



# the **A**DVOCATE

VOLUME 42 | ISSUE 2

ALBERTA COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORKERS



## Collaborating to End Homelessness

A Social Work Perspective

# MEMORY, FORGETFULNESS, & THE BRAIN

Instructor: R.S. Hullon, M.D., J.D.

**6 HOURS CREDIT (Social Workers)**

## PROGRAM / LECTURE

Conference registration is from 7:45 AM to 8:15 AM. The conference will begin at 8:30 AM. A lunch break (on your own) will take place from approximately 11:30 AM to 12:20 PM. The course will adjourn at 3:30 PM, at which time course completion certificates are distributed.

### Registration: 7:45 AM – 8:30 AM

### Morning Lecture: 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

- **Memory and the Brain:** Forming, Storing, and Retrieving Memory.
- **Memory and Behavior:** How Perception, Thinking, and Emotions Influence Memories.
- **Declarative and Procedural Memory:** How We Remember Facts and Movements.
- **Episodic and Semantic Memory:** How Time Affects Memories.
- **Sleep Well and Remember Well:** The Importance of Sleep in Strengthening Memories.

### Mid-Morning Lecture: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

- **"Flashbulb" Memories of Emotional Events Like 9/11:** How Accurate Are They? Do These Memories Change Over Time?
- **How Stress Affects Memory and Controversies Around Memory:** False Memories, Eyewitness Testimony, and Recovery of Repressed Childhood Memories. Memory and Survival.
- **What is Confabulation?** Is it a Memory Disturbance or a Deliberate Lie?
- **How We Retrieve Memories:** Free Recall vs. Recognition. Re-Retrieval and Re-Consolidation.
- **Why Do We Forget?** Is Forgetting Necessary? Decay vs Interference.

### Lunch: 11:30 AM – 12:20 PM

### Afternoon Lecture: 12:20 PM – 2:00 PM

- **When We Cannot Forget:** Memory Savants and PTSD "Flashbacks."

- **The "7 Sins of Memory":** Why Memory Fails Us When We Need It.
- **The Effects of Aging on Memory:** Normal Forgetting, Age-Associated Memory Impairment, and Mild Cognitive Impairment.
- **Do We Know When Memory is Declining?** Are Self-Administered Tests of Memory Reliable?
- **Ways to Improve Memory and Minimize Decline:** Healthy Living and Lifelong Learning.
- **Types of Amnesia:** Psychogenic vs. Organic Amnesia. Dissociative Amnesia (DSM-5) and Multiple Personality (Dissociative Identity Disorder). Anterograde, Retrograde, and Post-Traumatic Amnesia. Transient Global Amnesia.

### Mid-Afternoon Lecture: 2:00 PM – 3:20 PM

- **Severe Amnesia Syndromes:** Wernicke- Korsakoff Syndrome and Herpes Simplex Encephalitis.
- **Common Medical Conditions and Memory Loss:** Anemia, Thyroid Disorders, Sleep Apnea, Anxiety & Depression, Heart Disease, Prolonged Anesthesia, and Post-Hospital Syndrome.
- **Medications, Memory Loss, & Reversible Memory Disorders:** The Obvious Culprits: Drugs, Alcohol, Smoking, Chronic Stress, Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus, Sleep Disorders, and Dietary Deficiencies.
- **How Memory Loss Compromises Dental Care:** Treating Patients With Memory Loss And Dementia.
- **Helping Patients and Caregivers Cope.**

Evaluation, Questions, and Answers: 3:20 PM – 3:30 PM

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## MEETING TIMES & LOCATIONS

EDMONTON, AB	RED DEER, AB	CALGARY, AB	EDMONTON, AB	RED DEER, AB	CALGARY, AB
Wed., Oct. 18, 2017	Thu., Oct. 19, 2017	Fri., Oct. 20, 2017	Wed., Nov. 1, 2017	Thu., Nov. 2, 2017	Fri., Nov. 3, 2017
8:30 AM to 3:30 PM	8:30 AM to 3:30 PM	8:30 AM to 3:30 PM	8:30 AM to 3:30 PM	8:30 AM to 3:30 PM	8:30 AM to 3:30 PM
Radisson Hotel	Radisson Hotel	Executive Royal Inn	Radisson Hotel	Radisson Hotel	Executive Royal Inn
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Edmonton, AB	Red Deer, AB	Calgary, AB	Edmonton, AB	Red Deer, AB	Calgary, AB

## INSTRUCTOR

Dr. R.S. Hullon (M.D., J.D.) is a full-time physician-lecturer for INR. Dr. Hullon is a physician and surgeon specializing in trauma and orthopedics. His medical experience includes diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases, neurological disorders, neurodegenerative diseases (multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's, and Alzheimer's diseases) and psychiatric disorders (personality and mood disorders). His medical experience also includes diagnostic laboratory work, particularly in hematology.

Dr. Hullon has had extensive surgical experience in trauma management and orthopedics and has published papers on head, back, and knee disorders and pain medications. He has also studied bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or mad cow disease) and the medical and legal implications of this disease.

Biomed reserves the right to change instructors without prior notice. Every instructor is either a compensated employee or independent contractor of Biomed.

**FEE:** CHEQUES: \$109.00 (CANADIAN) per person with pre-registration or \$134.00 (CANADIAN) at the door if space remains. CREDIT CARDS: **Most credit-card charges will be processed in Canadian dollars. Some charges will be in U.S. dollars at the prevailing exchange rate.** The tuition includes all applicable Canadian taxes. At the seminar, participants will receive a complete course syllabus. Tuition payment receipt will also be available at the seminar.

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## ACCREDITATION INFORMATION

This activity is co-provided with INR. Social Workers completing this program will receive course completion certificates. Application for approval of this course has been made to the ASWB for 6 hours of credit. This program is approved by the National Association of Social Workers (Provider #886502971-0) for 6 Social Work continuing education contact hours.

For all inquiries, please contact customer service at 1-877-246-6336 or (925) 602-6140.

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## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Please register early and arrive before the scheduled start time. Space is limited. Attendees requiring special accommodation must advise Biomed in writing at least 50 days in advance and provide proof of disability. Registrations are subject to cancellation after the scheduled start time. A transfer at no cost can be made from one seminar location to another if space is available. Registrants cancelling up to 72 hours before a seminar will receive a tuition refund less a \$35.00 (CANADIAN) administrative fee or, if requested, a full-value voucher, good for one year, for a future seminar. Other cancellation requests will only be honored with a voucher. Cancellation or voucher requests must be made in writing. If a seminar cannot be held for reasons beyond the control of the sponsor (e.g., acts of God), the registrant will receive free admission to a rescheduled seminar or a full-value voucher, good for one year, for a future seminar. A \$35.00 (CANADIAN) service charge applies to each returned cheque. A \$15.00 fee will be charged for the issuance of a duplicate certificate. Fees are subject change without notice. **The rate of exchange used will be the one prevailing at the time of the transaction.**

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# Around our province

by Charity Lui, MSW, RSW

## ACSW Election Results

Thank you to all members who voted in the 2017 Council election. The results are as follows:

- **Richard Gregory**, MSc, RSW from Medicine Hat – President
- **Ajay Pandhi**, MSW, RSW from Edmonton – Vice-President
- **Enid Martin**, MSW, RSW from Carstairs – Council Member
- **Jolene Spies**, BSW, RSW from Sylvan Lake – Council Member
- **Timothy Wild**, MSW, RSW from Calgary – Council Member.



New Council members Jolene Spies, Timothy Wild and Enid Martin

## ACSW Workshops & Events

Members of ACSW Council, staff and interest group members attended the Parkland Institute's 11th Annual Gala and Fundraiser.



ACSW staff and volunteers

**Charity Lui**, BSW, RSW, Membership Activities Coordinator - North attended the Next Up's Fundraiser and Anniversary Party on March 1st. Next Up is a leadership program for young people committed to environmental and social justice. Go to [nextup.ca](http://nextup.ca) to learn more about this initiative.



Kevin Millsip, Laura Collison, Dan Scratch and Charity Lui

CHARITY LUI is the Membership Activities Coordinator for the northern part of our province. You can contact her at [Charity@acsw.ab.ca](mailto:Charity@acsw.ab.ca) regarding submissions for the *Advocate*.



The Slave Lake Area Coordinators, along with Family and Community Support Services, co-hosted a workshop entitled *Compassion Fatigue*. Local social worker **Mary Nyachio**, MSW, RSW, outlined how compassion fatigue refers to the profound emotional and physical exhaustion that helping professionals and caregivers can develop over time. The Minister of Children's Services, Danielle Larivee, was at the workshop and gave a keynote address.



Minister of Children's Services with workshop participants in Slave Lake

Members of the Central Alberta Social Action/ Social Justice Group attended the 3-day Red Deer Social Justice Film Festival in January. They were able to engage with participants and identify priority social justice issues in Red Deer.



Christine Schlick and George Jason

## Social Work Week

March 5-11, 2017 was Social Work Week in Alberta.

The Minister of Children's Services and the Minister of Community and Social Services publicly acknowledged the work of our profession in a media release:

"Social workers devote their lives to making a difference for those who need it most. I continue to be inspired by their dedication and I am thankful for their commitment to making life better for thousands of children in our province."

- **Danielle Larivee, Minister of Children's Services**

"Social workers deserve appreciation for the work they do to ensure families in Alberta are supported to live safe, healthy lives in strong communities. By helping us through life's challenges and empowering us in our daily lives, social workers make life better for everyday Albertans with compassion, professionalism and a commitment to helping others."

- **Irfan Sabir, Minister of Community and Social Services**

The theme for this year's Social Work Week was 'The Power to Empower' which was also the theme with the Canadian Association of Social Workers. The CASW used a social media campaign where social workers were encouraged to share their views around the theme. **Kym Pelletier**, SW Dip, RSW, of Edmonton participated in the campaign and won a Fitbit.

This year, Social Work Week was an enormous success with many celebrations and activities throughout the province. We partnered with the National Film Board and were able to access high quality films to use in our celebration activities. We also had a video developed that features three social workers, a retired social worker and a social work student, entitled *The Power of Social Work Throughout the Lifespan*. We encourage you to view this engaging short video on our site, [acsw.ab.ca](http://acsw.ab.ca) – **Social Workers – Social Work Week**.

