



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



FRIDAY, APRIL 5 **REFLECTIONS ON THE EVOLUTION OF** **SOCIAL WORK IN ALBERTA**

The social work profession has evolved dramatically in the last four decades. Touching on the creation and development of the Alberta College of Social Workers, social work education, trends in practice and broader societal contexts, this

keynote presentation will offer reflections on the evolution and state of our profession in Alberta. Dr. Sieppert will weave some of his own professional history and experiences into a discussion of the growth and successes of our profession. He will also point to profound challenges we currently face and the critical tasks we must take on to ensure social work's role as a builder of strong communities.

DR. JACKIE SIEPERT, PH.D., is the Dean of the University of Calgary Faculty of Social Work having been initially appointed in 2010 and subsequently reappointed to the position in 2014.



SATURDAY, APRIL 6 **DISASTER INTERVENTIONS IN SOCIAL** **WORK: CHALLENGES TO SOCIAL WORK** **PRACTICE AND VALUES FROM A GREEN** **SOCIAL WORK PERSPECTIVE**

Social work is facing many challenges – environmental degradation, climate change, migration, human-made and natural disasters,

and the long-standing ones of poverty and interpersonal violence among others. Responding to the complex issues these pose is an imperative for practitioners in the 21st century. For this, they need courage, professional confidence, solidarity, creativity, innovative approaches and service user empowerment. Additionally, they need to form allies, across other disciplines, professions and communities of practice. In this presentation, I consider how green social work can assist us in moving the profession forward to renew itself and become more relevant to contemporary concerns by giving examples of what green social workers working in disaster situations have done to renew the profession while remaining true to our values of social justice and human rights.

PROFESSOR LENA DOMINELLI, ACSS, PH.D, CQSW, is Professor of Social Work at Stirling University and a world acclaimed social scientist; receiving awards for her international contributions to critical theory and practice.