



News & Views

July 2020 Issue



Table of Contents

A Message to Members, Thank you and Updates.....	1
Annual General Meeting Update.....	2
Meet our New Recruits.....	2
Social Action Placement with the NBASW – Results..	3
Hearing of the Discipline Committee – Results.....	6
NBASW Committee Vacancies.....	7
Continuing Education Opportunities.....	7
Free Local Resources.....	7

A Message to Members: Thank You & Updates

In the past months, the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to bring change to the everyday lives of New Brunswick residents. As we continue to make our way through this new “normal”, please know that provincial and national updates occur regularly.

New Brunswick was officially recognized to be part of the Atlantic Bubble, as of July 3rd, 2020; an area including the four Canadian Atlantic provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. The Bubble permits its residents to travel within it, from province to province, without the requirement of self-isolation for 14 days, after the crossing of inter-provincial lines. Although residents of the Atlantic Bubble are permitted to travel within it, we encourage you to stay cautious, safe, and follow the [directives of the Chief Medical Officer of Health](#). To learn more about the Atlantic Bubble, [click here](#).

In other news, we are pleased to announce that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) has been rescheduled and will take place on September 19th via online conferencing platform for members. Stay tuned as more information regarding the AGM and voting instructions for the Treasurer election will be sent to members. The newest elected Treasurer of the Board of Directors (BOD) will be announced at the AGM.

As we continue through these unpredictable times, the NBASW Board, staff and I want to thank you for your willingness to adapt within such uncertainty and your devotion to the social work profession. It is with such dedication that we are able to continue making a difference.



Géraldine Poirier Baiani, RSW
NBASW President

Annual General Meeting Update

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak earlier this year and the resulting State of Emergency in New Brunswick, this year's Annual General Meeting was said to be indefinitely postponed. We are now pleased to announce that this will take place on **September 19th, 2020**. More information will be sent to members to announce specific details, including dates, and voting instructions for the upcoming Treasurer Elections.

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

Since our last Newsletter, the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to bring changes to our communities, leaving us with certain questions to be answered. Please be reminded that our frequently asked questions page is still accessible on our website, which you can access by [clicking here](#). If you do not see your question on the FAQ page, please do not hesitate to contact our office. We will do our best to answer your questions as quickly as possible.

Meet Our New Recruits

Summer Students

The NBASW has recently welcomed two summer students, Grace Baker and Lisa Hanke:

Grace is a fourth-year student at St. Thomas University. She is Honouring in Criminology and minoring in Human Rights and Psychology. During her May to August placement, her research pertains to the impact of COVID-19 on children and youth's well-being, and the effectiveness of various models of wellness checks.

Lisa is a Post-Degree Bachelor of Social Work student at St. Thomas University. During her 8-week summer student internship with the Association, she is assisting in the development of Technology Standards.



Summer Student, Grace Baker

Following this, she will further research Masters of Social Work programs to continue the work of operationalizing the new Advanced Practice Registered Social Work category of registration.

Welcome Grace and Lisa!

Communications Officer

The Association has also welcomed a Communications Officer, Laure Piccetto:

Laure holds an Advertising and marketing communications diploma from La Cité Collégiale and will act as the interim Communications Officer for the NBASW. She will be responsible for the creation and planning of activities related to communications and media relations, as well as tend to the Promotion of the Profession Committee.

Welcome Laure!

Social Action placement with the NBASW – Results

The NBASW was pleased to host a Social Action Placement with Bachelor of Social Work students, Kerry Landry, Kaleigh Simpson, Jonathan Ginnish and Valarie Spencer, from St. Thomas University. The students recently completed their placement, which focused on gauging the attitudes and opinions of New Brunswick social workers on harm reduction practices, specifically, Safe Injection Sites. The data they collected through their literature review, survey results, and interviews with relevant stakeholders will be included as part of national conversation regarding harm reduction practices.