## AROUND OUR PROVINCE

### Events throughout the province included:

#### Calgary:

- A group of social workers came together at the Cardel Theatre to view *Swift Current*. The film examines the experience of former NHLer Sheldon Kennedy, who was sexually abused by his coach and is now an advocate for victims of abuse. The event also included a question and answer period with a representative from the Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre. The Reconciliation Bridge was also lit up for Social Work Week on the Wednesday.

#### Edmonton:

- More than 100 social workers gathered at the Citadel Theatre in Edmonton to celebrate our profession. The Minister of Children's Services gave a heartfelt welcome to the event. The films screened included *Crazy Waters* and *19 Days*, exploring substance abuse among Indigenous people and refugee settlement. The High Level Bridge was lit up that evening in magenta in our honour.
- The Government of Alberta invited social workers to attend 'Making Lives Better through Service: An Evening of Appreciation for Social Workers.' About 40 social workers attended this lovely evening, along with numerous ministers, MLAs and government officials. Minister of Seniors and Housing, **Lori Sigurdson, MSW, RSW**, was the MC for the event. The Minister of Community and Social Services and the Minister of Children's Services gave speeches in appreciation of the work social workers do.
- Over 20 social workers were introduced by various ministers and MLAs in the legislature during question period that week.
- Social workers at the Royal Alexandra Hospital put together a display in their lobby recognizing Social Work Week and Mufty Mathewson's REDress Project, based on the artwork of Jamie Black, which captures the racist

and gendered crimes against more than 1800 missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Canada. To learn more about Jaime's work, visit [thereddressproject.org](http://thereddressproject.org).

- NorQuest College hosted an event for their social work students, where the ACSW presented along with four local social workers from various fields of practice.
- The Northern Alberta Gerontological Social Work Interest Group enjoyed a celebratory meal together.
- The Edmonton Area Coordinators organized a pub night and had a number of social workers attend, including Minister of Seniors and Housing, **Lori Sigurdson**.
- Multiple film screenings in Edmonton of *We Can't Make the Same Mistake Twice*, a documentary featuring **Cindy Blackstock, PhD, RSW**, and the court case against the Canadian government's underfunding of services for First Nations children.

#### Fort McMurray:

The Area Coordinators in Fort McMurray hosted numerous well-attended events this year:

- To kick off the week, social workers attended a breakfast buffet that unveiled the Social Work Week proclamation from the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.
- Over 20 social workers took time for self-care at a yoga event that was graciously donated by Oranj Fitness and instructor Shelby Marshall.
- A paint night was very well attended and enjoyed by all.



## AROUND OUR PROVINCE

- Area Coordinators visited Keyano College's Social Work Diploma program where students enjoyed learning more about the ACSW, and celebrated with cake.

### Camrose, Vegreville and Lloydminster:

- The Area Coordinators pulled off a creative initiative. They took a road trip, where they surprised and recognized social workers with random acts of kindness, distributing cookies and ACSW promotional items. Their stops including: Vegreville Child & Family Services, Veg Al Drug Society, a local primary care network, Killam Addiction and Mental Health Services, Camrose Child & Family Services, Camrose Women's Shelter, Camrose Addiction and Mental Health Clinic, The Bethany Group and Alberta Health Services Central Zone.

### Cold Lake:

- The Area Coordinators organized a viewing of *Swift Current* attended by social workers and social work students.
- Social work students delivered boxes with affirmation cards and Life Savers candy to 19 different local agencies.
- A social work display was featured and cake was served in the Energy Centre attached to Portage College.

### Lac La Biche:

- Over 30 people attended a screening of *We Can't Make the Same Mistake Twice*. Participants were very inspired by the leadership of social worker **Cindy Blackstock**.
- A social work display was put up in the front foyer of the Lac La Biche campus of Portage College.

### Grande Prairie:

- The Area Coordinator presented at City Council and received the City's proclamation for the week.

### High Prairie:

- A small group enjoyed a Social Work Week celebration that included a screening of *Red Path*, *This River* and *Elbow Room*, films from the National Film Board.

### High Level:

- The Area Coordinator organized a pizza lunch with 15 social workers, who enjoyed networking and planning for activities in their area.

### Medicine Hat:

- The Area Coordinators in Medicine Hat hosted their 3rd annual wine and cheese celebration for local social workers.

### Taber:

- Local social workers enjoyed the *Swift Current* film and a networking opportunity.

### Lethbridge:

- The 17th annual Lethbridge Social Work Professional Development Partnership featured **Charlene Bearhead**, who focused on 'Compassion and Action: Kimmapiiyipitssin Social Work with First Nations Children Today and in the Future'. The group was treated to a screening of *The Secret Path*, a film depicting the story of a young person who ran away from residential school, set to the music of Gord Downie. There were 180 social workers in attendance.

# Social Work Week Celebration Photos

## Edmonton Events



Social workers introduced in the Legislature



Julie Mann-Johnson, Minister Danielle Larivee, Lynn Labrecque-King



The Northern Alberta Gerontological Social Work Interest Group



The Legislature lit up in magenta for Social Work Week



Social work speakers at NorQuest College



RSWs with Minister Larivee (centre)



Minister Irfan Sabir with RSWs



Minister Sigurdson with RSWs

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## Fort McMurray



Social Work Week kick-off breakfast



Celebrating creativity



Paint night creation



Fort McMurray social work students



Self-care through yoga

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## Camrose



Surprising social workers with cookies



Sweets and swag for social workers



Showing appreciation to social workers around Camrose

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## Calgary



Social workers at Calgary screening of *Swift Current*



Celebrating social work at the Cardel Theatre



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## Cold Lake & Lac La Biche



Social work students at Portage College, Lac La Biche



Congratulations to the door prize winner!



Portage College social work display



Positive words to celebrate social workers

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## Lethbridge & Medicine Hat



Social Work Professional Development Partnership planning committee



Jerry Firth and Calista Chasse



3rd annual wine and cheese celebration

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### THE *ADVOCATE* EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Advocate* is the official publication of the Alberta College of Social Workers (ACSW) and is published quarterly for members of ACSW and other interested parties. The *Advocate* Editorial Board encourages submissions from all social work practice areas and perspectives, including: social work research, theory, practice, and education; professional affairs; social issues; the work of the College; member activities; continuing education and job opportunities; reviews of books, journals, and other media of interest to social workers.

Articles of up to 1000 words and letters of up to 500 words will be considered, but publication is not guaranteed. Writing from social workers who are ACSW members will be given preference. Copy may be edited to fit the space available or for legal or other reasons. Please contact the ACSW office for full submission guidelines.

#### PUBLICATION SCHEDULE AND DEADLINES

Spring issue:	January 1 deadline for general submissions (articles, letters, etc.)	January 15 for advertising
Summer issue:	April 1 for general submissions	April 15 for advertising
Fall issue:	July 1 for general submissions	July 15 for advertising
Winter issue:	September 15 for general submissions	October 15 for advertising

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# THE BIG PICTURE

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



RICHARD GREGORY is the president of ACSW Council. He is also chair and instructor of the Social Work program at Medicine Hat College. You can contact Richard at [acswpresident@acsw.ab.ca](mailto:acswpresident@acsw.ab.ca).

Welcome summer! A time for renewal and preparation for fresh starts. Professionally, I think that these concepts are most exemplified with the various convocations that are occurring from our post-secondary institutions, hailing the arrival of many new social workers into our profession. I would like to congratulate all the new graduates and welcome them into our profession.

As I reflect on the annual conference with the theme of ‘Social Work Across the Lifespan: Opportunities and Directions’, I am filled with admiration and awe for our conference keynote speaker. Mary Valentich, PhD, RSW, did an amazing job of looking at her professional evolution from the 1960s to the present, and at the progress of the profession over that same time period. Her address took us through her career, noting the changing social environments that existed as she pushed forward various progressive ideas and participated in causes that were, at times, the very genesis of progressive ideology. I am so proud of the profession that we have become and grateful for people like Dr. Valentich who have influenced and guided us, not only professionally, but as a society. Inspiring, entertaining, and motivating -- just what a keynote address should be.

Also inspiring was our annual awards luncheon. This is our opportunity to celebrate the best of the best.

This year’s recipients were Elizabeth Schnitzler, MSW, RSW, for the ACSW Award for Excellence in Social Work Practice, and two winners for the John Hutton Memorial Award for Social Action/Social Policy. I am so pleased to congratulate the recipients, the Honourable

Lori Sigurdson, MSW, RSW and Sharon Goulet, MSW, RSW. These award winners are all exemplary social workers and very deserving of the awards.

I have only heard good comments about the conference. I really appreciate those people who came forth to present and put the time and effort into delivering presentations that are current, interesting and informative. I would also like to acknowledge the many volunteers who organized and contributed to the conference, and to the staff who, again, go above and beyond in making sure that everything runs smoothly. Our conference is a highlight of the year. It is a great time to reconnect with colleagues and friends, and to stay current with issues in our profession.

I would also like to thank everyone who attended our annual general meeting. Aside from the business portion of our meeting, we had the results from the election, and a very informative presentation. Newly elected to council are Timothy Wild, MSW, RSW, Enid Martin, MSW, RSW, and Jolene Spies, BSW, RSW. I am very much looking forward to working with our new council members. Ajay Pandhi was declared as Vice-President and I was declared as President. Following the election results, we were pleased to welcome Claire O’Gorman and Leslie Hall to our meeting for a very timely presentation on supervised injection sites. Following their presentation, a resolution was put forth to endorse the concept of medically-supervised injection sites in Alberta. The resolution passed with a very strong majority. There was also a motion made at the meeting that ACSW adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Continued on page 14

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & REGISTRAR

Through my parents and grandparents, I learned about the value of ceremony and celebration. For special occasions, we dressed in our best clothing to come together. My mom and grandfather told me that this is because when we purposely set up a celebration and dress to present our best selves to each other, we are telling each other what is important and highlighting what matters. It is a way of loving. I must say my love for my family is fed a super boost at annual family celebrations, because these times are made special by the acts of intentional preparation, showing up and presenting our best selves with all the trimmings of celebration and acknowledgement of our common ties.

