentially will be adopted by the CASW Federation at its June 2020 annual meetings.

The review of the Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Ethical Practice moved substantially forward with the adoption of a research methodology to ensure meaningful engagement of Indigenous social workers and practitioners across Canada. In this regard CASW, through consultant, Noela Crowe-Salazar BA, MSW, RSW of Pimatisiwin Consulting and Counselling, had established consultations across Canada that were derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic. CASW will move forward with a survey in 2020-21 that will support a review of the Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Ethical Practice however the project is substantially on hold until a time in which meaningful engagement with Indigenous social workers and practitioners will be able to be operationalized.

In 2019-20 CASW also advanced two other major projects in support of the profession. First, CASW received funding from Employment and Social Development Canada to review our assessment service for internationally trained social workers for the purpose of registration. This project was awarded to BMG and is on track for completion in 2021.

Next, CASW embarked on the journey of delivering a new publication for members – The Social Worker. The intention is to launch this new publication in the fall of 2020 with emphasis on informing CASW developments while supporting social work practice with evidenced-based practice solutions.

Finally, in 2019-20, the CASW Board had two internal committees – one that reviewed CASW Policy-Governance and one that reviewed adopted new ‘Ends’ for the organization, which set the direction for the organization and will serve as the foundation for the development of the next CASW Strategic Plan.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that have supported moving forward CASW operations as well as these exciting and renewed projects for CASW: First and foremost, I thank the CASW Board, federation partners as well as the committees established to help guide these critical projects for their volunteer time, direction, and support.

And finally, I thank the CASW staff for their dedication and work in helping CASW to grow and continually improve and expand our services to members.

In health,
Fred Phelps, MSW, RSW, CAE
CASW Executive Director

Other Strengthening the Profession Highlights

40th Anniversary of the Association of Black Social Workers

On September 26-27, 2019, CASW President, Jan Christianson-Wood was welcomed to Halifax, for the 40th Anniversary celebration of the Association of Black Social Workers (ABSW) with three of the founding members present and former CASW President Marsman as a member of the organizing committee.

The theme of the event was “Still fighting for Justice” both as a recognition of successes and the acknowledgement of work remaining to be done. Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard was an honoured guest and speaker; she is one of the founding members.

Intersectoral Committee

The purpose of the Intersectoral Committee is to promote communication, connection, and collaboration among the three sectors (education, association, and regulation) and to strengthen the social work profession in Canada.

In 2019-20 the Intersectoral Committee worked towards securing funding for a renewed Sector Study as well as provided coordinated support for the delivery of the IFSW SWSD Conference 2020 that was scheduled for Calgary, Alberta, in July 2020.

2019-2020 Representation

Canadian Council of Social Work Regulators
Lynn Labrecque King (President)
Lise Betteridge (Vice-President)
Barbara Temmerman (Secretary)

Canadian Association of Social Work Education
Alex Wright (CASWE-ACFTS Executive Director)
Susan Cadell (President)
Stephane Grenier (Incoming President)
Jackie Sieppert (AB)
Faye Mishna (ON)

Canadian Association of Social Workers (Secretariat)
Jan Christianson-Wood (President)
Fred Phelps (Executive Director)

CASW President, Jan Christianson-Wood joins ABSW President, Crystal John in celebrating 40 years of ABSW
Continuing Education

Webinars

Most Canadian social workers require 40 hours of continuing education per year as a requirement of registration. Partner Organizations and individual members alike expressed that high quality, timely continuing education remains a growing priority.

Many of these webinars were in partnership with CASW Partner Organizations, serving to strengthen ties within the CASW Federation and lift content and presenter’s knowledge and expertise to the national level.