The literature review incorporated an explanation of Safe Injection Sites and how they operate, a jurisdictional review, an analysis of the perceptions of people who use drugs, relevant theories, and examination of the historical involvement of social workers in Canada. Following this, our primary findings were compiled into



Summer Student, Lisa Hanke



*Communications Officer,
Laure Piccetto*

a final report which includes an analysis of the survey results, an analysis of the themes noted by the stakeholders in their interviews, and suggested recommendations for next steps to take in this project. A brief overview of our findings include:

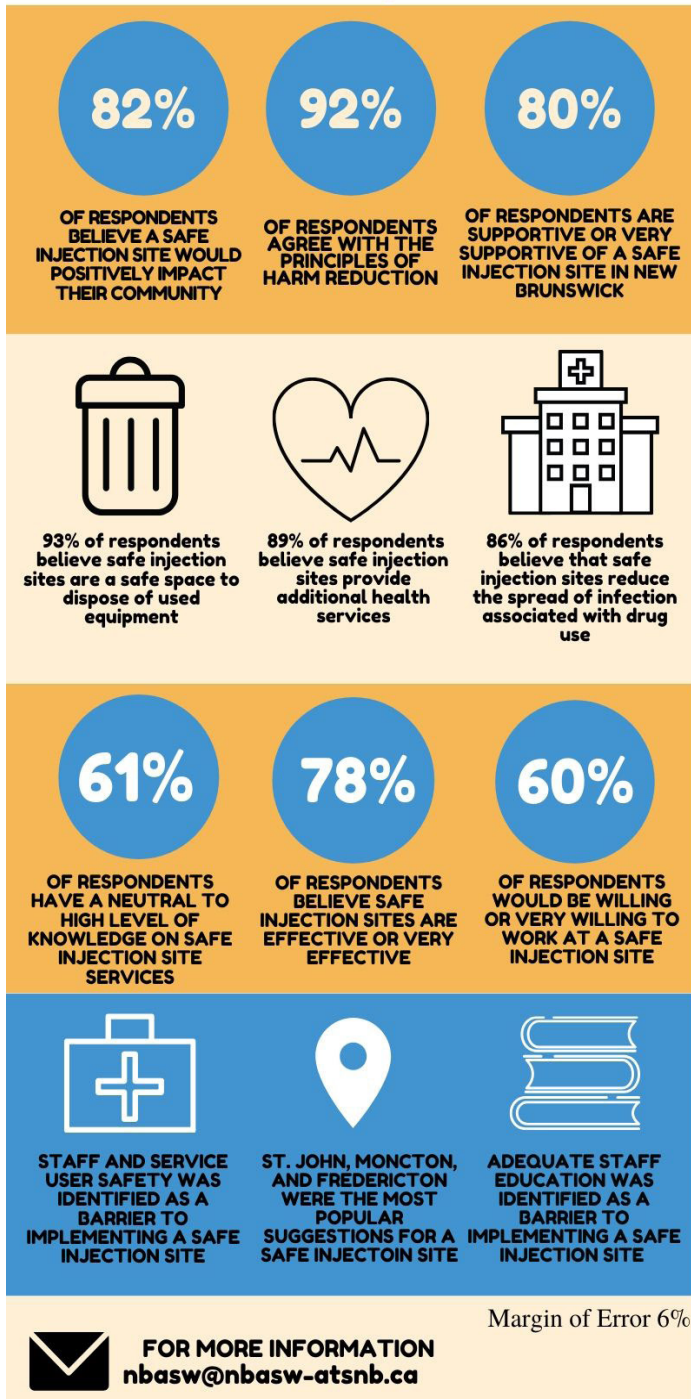
The survey, which was sent to 1895 people and generated 220 responses, found that the majority of respondents were operating in Moncton, Fredericton and St. John. The findings have a 6% margin of error and, while they cannot be generalized to the entire membership, they give a sense of the perceptions social workers have nonetheless. The survey uncovered that 92% of respondents agreed with the principles of harm reduction, with 82% believing a Safe Injection Site would positively impact their community, and 84% of respondents supporting a Safe Injection Site in New Brunswick.

Respondents also reported the benefits of Safe Injection Sites as providing a safe space to dispose of used equipment (93%), providing additional health services (89%), and reducing the spread of infections associated with drug use (86%). It is important to note, however, that only 61% of respondents reported having a neutral to high knowledge of Safe Injection Sites and only 60% of respondents would be willing to work at a Safe Injection Site. Some of the identified concerns for Safe Injection Site implementation incorporated staff and service user safety as well as adequate staff education. Keeping this in mind, the majority of respondents believed that Safe Injection Sites are effective (78%), yet the data suggests that there may be a gap in knowledge or experience in the area of harm reduction.