Our yearly marking of Social Work Week and the annual social work conference presents multiple opportunities for this kind of celebration. At this year's conference, I picked up a pin that says, "I Love Social Work" and wore it proudly, because I do. I loved being surrounded by hundreds of professionals who share values that are inherent in the practice of social work. The theme of social work through the lifetime was made special in our keynote by Dr. Mary Valentich, PhD, RSW, whose professional and heartfelt sharing of her passion and experience over decades gave me goosebumps. If you missed her amazing presentation, you can still view it on Youtube on the "ACSW Social Workers" channel, or by searching for Mary Valentich on Youtube.com.

The ACSW Awards Luncheon is another anticipated celebration, where nominations for excellence in our practice come from our own peers. Nominees have shared with me what an honour it is to be nominated.



Dr. Mary Valentich and Lynn Labrecque King

And celebrating successes is inspiring. A member of the award review committee summarized this best while applauding the work of a social worker, saying "I want to be like her! She makes me feel that we too can achieve these results in our profession!" Calling all social workers – nominate a colleague! It matters!

Recently I volunteered with an annual music festival whose mission and vision is to present opportunities to develop performing skills and inspire passion for the performing arts. I was inspired by the words of a wonderful teacher who encouraged everyone to keep playing their chosen instrument every day. "It matters that we are showing up, participating, playing, and acknowledging one another for playing and making the world a better place."



LYNN LABRECQUE KING is the executive director and registrar for ACSW. Contact her at [LynnLK@acsw.ab.ca](mailto:LynnLK@acsw.ab.ca) to share your thoughts on this or any other topic.

## THE BIG PICTURE



ACSW staff (from left to right): Noreen Majek, Raveena Parsons (seated), Laurie Nelson, Lynn Labrecque-King, Julie Mann-Johnson, Toni Harrison (seated), Tamara Gross

A celebration sets apart a time as special and creates a space for reflection, appreciation and acknowledgement. It facilitates a flow and sharing of knowledge. It creates community. We get to know that we are not alone. We gain inspiration and energy. This year, why not set a goal to participate and present your best self in an activity,

celebration or ceremony with other social workers? Showing up is something we can do for each other and bring to life the pride we feel in the contributions of social work in making the world a better place.

**Lynn Labrecque King**, MSW, RSW

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## A message from the President

*Continued from page 12*

Passing this motion was, I believe, another indicator of our commitment to answering the Calls to Action put forth by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

Following the AGM, Maxine Salopree, BSW, RSW, Indigenous Social Work Committee Chair, and Julie Mann-Johnson, MSW, RSW, Professional Practice Support Team Lead, did a presentation to identify initiatives that have been undertaken in response to ACSW's commitment to the Calls to Action from the TRC. While we are aware that there is still a lot of work to do in this area, we have made some good headway and will continue moving forward on this commitment.

For ACSW, the season also marks a time of new beginnings with the strategic planning process. This is a great time for us to identify what we have accomplished in our last strategic plan and set our priorities for the next three years.

I am very proud to be the President of the Council of the Alberta College of Social Workers and look forward to another two years of meeting social workers from across the province, and serving our members and the profession.

**Richard Gregory**, MSc, RSW

# Welcome to New RSWs

Total Membership as of April 12, 2017: 7,928

William Ronald Adams  
Victoria Albina Anderson  
Leslie Cailyn Barnhart  
Nicole Barrett  
Michelle Bella  
Taylor Jade Bertamini  
Leianne Bouillet  
Robert Adam Brisson  
Pauline Ann Cardinal  
Joelene Amber Connolly  
Andrea Camille Crouch  
Kayla Catherine Das  
Jackie Rae Devarnichuk  
Jessica Leigh Donald  
Jimmy Norson Downer  
Simon Duguay  
Stephanie Marie Espinal Gonzalez  
Leona May Furgason  
Tarnjit Gautama  
Simran Kaur Gill  
Jamila Gilliam  
Lu Guo  
Gulnar Hemani  
Kaitlin Elizabeth Heney  
Colleen Dale Hillock  
Shelly Lynn Hirdle  
Kristine Lineth Hizon  
Katelynn Holubowich  
Tina Marie Hull  
Anna Iliscupidez  
Stacey Annette Jelinic  
Binesh Joseph  
Nicole Marie Kaiser  
Carly Jordan Keats  
Jenny-Lyn Keene  
Wanda Marie Keys  
Henna Khawja  
Kristina Dawn Koncz  
Kennan Kunz  
PoHsueh Kuo  
Manoj Parayil Kurian  
Catherine Joan Kurishingal Antony  
Sarah Liedtke  
Kerry Joan Lowe  
Cheryl Lyn MacKinnon

Tia MacLachlan  
Jasprit Mangat  
Kerri Lorraine Martin  
Mary Louise McDermott  
Randa Mina Meshki  
Victoria Miner  
Elizabeth Robin Morgan  
Connie Deborah Morin  
Christine Morrison  
Suzanne Nyokabi  
Omolade Abosede Ogedengbe  
Oluwatobi Olorunda  
Rebecca Opoku-Ameyaw  
Jessica Pauletig  
Jessica J Ramler  
Yasmine Loubna Raslan  
Elyse Davina Ross  
Michelle Renee Sauve  
Hillegonna Slomp  
Jessica Catherine Smith  
Patricia Anne Soloski  
Claire Naluwemba Ssembatya  
Aleksandra Stevkovska  
Lesla Staci Stewart  
Christopher John Sullivan  
Clever Taderera  
Tamarah Shea Ternes  
Wesley Kim Tokohopie  
Bryn Troolines  
Danielle Tse  
Veronica Van Horne  
Laurene Vanden Elzen  
Marissa Gabrielle Dorthea Walcott  
Caryn Wheeler  
Adam Howard White  
Kaylee Brooke Whitelock  
Courtney Anne Wielenga-Bowering  
Mackenzie Yelena Williams-Broomfield  
Alysia Wright  
Sasheline Rachel Yue  
Elizabeth Zacatelco Miranda  
Jolene Ziegler

## Upcoming ACSW Events

June 22, 2017

**The Daring Way™ Workshop**  
With Dr Gail Eastman, PhD, R. Psych  
Dunmore

June 24, 2017

**Medical Assistance in Dying Workshop**  
Lise Lalonde, RN & Nikoo Najand, PhD  
Red Deer

November 30, 2017

**Edmonton Holiday Social**

December 7, 2017

**Calgary Holiday Social**

March 22-24, 2018

**ACSW Annual Conference**  
Double Tree Hotel, Edmonton

# Measuring Competence to Maximize Engagement

by Bruce Llewellyn, MSW, RSW

On February 23, 2017, the Alberta Federation of Regulated Health Professions (AFRHP) hosted a workshop called Constructing Competence: 21st Century Alternatives and Options. The presenter, Professor Zubin Austin, from the University of Toronto, is a leading expert and researcher on competence.

Dr. Austin explored numerous theoretical models of competence, including Bloom's Taxonomy, Miller's Pyramid, Kirkpatrick Program Evaluation Model, etc. He concludes that all of the theoretical approaches have "necessary but insufficient" components of evaluating competence. Each model has essential elements of competence but do not provide a complete picture. A competence program needs to be multi-faceted.

*Statistically, the persons who are at the highest risk for competence drift are professionals who have been in practice for 25 years or longer and who practice in isolation.*

Dr. Austin refers to research conducted by Csikszentmihalyi (2003) that focuses on "competence drift." He suggests that the opposite of competence is not incompetence. Instead, it is disengagement. Engaged professionals are interested in their profession, their clients and their practice. Your profession allows you to be at your best. Professionals who feel disengaged with their profession allow their skills to

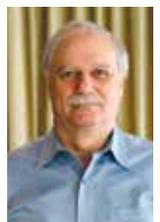
deteriorate. Most professionals do not do this deliberately or intentionally. How does this occur? How is it possible to prevent this from occurring? Statistically, the persons who are at the highest risk for competence drift are professionals who have been in practice for 25 years or longer and who practice in isolation.

In assessing quality assurance of competence, there are two major typologies. The first typology is self-reporting activities. The ACSW online system is designed for social workers to self-report their activities. The second typology involves an external validation. Social workers are required to maintain evidence of their Category A learning. ACSW uses a model that includes both typologies to give social workers a system that is flexible enough to be relevant for their own professional practice. Since the inception of the competence program, social workers are responsible for maintaining a five year portfolio and the Continuing Competence Committee has been involved in auditing portfolios. The majority of submissions reviewed reveal a high quality that exceeds expectations.

Dr. Austin states that Ontario regulators are international leaders with Quality Assurance models and systems. Reflecting upon his presentation, I believe that the Alberta College of Social Workers has also designed a competence model that we can all be proud of. Our competence program is designed to be responsive and flexible to help members stay engaged with their practice, their clients, their colleagues and their profession.

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BRUCE LLEWELLYN is a manager of regulatory practice for the Alberta College of Social Workers.



# Reviewing Alberta's Child Intervention System

by Julie Mann-Johnson, MSW, RSW

As many social workers in Alberta are aware, the Minister of Children's Services convened an all-party panel to review the child intervention system in Alberta. This panel was called largely in response to the heartbreaking story of Serenity, a young girl who died tragically after being removed from parental care and placed with alternate caregivers.

I have had the opportunity to participate and I have watched the media coverage closely. From the outset, the process of setting up this ministerial panel has been characterized with political pressure. In fact, the first phase has been to examine the child death review process apart from the review of the entire system.

I was invited to participate in this phase to provide input and insight into the experiences of families whose children have died either in care or while known to the child intervention system. Due to changes in legislation, a family who has involvement with child intervention must apply to the courts within days to protect their privacy following a child's death. While some families find support and answers in the media coverage following a loss, others who choose to grieve privately are forced to attend court only days following this loss. Vulnerable families should not lose the right to privacy that many of us enjoy and take for granted.

What has been clear throughout this first phase is that the tragedy of a child's death cannot be reviewed in isolation, and considerations of child intervention best practices are paramount in the analysis of the entire issue.

