



Hello fellow social workers.

I am pleased to announce my candidacy for vice-president of ACSW. Currently, I am in the second year of my third term as an ACSW council member. I have also served and worked with a number of ACSW subcommittees, including the Nomination and Recruitment Committee, the Indigenous Social Work Committee, and the Clinical Committee.

I believe that ACSW's dual role of advocacy and regulation is one of our strengths as a professional association. As a long-standing councillor, I understand the importance of balancing delivery in both these areas. Social advocacy runs in my blood. Over the years, I have been directly involved in much advocacy. Recent efforts include

working collaboratively with other councillors and our executive structure to write the ACSW submissions to the legislative assembly on the review of the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate. We defined the ACSW's implementation response to the TRC Calls to Action, and wrote a response to the two reports on Indigenous child welfare in Alberta.

At this time, we as an organization are very well placed as a voice for social change, given the current provincial government's willingness to seek our advice on policy issues. Our advocacy potential at both the provincial and national level has been further strengthened in recent years by re-establishing ties with the Canadian Association of Social Work (CASW). As Vice-President I will work to ensure that both the high standards of our regulatory body are maintained, and that the impact of our advocacy work continues and is expanded where possible.

My 17-plus years of mental health, social work and therapeutic experience working with families, couples, and children internationally and across Canada—from New Brunswick, to Nunavut, to Alberta—as well as my skills as a Qualified Mediator will serve ACSW well in my role as the vice-president.

At this stage of my life and career, I aim to work actively alongside my fellow social workers to energize and mobilize our profession in ways that allow us all to have positive change-making capacity, individually and collectively. Thank you for taking the time to consider my candidacy. I look forward to serving you as vice-president, if it is the democratic will of our membership.

Thank you

Ajay Hartenfeld Pandhi, MSW, RSW, MA, Q-Med, BA