Some Continuing Education Highlights Included:

- CASW continued its relationship with Children First Canada as well as the Child Welfare League of Canada to co-deliver multiple webinars surrounding children’s rights and protecting children from harm.
- CASW also increased national advocacy related webinars aimed to highlight changes in policy that impact social workers. A few examples include; Bill C-92 An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families; From Compliance to Connection; Changes to Bill C-78, the Divorce Act, and what it means for social work; Connecting Canada’s Poverty Reduction Strategy with the field of Social Work and more.
- CASW continues to work alongside the impending approval from the McMaster Research Ethics Board to continue with our VEGA (Violence, Evidence, Guidance, Action) Evaluation work - whose name has changed recently due to a branding exercise from the Recognize and Respond Project, to Project RISE.
- In response to demand from the membership and Partner Organizations, CASW will be releasing a paper on the impact of climate change and social work practice.
- CASW was proud to deliver a two-part series with Dr. Diana Coholic, Professor at Laurentian University School of Social Work to host Arts-Based Mindfulness – Facilitating activities from the Holistic Arts-Based Program.
- Although having only delivered 8 continuing education webinars in French in 2019-20, it continues to be an important priority to secure more French language webinars for our membership, and CASW continues to pursue potential collaborations to strengthen these offerings.

Some Continuing Education Highlights Included:

- In response to demand from the membership and Partner Organizations, CASW will be releasing a paper on the impact of climate change and social work practice.
- CASW was proud to deliver a two-part series with Dr. Diana Coholic, Professor at Laurentian University School of Social Work to host Arts-Based Mindfulness – Facilitating activities from the Holistic Arts-Based Program.
- Although having only delivered 8 continuing education webinars in French in 2019-20, it continues to be an important priority to secure more French language webinars for our membership, and CASW continues to pursue potential collaborations to strengthen these offerings.

### Webinar Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Webinars</th>
<th>Number of Hours</th>
<th>Total Registrants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4876</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
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<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>21,567</td>
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### Direct Benefits of Membership and Services

- Social Work Reference Center and SocIndex continues to provide more continuing education opportunities
- Access to Perkopolis – Canada’s discount program for association members
- Access to live and recorded CASW continuing education webinars – 49 completed in 2019-20
- CASW launched a weekly Government Relations brief to update members on the state of COVID-19 as it pertains to social work
- CASW’s Media Monitoring Service – a daily e-mail service of national news relevant to the social work profession – is received by nearly 1000 individuals and policy decision makers
- CASW provides a national representation on coalitions and sustained lobbying to the Parliament of Canada. In 2019-20 CASW issued 25 releases and open letters on issues that impact the profession and people we serve
- CASW’s Monthly The Reporter: a monthly newsletter circulated to CASW’s full membership that provides news, job opportunities, member resources, and professional development information
- CASW completed 261 individual assessments of applicants seeking equivalency of their internationally obtained social work education to Canadian standards, up from 177 in the previous year. This CASW service is recognized by all provincial and social work regulatory bodies in Canada with the exception of Québec and British Columbia
- Affiliation to the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) and automatic affiliation to the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)
- Access to a national BMS Group Insurance Plans including Professional Liability
- Access to Affinity Programs through extended health benefit programs from SunLife
- CASW BMS Scholarships: $15,490 was transferred through the CASW/BMS Scholarship program to CASW Partner Organizations to support their members
- CASW BMS Sponsorships: $12,468 was provided directly to CASW Members to help them promote the profession and/or advance issues of social justice
- Legal/Ethical Advice for Members with Professional Liability Insurance
- Access to Job Opportunities
- Access to CASW’s Private Practice Portal that guides social workers through every step necessary to begin, run, and even close a private practice
The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) is the global body for the profession of social work. It is comprised of 141 professional social work associations representing over 3 million social workers. IFSW has had a steady increase in the number of member organizations, supporting the view that the practice of social work is expanding and that associations place value on belonging to IFSW.

IFSW for social justice, human rights and social development through the promotion of social work, best practice models and the facilitation of international cooperation. (IFSW.org) IFSW supports its members by providing a global voice for the profession. IFSW has been granted Special Consultative Status by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). In addition, IFSW is working with the World Health Organization (WHO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Worldwide, IFSW is divided into five regions; Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America–Caribbean and North America with each region electing a President and a Vice President. Each country has one vote in decisions made by IFSW; North America has 2 votes while Europe has 50 votes with the largest number of countries. In practical terms, when the Annual General Meeting is held, only paid-up members (or those paying their required dues at the meeting) can vote either in person or by allocating their proxies to countries of their choice. Member countries may elect to sponsor other countries to allow a maximum number of votes to be cast. Canada has been one of the countries participating in this practice and has in the past allocated funds to IFSW for anonymous payments. This year’s first virtual AGM has the potential for all 141 members to cast their votes without the time and expense involved in travelling to the AGM.