This larger undertaking – the review of the child intervention system itself – is phase two of the work of this panel with a final report expected August 2017. This is certainly not the

first review of the child intervention system in Alberta, and many Alberta social workers can recall past reviews of this complex system. Even so, research and practice in this area has evolved and increased significantly, and regular public reviews of such a complex, challenging, and fundamentally important system are warranted.

Social workers are well-poised to have meaningful input and participation into this review. While social work has typically been the profession most strongly linked to child intervention work, bureaucratic and political influences have also influenced this system. A focus on social work practice and values is necessary to best meet the needs of vulnerable children and youth in Alberta. Our code of ethics compels us to pursue social justice, particularly for those most vulnerable and marginalized in our society. A child removed from family care is certainly the most vulnerable. Our standards of practice prevent us from sharing client information publicly, but do not prevent us from advocating and having input into systemic change!

As a social worker, get involved in the review and share your thoughts, opinions, wishes, dreams and recommendations! The Government of Alberta is inviting you to make a submission to the panel by emailing [CIPanel.Submissions@gov.ab.ca](mailto:CIPanel.Submissions@gov.ab.ca). You can also visit the website at <https://www.alberta.ca/child-intervention-panel.aspx> for updates and summaries of panel discussions. Make your social work voice heard!

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JULIE MANN-JOHNSON is the Professional Practice Support Team Lead with the Alberta College of Social Workers. She can be reached at [julie@acsw.ab.ca](mailto:julie@acsw.ab.ca).



# Setting your Course in Private Practice

(part 1 of 2)

by Teresa Winfield, MSW, RSW interviewing Evelyn Wotherspoon, MSW, RSW

*There is a wealth of information amongst private practitioners across Alberta. Because of their passion for social work, experience in owning a business and ability to network, private practice social workers gain wisdom in some of the most fascinating areas of the profession.*

*In this case, Evelyn Wotherspoon offers insight into a niche developed over years of hard work and careful consideration. She is known for bringing the 'person in environment' perspective into the courtroom, where her expertise in clinical social work and as an early childhood mental health consultant is highly regarded. As she draws nearer to her retirement years, it seemed timely to ask Evelyn to share some of her hard-earned knowledge with a wider audience. Her insights and suggestions will continue in the Fall issue of the Advocate.*

*By the end of this, you may find yourself both captivated by the idea of going into private practice, and terrified by the responsibility that accompanies it!*



Evelyn Wotherspoon

I worked for years with Alberta Health Services in child development and Children's Mental Health. In 2000, I started with a new team that provided infant mental health consultations to professionals including child welfare. I specialized in child welfare infants and began to appear in court frequently to provide expert opinion testimony on infants and toddlers in foster care. I got to know many family lawyers and became well-known to the family court judges. One day, one of the lawyers took me out to lunch and strongly urged me to consider private practice. That was about ten years ago, and I have not looked back.

I am a business owner. I decide on the clientele I am willing to work with, what services I will provide, hours of operation, location, report format and more. However, as a private practitioner, I do not have the protection of a large organization or union to represent me or protect my interests. It can be very scary. We are becoming a more litigious society so you have to ask yourself if you are prepared for the risk, and if you have the competence and experience to deliver a top-quality service.

Being in private practice means you rely heavily on your reputation. I am not proprietary; I believe strongly in supporting colleagues, and I try to be generous with my time and expertise. I treasure the reputation I have cultivated in the private practice and legal community for being a very competent, ethical and respected social worker. I specialize in early childhood mental health in high conflict or high-risk parenting environments. I rely on word of mouth, my website and a Facebook page for referrals. I have delivered many workshops, keynote addresses and published widely to build my clientele. Word of mouth and repeat referrals from local family lawyers are probably the two biggest sources of referrals.



***Ask yourself... if you have the competence and experience to deliver a top-quality service.***

Depending on what you want to do in your private practice, you could get some training to ensure that you are considered an expert. Aside from my MSW and 30 years as a mental health and child welfare social worker, I did a two-year fellowship with Zero to Three, a two-year certificate in Family Mediation, a course in Family Arbitration, and I take clinical training for a week or more yearly. I have a clinical supervisor who reviews interviews and reports with me. The ACSW occasionally offers workshops on private practice, and I strongly recommend every social worker understand

the ACSW ethical guidelines. Make sure you know issues such as informed consent, who needs to give consent and how to write a consent to services agreement.

I got a lot of advice from colleagues in private practice and from lawyers I knew. My husband did the research on setting up a business and a good friend helped with tax law, setting up a corporation and more. My kids were very helpful in setting up a website and Facebook page.

I love what I do and I love the freedom of being a private practitioner but it is not for everyone. Do your homework, talk to people and ask questions.

*See the Fall Advocate for Evelyn's top six tips for getting started in private practice.*

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TERESA WINFIELD is a clinical social worker in private practice with seventeen years of experience. She specializes in working with youth who have demonstrated sexually concerning behaviours and the families who care for them.



# Child Welfare MSW Grads Ready to Make a Difference

by Don McSwiney

Innovative partnership between U of C and Ministry of Human Services created unique cohort of Child Welfare social workers



Dean Jackie Sieppert addresses grads

On June 7, a very special cohort of social work graduate students crossed the stage during a spring convocation ceremony in the University of Calgary's Jack Simpson Gym. Crossing the stage, picking up their parchment and shaking hands with President Elizabeth Cannon and Dean Jackie Sieppert, PhD, RSW, took each graduate about 20 seconds. The short trip was the culmination of a journey years in the making, and an incredible achievement for the graduates as well as the University of Calgary and the Ministry of Human Services.



Photos courtesy of Anthony Houle

From left: Jackie Sieppert, Dean of Social Work, Hon. Lori Sigurdson, Elder Gilman Cardinal, Ellen Perrault, Associate Dean, Teaching and Learning, Bruce MacLaurin faculty lead for Child Welfare cohort

The story began in 2014 when the late Manmeet Bhullar, former Minister of Human Services, was looking for answers following outcry over the deaths of several children in care. As Jackie Sieppert recalls, Bhullar pulled him aside during a break at a provincial roundtable meeting on the issue. "I thought I was in trouble," recalls Sieppert with a laugh. "Ministers don't usually pull people aside unless there's something wrong – but he simply said, 'Look, you're the Faculty of Social Work. You graduate great professionals; you need to be helpful in this situation. How will you do that?'"

The answer came in fits and starts and then with stunning swiftness. The Dean worked with faculty and the Ministry and created a concept paper and approach. Coincidentally, during this deliberation, the Ministry of Advanced Education had announced funding for 25 new Master of Social Work seats. "It became an easy decision," recalls Sieppert. "Within hours we had called the Minister and said, 'Why don't we dedicate these seats to child protection?' From there it was a six-month turnaround. I think in the history of the University of Calgary, this is the only program that has been conceptualized, agreed to and implemented in six months."

Sieppert credits the Ministry, the University and the social work faculty for the amazing dexterity, flexibility and determination which got the program moving through both bureaucracies so quickly.

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**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK

DONALD MCSWINEY is the manager of Communications and Marketing in the University of Calgary's Faculty of Social Work.

# MacEwan University Hosting Social Work Summit

by Kathaleen Quinn, MSW, RSW



Kathaleen Quinn and Dr. Peter Vogels will be leading a Social Work Summit on May 26, 2017 at MacEwan University

Spring is here and MacEwan is feeling the joy of the returning daylight and the greening of the grass, while we here at the School of Social Work feel like we have reached the Summit. We have launched our Bachelor of Social Work program, had a site visit from the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE) accreditation team, welcomed new faculty, and are excited to be hosting a spring gathering – a Social Work Summit.

*“We want to build relationships, find ways to collaborate, explore and exchange ideas.”*

This summit celebrates our belief that it’s an exciting time for social work in Edmonton. Edmonton’s downtown core now has three educational institutions offering social work programs (MacEwan University, NorQuest College and the University of Calgary) as well as Yellowhead Tribal College in nearby Spruce Grove. There are seven MLAs who have social work education: Joe Ceci, MSW, Minister of Finance; Richard Feehan, MSW, Minister of Indigenous Relations; Nicole Goehring, SW Dip, MLA Edmonton-Castledowns;

Lori Sigurdson, MSW, RSW, Minister of Seniors and Housing; Heather Sweet, SW Dip, MLA Edmonton-Manning; the honourable Robert Wanner, MASW, RSW, Speaker of the House; and of course, Estefanie Cortes-Vargas, MLA Strathcona-Sherwood Park (who has completed the first year of our Diploma program at MacEwan).

We’ve invited our Advisory Committee, key social work leaders from the community and students from all four Edmonton-area institutions to bring forward goals and concrete plans. Topics that may be explored are Indigenous knowledge, child welfare, migration and refugees, poverty, and rights of LGBTQ+ people. We will be discussing the unique possibility of implementing an agenda with a social justice theme. It is our hope to have students mingle, talk and plan with an MLA, a professor/instructor and a social worker to discuss our common goals and explore ways to bring a social work-informed agenda to the forefront of the Alberta political landscape. This will be achieved through our interactive workshop, the objective of which is to have a sense of achievable goals.

We want to build relationships, find ways to collaborate, explore and exchange ideas. We will build on our strengths, our common goals and embrace our solidarity.

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KATHALEEN QUINN, MSW, RSW, is the proud and joyous Director of the School of Social Work, MacEwan University. Her email address is [QuinnK2@macewan.ca](mailto:QuinnK2@macewan.ca).



Continued from page 21

We're proud to report that our BSW Self-Study was considered exemplary by CASWE and led to the fast tracking of our accreditation. CASWE was on our campus April 5 and 6, talking to myself, our instructors, administration, students, Advisory Committee, field placement supervisors, program advisor Lynne Baker, Admin Support Kari Girard and our BSW Implementation team, Dr. Erin Gray, MSW, RSW, and Dr. Peter Vogels, MSW, RSW. Final approval from CASWE will be discussed in June at their annual conference and meeting.