The interviews were conducted with seven stakeholders, including Shelters NB, Avenue B, Needle Exchange programs, Fredericton Public Library, AIDS NB, Moncton Public Library, and a St. Thomas University Professor. The themes that uncovered in these interviews included monetary impact, community impact, stigma, policy, mental health, dignity, safety, decriminalization, location, education, and physical health. However, this summary will only expand upon the themes of monetary impact, community impact, dignity, and education.

Firstly, monetary impact incorporated the money the organizations had to spend for their own harm reduction practices, the monetary challenges that would arise to open a proper Safe Injection Site (i.e. stainless-steel equipment), and the monetary benefits for the community (i.e. fewer social costs, hospital stays, and wound care).

Social Work Perceptions of Safe Injection Sites in New Brunswick, Canada



Secondly, stakeholders identified community impact as another theme - incorporating connection and support. Connection was said to be necessary between those who provide similar services to enhance their service delivery. Support was thought to be necessary from the community, other organizations, and service users. This was thought to make service users more accessible and encourage a sense of belonging among people who use drugs.

The third theme that derived from stakeholder interviews was dignity. The stakeholders highlighted the NBASW's Code of Ethics in the importance of inherent dignity and respect for service users. Stakeholders strive to treat service users kindly and make them feel respected. One service user emphasized that "dead people cannot recover" so keeping people alive through the services provided by a SIS would not only be a huge benefit, but let this population know that they are respected in their communities.

The final theme that will be discussed is education. Stakeholders believe that there needs to be information provided to people about harm reduction practices and increase the awareness of programs that are available for potential service users. Stakeholder also highlighted that service users need to be given the knowledge to protect themselves with safe sex practices and safe drug use.

Thus, it is clear that Safe Injection Sites are a proven strategy and would benefit the lives of service users, community members, and community organizations within New Brunswick. The students wish to thank Keara Grey and the staff at the NBASW for hosting their placement and trusting them with such important and valuable work.

Hearing of the Discipline Committee – Results

A hearing of the Discipline Committee of the New Brunswick Association of Social Workers was held on May 21, 2020 to hear and determine a Complaint against a Member alleging professional misconduct. Specifically, the Member is alleged to have inappropriately accessed NB Families Management Case System.

When other members of the Complaints Committee were informed of these actions, they adjourned the Complaints Committee Meeting.

The Registrar requested that the Member immediately resign from the Complaints Committee and that she informs her Employer of her actions.

The Member complied with these requests.

The Registrar then filed a Complaint against the Member alleging breach of the Code of Ethics with respect to confidentiality, professional boundaries and ethical obligations in the workplace.

Before the Discipline Committee, the Member voluntarily admitted professional misconduct and concurred that disciplinary sanction was appropriate.

Following a determination that the Member was guilty of professional misconduct, the Discipline Committee imposed the following discipline:

1. Written reprimand to be placed in the Member's file;
2. Payment of costs of \$1,500.00.
3. Two assignments in the form of continuing education articles; and
4. Summary and publication of the proceeding without names for the education of the membership.

NBASW Committee Vacancies

The Education Committee would like to inform members that there are currently 2 vacancies on the committee.

This committee mainly focuses on responding to the education needs of the NBASW membership by maintaining the continuing education policy and facilitating and encouraging a culture of ongoing learning, represents the NBASW on the Advisory Committees of the Schools of Social Work in New Brunswick, and selects the recipients of a variety of educational bursaries, grants and scholarships awarded by the NBASW in partnership with various sponsors.

If you are interested in joining the Education Committee, please contact Keara Grey at kgrey@nbasw-atsnb.ca.

Continuing Education Opportunities

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the State of Emergency in New Brunswick, most continuing education workshops and events have been cancelled, postponed, or moved online. We are doing our best to keep our calendar of events as updated as possible, however we recommend checking directly with the event organizers if you are unsure about an upcoming event's status. To find out what continuing education opportunities are available in the coming weeks and months, please visit our calendar of events by [clicking here](#).

Free Local Resources

Did you know that organizations across the province have lots of free resources, including newsletters and more? For example, the Collaborative for Healthy Aging and Care has a free newsletter that provides insight into local events, volunteer opportunities, research projects, and more! You can sign up for their newsletter by [clicking here](#).

Have something you'd like to see in the NBASW Newsletter? We're always looking for stories about social workers, events, and more to add. If you've got something you'd like us to include, please email nbasw@nbasw-atsnb.ca with the subject line "Newsletter."