The North American Region has an arrangement unique within IFSW. With just two member countries, we divide the Executive term so that Canada takes two years as President and the United States the other two. Under the Memorandum of Agreement, the North American President and Vice-President trade positions midway through the term.

The current Global Executive membership and the elected regional members can be found at www.ifsw.org. IFSW has a Human Rights Commission currently chaired by Dr. Colleen Lundy, a Canadian social work academic well known for her writing on the history of social work in Canada and on structural social work. Dr. Mark Lusk of the University of El Paso at Texas is the North American representative; he is a social work researcher, author, teacher and community activist on migration issues at the US southern border.

CASW Vice President Joan Davis-Whelan and former NASW President Gary Bailey are our regional representatives to the Education Commission.

A development this past year was the expansion and first in-person meeting of the IFSW Indigenous Committee. With the encouragement of NASW, CASW named three representatives to the North American Regional Indigenous Committee; Maxine Salopree (ACSW), Hazel Berg (SASW) and Shannis Gray (PEIASW). The international committee representatives from the 5 regions are Janestic Twikirizi (Africa), Linda Ford (Asia Pacific), Margaretha Uttjek (Europe) Jenny Linares (Latin América and the Caribbean), and Hazel Berg (North America). This meeting had been nearly 10 years in the making and the inaugural meeting in Calgary in 2019 with its anticipated role in the Social Work Social Development Committee 2020 was a long anticipated move forward for IFSW.

SWSD2020 Calgary

The University of Calgary Social Work Dean Jackie Sieppert worked tirelessly to organize and promote a social work world conference in 2020 honouring and involving Indigenous people from Canada, and Alberta, beginning work after the Calgary win was announced at the 2016 World Conference. The 2020 conference was partnered with IFSW and brought in supporters including CASW and NASW. CASW’s President served as a member of the Steering Committee and the Program Committee. This was a significant contribution of time by CASW in the planning and preparation and would involve asking CASW members to offer some volunteer time in Calgary.

The early indicators of COVID-19 as a potential international issue in early 2020 caused concern for the Steering Committee and for the Program Committee. By March 2020 it was becoming obvious that international travel would be greatly limited or completely shut down with the associated risk of travellers bringing COVID-19 to Canada or worse still, taking it home to a previously uninfected area. The organizers realized that planning an alternate date would be impossible as the duration of what proved to be a lengthy world-wide pandemic could not even be guessed at in March 2020.

The University of Calgary issued notices of the SWSD 2020 Calgary being cancelled due to the travel restrictions and dangers of the pandemic. Registrations paid were refunded and the committees disbanded with great regret that IFSW’s international conference in Canada could not go forward. The conference had been promoted at SWSD 2018 in Dublin with conferences in Malaysia and Canada and enjoying Alberta hospitality.

With the difficulties and disappointment concerning the COVID-19 impact on the IFSW World Conference, there were still significant ‘wins’ for IFSW during this past year. A detailed Global Agenda report was prepared by each Region in conjunction with the Schools and Faculties of Social Work, while Euroal Social Hub at www.ifsw.org was developed for discussion and input on the 2020-2030 Global Agenda. Social workers are asked to contribute their ideas or research to the consultation process in a search for new themes and processes to expand the Global Agenda for the next 10 years.

A visit to ifsw.org offers opportunities to contribute to discussions across the world or within our Region. It also will provide social workers with access in July 2020 to the online abstracts and presentations submitted for the Calgary World Conference. Having been one of many reviewers, including CASW members and CASWE members, I feel confident that you will find both topics and presenters of interest.

Given recent events and the uncertainty of the path of COVID-19 across the world, we may be looking at changes in social work communication that will continue until the world is into a ‘new normal’ of better balance between nations; justice for peoples and for nations who are struggling for an economy that is fairer and more accessible to all.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to share some of the work and goals of IFSW. For additional information on the work by other regions and countries, please visit the ifsw.org website.

Jan Christianson-Wood
President, CASW