Our faculty is growing. We now have eight full time continuing positions. Dr. Valerie Ouedraogo, MSW Equiv, RSW, comes to us from Germany and West Africa. Dr. Hongmei Tong, PhD, RSW, comes to us from China and Hong Kong and has been with us for a year. Our two most recent hires are Dr. Anna Azulai, RSW, and Dr. Andrea Newberry, MSW, RSW, both from the University of Calgary.

The first year of MacEwan's Bachelor of Social Work has been completed. We are thrilled to have reached our Summit. Right now we are taking time to reflect, take a deep breath and experience gratitude to our community.

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## Child Welfare MSW Grads Ready to Make a Difference

Continued from page 20

During an April reception at the Faculty of Social Work's downtown Edmonton campus, the Honourable Lori Sigurdson, MSW, RSW, MLA for Edmonton-Riverview, addressed the graduating class.

"Specialized education helps to strengthen casework practice and ultimately will produce better outcomes for children and the families we serve," said Sigurdson, who as a social worker worked for Child Welfare in Edmonton in the late '90s. "In these times of change, leadership is needed at all levels, now more than ever. It is the reason this specialized program is so important and why you are so vital to our future."

The first cohort of the Master of Social Work with a Child Welfare Focus was made up of social workers from the Ministry of Human Services (now the Children's Services Ministry) from across Alberta. The students showed remarkable commitment – juggling a demanding academic curriculum along with their already incredibly demanding jobs and their personal lives. As one of the graduates, Frances Kuefler Josey, BSW, RSW, said, "Our cohort has been through life-changing events: job changes, marriages, births, divorce, single parenting, health issues, losses of loved ones and parents, and losses of community with the Fort McMurray fire. This group has undeniable courage and strength... Each of us moving forward in our own way, individually and collectively, will make a difference."



Students from the Child Welfare Specialization Program along with staff, leadership and faculty



Honourable Lori Sigurdson addresses first ever cohort from the Child Welfare Specialization Masters program

# Moving Towards Wise Practices

by Derek Chewka, MSW, RSW

It is shortly after the Alberta College of Social Workers Annual General Meeting and I have been tasked with providing a few words about the current activities of the Indigenous Social Workers Committee (ISWC). It is the first item on a long list handed down to me by Maxine Salopree, BSW, RSW, the outgoing Interim Chair. I would like to take this time to formally acknowledge Maxine for her hard work, dedication and commitment to ensuring Indigenous worldviews are considered and respected in all facets of the collective work we do.

*“We can begin to highlight not only the challenges faced by social workers on the frontline but also where we see wise practice.”*

I am honoured to be taking over the reins from Maxine. For those of you who are unaware, ACSW long ago adopted the ideal of ensuring a place at Council for Indigenous Social Workers. To demonstrate that commitment, Council respects and acknowledges that appointments of these positions are to be coordinated by members of the ISWC Committee.

Currently, the ISWC is still seeking representation from Treaty 7 (South) and Treaty 8 (North). If you are interested or require more information, please contact Heather at [heatherj@acsw.ab.ca](mailto:heatherj@acsw.ab.ca). Moving forward, our Committee hopes to become more visible and supportive to some of the more isolated Indigenous Social Workers in the province.

I had the good fortune to be able to attend a meeting with the Honourable Minister of Indigenous Relations, Richard

Feehan, MSW, along with Maxine Salopree, Julie Mann-Johnson, MSW, RSW, (ACSW staff) and two members of Council (Rick Guthrie, MSW, RSW and Ajay Pandhi, MSW, RSW). Minister Feehan had accepted the invitation to meet with ISWC to discuss progress to date on the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He went on to share several examples of activities his government was involved with. What became evident was the gap between those activities, and those on the front line. Changes should occur with proper consultation and involvement from the frontline and/or the Nations or Settlements. Having a social work education himself, it appeared that he had a deeper understanding of the hardships experienced by social workers. We believe he genuinely wants to hear the feedback. A conversation ensued about the possibility of some sort of summit (slated for the latter part of this year) where we can begin to highlight not only the challenges faced by social workers on the frontline but also where we see wise practice.

Here is food for thought. I recently received a teaching from Dr. Patricia Makokis from Saddle Lake, Alberta. I had used the term ‘best practice’ and she explained that she is now hearing the Elders say ‘wise practice’ instead. Best practice implies someone thinks they are better than someone else, and/or are more deserving. Those attributes are not reflective of an Aboriginal way of being.

In the upcoming months, we will focus our energies on developing *Indigenous Practice Standards*. This work will begin with an extensive literature review identifying already existing standards. Get involved!

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DEREK CHEWKA is currently the chair of the ACSW Indigenous Social Work Committee.



# Suzanne MacKinnon – ACSW’s Associate Registrar

by Tara Hogue Harris



Suzanne MacKinnon

It helps to have a map nearby when plotting the path that brought Suzanne MacKinnon, MSW, RSW, to Edmonton as ACSW’s new Associate Registrar.

Start with a pushpin in Vancouver, where Suzanne was born. She spent her childhood in the mild interior of British Columbia, and then returned to the coast to earn an undergraduate degree in criminology at Simon Fraser University. The honours degree required an extra year and a thesis. Suzanne studied how correctional policy impacts those not under correctional control by exploring visitation policy and practice, with a case study on the mother and baby live-in program.

Now draw a line to Chicago and the Jane Addams College of Social Work. On the strength of her thesis, Suzanne was

invited to complete her Master of Social Work at the school, a campus within the University of Illinois at Chicago.

“I had never met or known a social worker,” says Suzanne, but on one of her first days at the new school, a classmate sneezed. “*Everyone* said bless you – and I knew I had found my people,” she smiles.

Suzanne acknowledges she came “sideways into social work”, but it quickly became a passion. As a newly minted social worker, Suzanne turned west again, heading to Colorado to settle in to a career with the Department of Corrections. Her focus: the treatment and monitoring of sex offenders.

“It was complex and interesting,” Suzanne says, noting that she wanted to “fix corrections” and she feels she made inroads with a job that blended her criminology background with social work. In her 13 years there, she moved from frontline clinical social worker to program administrator.

When asked about memorable work from that time, Suzanne talks about seeing the opportunity to introduce an overnight mother and child visitation program. The large prison complex that employed her already had apartments constructed for visitation, which was unusual for the US. With the infrastructure in place, Suzanne was able to garner administrative support to make the visitation program a reality. This was accomplished on top of her regular workload and remains a highlight of her time there.

2014 saw Suzanne looking for a new focus within the profession. That line on the map became a circle as she returned to Vancouver for a post-graduate diploma in Applied Community Planning from Langara College. “I’m passionate about macro social work,” she says, lighting up as she talks of systems, communities, and policy.

She looks forward to flexing those skills in the Associate Registrar position. The portfolio includes duties relating to registration, the Continuing Competence program, the Clinical Registry and strengthening the 'social worker on duty' program. She enjoyed her first ACSW conference and AGM, and is getting to know her co-workers in the ACSW office.

"Having Lynn [Labrecque King] here is ideal. I'm really benefitting from her experience," says Suzanne, noting that the mentorship of Lynn as the Executive Director and Registrar was a factor in drawing her to join the ACSW.

*“It’s an exciting time to work on the frontline of regulation as it matures in Alberta.”*

Asked about social work in Canada and the US, Suzanne finds more similarities than differences. One contrast is that the profession is highly regulated south of the border. "Regulation here is still in its infancy," she notes, which makes it an exciting time to work on the frontline of regulation as it matures in Alberta.

Another attraction to her new role was Edmonton's diversity. "There's a lot going on here. The city is socially progressive." She feels the city is vibrant and committed to investing in community.

Though her parents met and had their first child here, Suzanne's previous exposure to Edmonton was limited to childhood trips to West Edmonton Mall. ("My mental map was still in place!" she laughs.) She began at ACSW in January, so she's been adapting to winter and the start of construction season while searching for a place to live.

Luckily, getting out and exploring on foot is a hobby for her, as are day trips outside the city in warmer weather. ("I'm learning you don't cancel plans for snow here, just like you don't cancel for rain in Vancouver.")

Other pleasures include arts and crafts, geocaching and a love for Lego, reinvigorated by the arrival of two young nephews. She explains that while they're happy with a big bin of blocks, she enjoys building complex kits of architectural landmarks and cultural icons like the VW Camper Van. She looks forward to reconnecting with the boys during a planned visit to Colorado in the fall.



Suzanne's latest cross-stitch project

As the latest marker on the map of Suzanne's social work career, Edmonton is providing new experiences and a full workload for this social work traveller. It's clear that wherever her road takes her, it's among passionate and engaged social workers that Suzanne feels most at home.

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TARA HOGUE HARRIS is an editor and writer with Bird Communications.





ACSW social workers at the 2016 Habitat Build Day

# *Collaborating to End Homelessness in Edmonton*

by Kristin Baker

Imagine what it would be like to sleep in a park or on a sidewalk instead of in a warm, safe home. It's an unacceptable situation, but unfortunately, this is the reality faced by many Albertans on a daily basis.

Ending homelessness and ensuring every resident has access to a secure and permanent home requires a collaborative effort between the federal government, the province, cities, agencies and citizens.

"Housing is a fundamental right for every Edmontonian," says the City of Edmonton's director of Family and Community Supports, Jenny Kain, BSW, RSW.

In its efforts to eliminate homelessness, the City of Edmonton implemented *A Place to Call Home: Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness* in 2009. The plan adopted the "Housing First" model, an approach based on immediate permanent housing combined with wrap-around support services.

It also laid out five main goals to be achieved by 2019, centring on the adequate supply of permanent, affordable

housing; appropriate supports; quick transitions from emergency accommodation; and ongoing prevention of homelessness. As the plan enters into its final three years, the City and Homeward Trust Edmonton are currently updating it (anticipated to be completed by summer 2017).

City of Edmonton's social workers play an important, collaborative role in working towards the plan's goals to end homelessness. "Our focus is on the *10 Year Plan to End Homelessness*," says Jenny. "Everything focuses on meeting the five goals and the issues that spring out of those goals."

The City employs a team of social workers in its Family and Community Supports Section. Many of them are engaged in preventive social services and that work often touches on homelessness in some way. "Sometimes it's responding to a concern about an individual or family and making sure they

get connected to the right resources, all the way along that continuum to building capacity and opportunities for people living in non-market housing, eviction prevention and poverty reduction,” says Jenny.

One team in particular focuses on strategies and collaborative work related to housing and homelessness. Dorian Smith, BSW, RSW and Jeannette Wright, BSW, RSW, are two community building social workers who work city-wide to actively move the 10 Year Plan forward in a supportive and helpful manner. They convene diverse partners to respond to the complex challenges around homelessness.



From left: Jeannette Wright, Jenny Kain and Dorian Smith

“We work in collaboration with other organizations and citizens that we bring on board,” explains Jeannette.

Both Dorian and Jeannette have a strong knowledge of the numerous homeless and housing organizations in Edmonton – from larger ones such as Homeward Trust Edmonton and Boyle Street Community Services to smaller community agencies, faith organizations and community groups. Part of their job is to connect these organizations and initiatives and weave them together in a way that makes the best use of each agency’s strengths.

The Family and Community Supports Section is alerted to emerging issues related to homelessness through city council, other City departments and community partners. With their colleagues across the city, they determine if and how City social workers should be involved in a matter connected to homelessness. “Is it big enough that we need to develop an initiative or do some research?” asks Dorian. “We look at some of the options that are currently in existence, develop a

collaboration with whoever needs to be at the table to address it, and move it forward into something we’ve identified as being helpful.”

For example, the section was notified of youth-serving agencies’ growing concern about homeless youth being ticketed for not paying for transit rides. Inability to pay the ticket often led to increased legal problems for the youth involved. “We convened a range of partners to look at how we could better address this, deter criminalization because of an inability to pay, be more responsive to youth and build increased understanding between youth and enforcement officers,” says Jenny.

That led to a free youth transit pass pilot project, which has now evolved into a free monthly transit pass program for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

“It touched on a lot of City services, and it would not have worked if we had worked in isolation,” Jenny says. “We worked with community partners and other city departments to come up with a shared solution that’s more holistic and effective than each area working on something separately.”

Another large-scale project the team is working on is the Homeless on Public Land Initiative. “It started because it was recognised by citizens and police there were a growing number of people who were sleeping rough,” Jeannette says, “and we’ve worked to develop an effective coordinated response.”

The team determined early on their collaborative goal was to ensure a balanced approach of responsible environmental stewardship of public land (including parks and the river valley), respectful and supportive engagement of the people who are living homeless, and attention to safety to ensure that public spaces are safe for everyone.

“To do that, we engaged a broad coalition of organizations and internal City departments,” says Jenny. “The work is oriented to assist people encountered on public land and help them onto the path towards housing.”

An initiative like this illustrates how the team performs both macro and micro level social work, often within the same project. At the macro level, the team identified a connection between the City’s planned review of its major parks and the Homeless on Public Land Initiative. Two of the parks under

review are known to be areas for people living rough. “What we do in the long run in the parks affects people who are homeless in parkland – it’s place-based responses to support people,” says Dorian. “Every effort is made to have the voices of people who are homeless represented and included as citizens who are users of the park as well.”

On a micro level, the team purchased \$10 coffee gift cards for their street outreach team to hand out to people living in those parks as a way to engage them and gain their opinions on park use and the changes that could benefit them. “Interestingly, it was aligned with what other citizens were saying – concerns around safety, access to facilities and quality of life,” says Dorian.

*“Every Albertan deserves a safe and affordable place to call home.”*

The team also organizes focus groups with seniors, youth, and people with disabilities to ensure the voices of citizens who wouldn’t ordinarily be able to give input on broader policies are able to have a say. “We get real stories of lived experiences from them on some of the challenges that they have to accessing and keeping housing,” says Jeannette. “We roll that in with larger submissions, so we can have an impact at a larger policy level.”

Access to resources – including funding – is another way the City can affect change. The City funds a number of different initiatives, such as street outreach, in addition to education events and public awareness materials. “We develop tools the community can use in collaboration with our partners,” says Dorian.

They recently joined forces with other agencies to produce handouts about who to call in order to connect a person who is homeless to housing and supports. They’re currently working on consistent messaging about homelessness that can be used in various community conversations. “No matter what we do, we’re always considering our partners. We work closely together. It’s only going to work if it works for the partners responding.”

These collaborations often result in learning opportunities and events, like the recent bus tour of affordable and supportive housing developments that Jeannette helped to organize along with the Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness. City staff, councillors, police and housing development representatives had the opportunity to speak with tenants of a variety of different affordable, supportive and supported housing developments and gain an understanding of the options available to those in need of housing. “Lots of questions came forward about the different ways people could be housed,” says Jeannette.

This kind of outreach helps the team to have better – and more thorough – community conversations around compassionate responses to people who are homeless. It also helps move them forward with an issue that has been prioritized: the need for more permanent supportive housing.

This is a priority for not only the City, but for the province as well. “Every Albertan deserves a safe and affordable place to call home. Housing insecurity and homelessness is a multi-faceted issue and it’s important that communities, agencies and all orders of government work together to provide Albertans impacted by homelessness with the supports they need to be safe, healthy and to live in dignity,” says Minister of Community and Social Services and MLA for Calgary-McCall, Irfan Sabir. “We’re proud to work closely and collaboratively with the City of Edmonton to combat homelessness and improve access to affordable housing. Our government has committed \$1.2 billion in affordable housing over the next five years so that Albertans have a safe and affordable place to call home.”

Working with so many partners and stakeholders makes for very full days for the team. A typical day can involve convening group meetings, attending community gatherings, research, or planning engagement and awareness opportunities.

“We’re weavers, we’re brokers, we’re leaders, we’re conveners, we’re collaborators – every day, all day,” says Jeannette.

And it’s this collaborative work that’s moving Edmonton – and Alberta – towards ending homelessness.

## Helping with Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity's vision is to see a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live. They join with volunteers and community partners to build affordable housing and promote home ownership as a means to breaking the cycle of poverty.

It's an exciting year for Habitat for Humanity, as its long-time supporters, former U.S. president Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn will be in Canada for the 2017 Carter Work Project. This is Habitat Canada's biggest build project ever, with 150 homes planned to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary. Over 40 communities in every province and territory are taking part, but efforts are focused in and around our provincial capital, with 75 homes being built in Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan.

President and Mrs. Carter will be in Edmonton during the Carter Work Project, July 9 – 14, 2017. While there are no more volunteer openings for that week, the Carter Place Build continues before and after, and volunteers are still needed.

Nana Mumford, MSW Equiv, RSW, Edmonton Area Coordinator with ACSW, organized a team of Edmonton social workers last year to take part in a build, and is doing so again this year.

"What an opportunity to jump into action," Nana recalls thinking when he learned of Habitat's work. He notes that his practice often finds him seeking housing for clients. He proposed helping out at a monthly Area Coordinator meeting and quickly found support.

"We are serious about exterminating homelessness in Edmonton. We have to be seen to act," Nana explains. The ACSW is holding three group build days this year. Join the action and sign up today.

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The three ACSW Build Days take place Saturday, July 8, Saturday, July 29 and Saturday, August 19th (all spots filled) from 8:30 am to 4 pm in southeast Edmonton. Contact Charity Lui, ACSW Membership Activities Coordinator – North for more information or to guarantee your spot, at [charity@acsw.ab.ca](mailto:charity@acsw.ab.ca).

Another option is to support Habitat for Humanity with a financial donation or donate your Aeroplan miles. This can be done online at [www.hfh.org/donate](http://www.hfh.org/donate).

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### ACSW BUILD DAYS:

JULY	JULY	AUGUST
8	29	<del>19</del>

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KRISTIN BAKER is a communications consultant based in Edmonton. She's active in her community and often can be found reading or running.





Dr. Mary Valentich

# Learning Across the Lifespan: 2017 ACSW Conference

by Tara Hogue Harris

Social workers from across the province gathered March 30th to April 1st for the ACSW Annual Conference. With a new venue at Calgary's BMO Centre, and an engaging slate of workshop options, over 500 attendees joined together to connect and learn.



Amy Monea, MSW, RSW, of Heard Wellness Through Horses



Wesley Tokohopie, Darlene Marchuk, and Judy Hamelin

The theme was *Social Work Across the Lifespan: Opportunities and Directions*, and the 46 workshops offered showed the great breadth of presenter knowledge. The earlier stage of the lifespan was represented with workshops on the experiences on aboriginal young people, young adults in long-term care, and working with minors. Other sessions explored sexuality across the lifespan and life-long learning as part of continuing competence.

Keynote speaker Mary Valentich, PhD, RSW, set the bar high with her opening address 'Reflections on my Feminist Social Work Journey'. She asked her audience to think about their social work hero, and reminded listeners that a few people can make a difference.

A successful conference requires many hours of thought and preparation. Sincere thanks to co-chairs Kate McGoey-Smith, MSW, RSW and Susan Brooke, MSW, RSW and to volunteer coordinators Brenda Ingham, MSW, RSW and David Burke, BSW, RSW. Thanks go out to the Conference Planning Committee for their hours of effort. Lastly, the hard work of the ACSW staff ensured a smooth and rewarding event for all.

Congratulations to  
Angela Chau, MSW, RSW, the winner  
of the draw for an iPad.  
Thanks to Cam Senek of  
Drop Forge I.T. Solutions for this  
generous donation!

Brenda Ingham was the winner of  
the ACSW messenger bag.  
Thank you, Brenda, for completing a  
conference evaluation.

## Social Workers on Social Media – #2017ACSWCONF

### Erin McFarlane @EAMcFarlane

Registered for @ACSWSocialwork #2017ACSWCONF in #yyc. Look forward to attending practicum supervision session by folks from @UCalgary\_FSW!

10:02 PM - 6 Mar 2017

### UCalgary Social Work @UCalgary\_FSW

The room is filling up for @drjdrolet 's pre-#2017ACSWCONF workshop on disaster readiness. Tweet at us to let us know that you're here!

8:25 AM - 30 Mar 2017

### Janelle Richardson @janelle1784

Learning how to "grow resilience" with Dr Lena Dominelli #2017acswconf #greensocialwork @ACSWSocialwork

11:12 AM - 30 Mar 2017

### Amy Beth Fulton @dramyfulton

Great discussion of local disaster recovery research in Alberta at #2017ACSWCONF with speakers from #UCalgary & #MRU

11:17 AM - 30 Mar 2017

### Naaila Ali @city0Fdreams

What a great way to start the @ACSWSocialwork conference! Inspired by Dr. Mary Valentich and her journey w/ feminist practice #2017ACSWCONF

9:01 AM - 31 Mar 2017

### Suzanne MacKinnon @srmackin

Last session of the #2017ACSWCONF! Lots of engaged and passionate social workers!

1:56 PM - 1 Apr 2017

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## Thursday Night conference welcome & wellness fair



Conference committee co-chair Kate McGoey-Smith



Using art to achieve wellness



Elder Duane Many Shots with wife Gabrielle

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## Opening and Keynote Friday Morning



Keynote speaker Dr. Mary Valentich



Kate McGoey-Smith and Heather Johson, ACSW staff



Maxine Salopree



Wall of heroes



Conference planning committee co-chair Kate McGoey-Smith

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## AGM Friday Evening



ACSW Council with award winners



Minister Lori Sigurdson



Recognizing departing Council members



Lynn Labrecque King

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## Conference snapshots



ACSW staff Raveena Parsons with Ai Tran, BSW, RSW



Julie Mann-Johnson, Jeannine Carriere, Cathy Richardson and Del Graff



Sylvia Pratt with Derek Chewka



Amy Monea at the conference's end

## Conference Feedback

Thanks to all who took the time to fill out a conference evaluation! Your responses help the ACSW know where to improve. We were happy to hear positive feedback like the following:

*"I brought two of my staff and this was their first ACSW conference. It was a great introduction to the amazing event."*

*"The flexibility of a Thursday evening, Friday and Saturday [schedule] really allows for social workers from a multitude of circumstances to participate in the conference to the fullest extent of their choosing. I also thought that the range of workshop sessions was quite diverse and offered something for everyone. The combined award luncheon and ACSW AGM was a fabulous addition to further connect social workers to their regulatory college and fosters pride in the profession."*

## Prevention, Preparation, Relief & Recovery - Social Work Connections for Disaster Recovery Workshop

Disaster readiness and recovery were on the minds of social workers who attended ACSW's pre-conference workshop on Thursday, March 30th in Calgary. Sixty-five attendees signed up to learn more and another 120 joined the webcast for *Social Work Connections for Disaster Recovery*.

This day-long workshop featured the realities and challenges of disaster recovery in Alberta and internationally, discussion on 'green social work' approaches, and the building of emergency preparedness skills. Organizer Dr. Julie Drolet, PhD, RSW, joined presenters from Alberta, the US, the UK and Australia to highlight the role of social workers in prevention, preparation, emergency relief, and long-term recovery.

"Bringing experts together from around the world yielded rich data and several helpful strategies for mitigating the impact of disasters

on local populations," says Monica Piros, MSW, RSW, who attended the workshop. Newly moved to Calgary after years in Oklahoma, Monica felt the session reinforced that "every distinct locale impacted by disaster is still part of a larger global community," a fact underlined last year when she learned that Oklahoma residents were flying to Fort McMurray to lend a hand.

After the workshop, Monica was motivated to create a disaster plan for herself and her sons, giving her greater peace of mind as a single parent. Her takeaway as a social worker?

"The research that is emerging from the significant fires and floods impacting Alberta in recent years is a strong indicator that our profession plays a pivotal role in assisting survivors to get on with their lives, and helping communities to rebuild and grow stronger."

# Honouring Our Own: ACSW 2017 Award Winners

Congratulations to these recipients from everyone at the Alberta College of Social Work. Awards were presented at the Annual Awards Luncheon, March 31, 2017 in Calgary.

## John Hutton Memorial Award for Social Action / Social Policy

This award recognizes a registered social worker in good standing who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession of social work and the community through social action and policy.

### The Honourable Lori Sigurdson, MSW, RSW

Minister of Seniors and Housing, MLA Edmonton-Riverview

Well known to the social work community in Alberta, Lori Sigurdson is recognized as a champion of social action and policy. Her nomination cites her work in development of ACSW's Social Policy Framework projects, creation of strong networks with policy partners, representation of social justice issues in the media, work with students, and of course, strong commitment to supporting the goals of ACSW for strengthening social work action. She has instructed social work students in the areas of education, research, social policy and social justice.

### Sharon Goulet, MSW, RSW

Sharon has been a social worker with the City of Calgary for 23 years. Sharon's contributions in promoting and supporting the development of culturally-appropriate preventative social programs for Indigenous populations are recognized in her nomination. Sharon's work as a Family and Community Support Services social planner was recognized as exemplary and very well aligned with the principles and values inherent in the John Hutton Memorial Award.

## Excellence in Social Work Practice

This award recognizes social workers who have exhibited exemplary skills and commitment over time.

### Elizabeth Schnitzler, MSW, RSW

Elizabeth has practiced social work for over 30 years in a variety of settings including child protection, youth probation, community development and social planning, focusing on preventative social service planning and funding. For over 21 years, she has dedicated her work to promoting policy and systems change in the areas of immigrant integration, cultural diversity, positive child and youth development and increasing the social inclusion of vulnerable seniors. She has demonstrated skill as a social work educator and mentor in her work with many students.



From left: Sharon Goulet, Elizabeth Schnitzler, Lori Sigurdson

# Connecting Students to the Conference: 2017 ACSW Student Scholarship Winners

The ACSW conference scholarship fund is sponsored by TD Insurance Meloche Monnex and anonymous donors to provide support for four social work students to attend the annual ACSW conference.

## Melody Berland, Sw. Dip. student, Portage College, Lac La Biche

Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to attend and experience the ACSW Conference in Calgary. I applied for the TD scholarship when I was registering as a social work student on the ACSW website. I really wanted to complete my diploma with a wonderful experience. So it was a wonderful surprise to find out I had won! Each one of the workshops that I participated in were very informative and enlightening. I learned a lot in two days. Carolyn Anderson's workshop "Daring Social Worker: Showing up, being seen and living brave in a caring profession" was the highlight of my ACSW conference experience. Carolyn was able to relay Brené Brown's concepts of vulnerability and how to be brave in a relatable way that was easy to understand. I know that I will take all the information that I learned over the conference weekend into my future career in social work. I enjoyed my time in Calgary and hope to be a regular attendee of the annual ACSW conference in the years ahead.

## Ana Hrincu, BSW student, University of Victoria (distance), Edmonton

Attending this year's ACSW conference was not only a fantastic way to begin my social work career, but also allowed me the opportunity to engage with workers from all over Alberta, learn about different organizations, understand more deeply the important work social workers do in our province, and discover areas of growth the profession is engaging in. There was a continuous theme of inspiration

and the conference buzzed with energy about social justice work that is rarely found in our society. It was refreshing to be surrounded by such like-minded individuals. The keynote speaker was inspiring, and the workshops were full of variety and highly informative. Conversations on immigration, feminism, and food security had me thinking critically about how to continue engaging in these areas when starting my practice, and have encouraged me to reflect on actions I can take in my own life to be anti-oppressive. It was an absolute privilege to attend this conference, and I look forward to being able to attend future conferences as an RSW! Thank you, TD and ACSW, for allowing me the opportunity to supplement my education with such an incredible experience.

## Amanda Plocica, Sw. Dip student, Northern Lakes College, Peace River

It gave me great pleasure to accept the TD Insurance Meloche Monnex 2017 Student Scholarship available to provide financial support for social work students to attend the Annual ACSW conference.

This scholarship allowed me to embark on a powerful learning experience that I will continuously reflect upon and carry with me throughout my social work career. Collaboration with other students and social workers while attending various workshops is a great addition to an academic setting to allow students to focus on personal areas of growth and development. Having attended the conference last year, this conference allowed me to recognize



From left: Ana Hrinco, Amanda Plocica, Jessica Gallant (of TD Insurance Meloche Monnex), Melody Berland, Elizabeth Sim

my personal growth and accomplishments over the past year and allows me to regroup and set goals for the future. If there was ever any doubt regarding what my future holds, I am committed in pursuing a career where the sky is the limit after hearing the opportunities available to social workers at the ACSW conference. Going forward, I will make attending future conferences a personal goal and look forward to reuniting with hardworking colleagues within the social work field.

## Elizabeth Sim, BSW after-degree, University of Calgary (Central Alberta and Northern Region), Edmonton

My experience at the ACSW conference included a diverse range of learning and relationship building. I finished the conference with a renewed sense of passion and rigour for the profession of social work, and I met a great number of influential social workers. It was an honour to learn from and share stories with so many inspirational individuals. I was also incredibly grateful to have shared my experience at the conference with a number of classmates from the

University of Calgary (Central Alberta and Northern Region). The friendships I have made as a result of social work have shown me the immense strength of our community.

The idea that our identities as social workers and human beings evolve and change across our lifespan was a major piece of learning for me throughout the conference. In her keynote address, Dr. Mary Valentich discussed her journey as a feminist social worker and how this identity differed as she moved through her life. As I further develop my identity as a social worker, I hope, like Dr. Valentich, to continually evolve as a feminist. I was also incredibly touched by the session on medical assistance in death, in which we discussed the importance of having a voice throughout one's entire lifespan, even at the end.

Overall, the ACSW conference was a vastly inspiring experience that opened my eyes to a variety of practice areas and ways in which social work can be incorporated throughout the lifespan. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to attend!

# *Day in the Life*

## MEGHAN HOLUB

By Debby Waldman

Like many in the profession, Meghan Holub, MSW, RSW, became a social worker to help people in need.

“I wanted to work with marginalized populations and people who were falling through the cracks,” she says. “I wanted to work with anyone who was really struggling, and to make a connection one-on-one.”

She never envisioned working in the cancer field, but that’s what she’s been doing since 2013, when Wellspring Calgary hired her to helm its then-fledgling Money Matters program.



Wellspring Calgary is a charitable organization that offers over 45 programs, resources, and support to people who have or have had cancer, and the people who care about them. It began in 2007 based upon the model started in Toronto in 1992. Calgary and Edmonton are the only two western Canadian cities that have Wellspring centres; the majority are in Ontario.

Membership is free, as are the programs, which cover a range of topics including food and nutrition, movement and meditation, expressive arts, and self-care. There are also programs for young adults.

Holub, the only social worker on the 13-person staff, has a number of responsibilities. These include working one-on-one with members, providing them with information and resources about a variety of financial matters such as income replacement programs, drug coverage, returning to work, estate planning, and insurance.

*“I see a reason for fighting for people who aren’t able to fight for themselves.”*

“The first thing that happens when you’re diagnosed with an illness is that you have to take time off from work to care for yourself,” Holub says. “People are looking for a way to replace lost income because they have to leave work in order to undergo treatment. That’s always the place where we start: what do things look like now?”

Members can meet with Holub as often as they need. If they live in a remote location or are too ill to visit one of Wellspring’s two Calgary centres, Holub meets with them over the phone.

She also organizes free Money Matters clinics about topics including wills, personal finances, and long-term disability and employment law. There’s even a yearly income tax clinic. All are facilitated by local volunteer experts.



Finance-information programs are critical to people with cancer, because concerns about money can and do add unnecessary stress. Navigating through the paperwork required by multiple layers of government and work-based employment support systems can be exhausting even when you’re not dealing with a life-threatening illness.

“When I sit down with someone, I go through

things in a detailed manner, but it is also simplified so I am not going to lose them,” Holub says. “We talk about every program and why they are eligible and why they are not. I want them to get all the information in one place so that two years down the road, they are not saying, ‘Why did I not apply for this?’ I have definitely become an expert in navigating these systems.”

Holub has been navigating some of these systems since her student days. While earning her BSW and MSW degrees at the University of Calgary, she worked with immigrants, marginalized women, and adults with developmental disabilities. Among her many responsibilities, she helped her clients work through poverty issues, housing, and employment supports, and to apply for services such as AISH.

Still, nothing quite prepared her for the challenge of having to break the news to a cancer patient or survivor that they are not eligible for any kind of income replacement program, something she has had to do on occasion. Her solution: “I keep looking. I keep researching. I keep trying to find loopholes for areas to assist them. I keep in contact, so that if their financial situation changes, we can change with it, but I definitely don’t give up.”

Holub’s natural tendency is to avoid making waves. Tenacity is something she’s developed, willingly, in her four years on the job. “I see a reason for fighting for people who aren’t able



to fight for themselves, because I have seen what the powers of advocacy can do for our members,” she says. “I do this with patience and diplomacy.”

One of Holub’s favorite examples of what she calls “advocacy with a small *a*” involved a breast cancer patient who opted for oncoprote testing to help determine what kind of chemotherapy would work best for her.

*“Having to look at real-life, hard issues has made me a more responsible social worker.”*

“She was a low income senior and English was not her first language,” Holub recalls. “She went through the testing not realizing this would be an out-of-pocket cost. By the time she came to see me, she had received a bill for \$4,000.”

Holub spent nearly five months advocating with the testing laboratory and the assigned collection agency. In the end, the laboratory was able to provide financial aid and reduce the debt to zero.

Becoming more outspoken is only one of the profound ways that Wellspring has changed Holub. “Having to look at real-life, hard issues has made me a more responsible social worker.”

“I talk to people about estate planning all the time, and that is something I never thought I could do because it would be too sad, but it is a responsibility,” she explains. “It’s looking at what is the responsible, adult thing to do: you have estate documents and you put into place what your last wishes are. You’re helping people so their days are not filled with stress. They are able to focus on living to the best of their ability.”

Working in an environment whose *raison d’être* is an often-terminal illness means that death is always present. Holub unwinds by spending time with her husband and their dog, Phoenix. She also likes to travel, draw, read, and scrapbook.

A devout Christian, she draws strength from her faith. Losing members is hard, she acknowledges, “but I take solace in knowing that I helped them in whatever way I could, through my job, to have days when they did not have to worry about other things, such as filling out paperwork or figuring out what program to apply for, or having estate planning done. That’s a lasting connection — they live on through you and the work that you do.”

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DEBBY WALDMAN is an Edmonton writer whose work has appeared in publications including *People*, *Parents*, and *Publishers Weekly*. She also writes books for children.



# Daring to be First:

## A tribute to Carolyn Anderson on her transition to retirement

by Yasmin Dean, PhD, RSW

In addition to being my friend, mentor, and colleague, Carolyn Anderson, PhD, RSW, was also my social work professor, although I never took a single class from her. Carolyn occupied the office next door to mine at Mount Royal University until her recent retirement, and her presence helped shape my understandings of social work and social justice.



Carolyn Anderson, centre in front row

Carolyn has been making contributions to social work and social justice since the 1970s, with many 'firsts' in her history. She established Calgary's first intrafamilial sexual abuse community treatment centre, which ran for 20 years. She was the first female president of the

LGBTQ+ community centre now known as Calgary Outlink, and she was co-author of the first LGBTQ+ pre-marriage / commitment manual and workshop for the United Church in Alberta. After first running it out of the trunk of her car, maverick Carolyn also opened A Woman's Place Bookstore in 1983, the first of its kind in Calgary to offer literature that spoke specifically of LGBTQ+ and women's issues.

Not every colleague would say yes when I suggested, "Hey, we should go to Abu Dhabi". Carolyn did. In time I learned to be careful just what conferences or projects to suggest because she would always say YES to adventure.

Tears were instant when Carolyn told me that after 18 years of teaching, research and service at Mount Royal University, it was time for her next adventure. Despite my tears, I also had to laugh. Only Carolyn would design and deliver a "hey, I am retiring" PowerPoint presentation at a dinner party. But

as usual, such thoughtful messaging helped each person to understand her intentions in their own way.

Carolyn is now working as a certified Daring Way™ Facilitator, based on the research of Brené Brown. Carolyn's work includes multi-day retreats, workshops and consultations with organizations. The most exciting piece for Carolyn is that Brené is also a social worker and her research has taught us how the courage to be vulnerable transforms the way we live, love, parent and lead.

Carolyn recently presented a webinar on Shame Resilience to an international audience of lesbian women over 60. Her newest adventure is planning international travel retreats in Mexico and Argentina that will combine The Daring Way™/ Rising Strong™/Daring Leadership™ curriculums and the opportunity to travel with those committed to living life boldly.

Carolyn is helping to build the kind of community we all want to live in - like-minded people who are committed to living authentically and wholeheartedly.

So even though I never took a class from her, it is clear that Carolyn Anderson has been my teacher too. Her best lesson is to always reframe and be positive. Such advice will live on in our curriculum and with our students and the clients they serve.

Heartfelt thanks to you, Dr. Anderson. You brought magic, resilience, imagination and much fun into our work at Mount Royal University. Thank you for your many contributions of 'firsts' to the profession of social work. We look forward to more.

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YASMIN DEAN is an Associate Professor of Social Work in the Department of Child Studies and Social Work. She is committed to continuing Carolyn's legacy of activism and adventure both within and outside the hallways at Mount Royal University.



# For your information

## 8th Annual Central Alberta Social Work Conference

June 15 & 16, 2017

Red Deer

Finding our Way: Social Work on Shifting Ground is this year's theme, with a keynote address from Dennis Edney, a lawyer committed to the fight for access to justice and human rights. Registration details at [www.caswc.com](http://www.caswc.com).

## Grey Matters Conference

September 11-13, 2017

Hinton

*Sponsored by the Town of Hinton and Alberta Seniors and Housing*

This conference offers opportunities to learn more about issues, supports and services for seniors.

Visit [www.greymatters2017.com](http://www.greymatters2017.com).

## Alberta Early Years Conference

October 16 & 17, 2017

Edmonton

*Sponsored by Early Childhood Development Support Services*

With a theme of Doing What's Right: Through a Social Justice Lens, this year's conference will focus on how to effectively protect the rights of all children and families. Registration info at [www.abearyears.ca](http://www.abearyears.ca).

## Primary Health Care (PHC) Integration Network Coalition for Integration

The PHC Integration Network is focused on improving transitions of care between primary health providers and acute care, emergency departments, specialized services and other community services. The Coalition of Integration is being established to stimulate innovative thinking and solutions to integration challenges.

If you are interested in the Coalition for Integration, contact Jacque Lovely, Director of Integration and Innovation, Primary Health Care, at [JeanJacque.Lovely@ahs.ca](mailto:JeanJacque.Lovely@ahs.ca).

## OFFICE TO SHARE

This welcoming, bright, windowed office on Kensington Road NW in Calgary is available "half-time", between Thursday and Sunday, for \$400 monthly. We share one office, while two other therapists have the other two offices. It is furnished, and includes on-site free parking, internet, waiting room and a shared kitchen. Ideal for someone just entering private practice, or someone wanting a half-time practice. As an approved ACSW Supervisor I would also consider providing clinical supervision (for a fee), if the renter wishes. **Contact Carol @ 403-813-5603, or [cdaw@bowvalleycounselling.ca](mailto:cdaw@bowvalleycounselling.ca)**

The Advocate's For Your Information section gives preference to Alberta-based educational opportunities and non-profit events for social workers. Send your submissions to Raveena Parsons at [raveenap@acsw.ab.ca](mailto:raveenap@acsw.ab.ca).

Visit the ACSW Events Calendar to find more training, events and workshops, at [acsw.ab.ca](http://acsw.ab.ca), Social Workers tab, Calendar of Events.

## ACSW's Partners in Advocacy

Alberta Alliance on Mental Illness  
and Mental Health

[aamimh.ca](http://aamimh.ca)

Edmonton Social Planning Council  
[edmontonsocialplanning.ca](http://edmontonsocialplanning.ca)

Friends of Medicare  
[friendsofmedicare.org](http://friendsofmedicare.org)

Public Interest Alberta  
[pialberta.org](http://pialberta.org)

Parkland Institute  
[ualberta.ca/parkland](http://ualberta.ca/parkland)

## DEADLINES

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE**  
for the FALL 2017 issue  
of the *Advocate* is  
JULY 1, 2017

All editorial inquiries to Charity Lui  
[Charity@acsw.ab.ca](mailto:Charity@acsw.ab.ca)

## AD DEADLINE

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