

News & Views

November 2018 Issue



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From the Editor

Welcome to the November 2018 edition of the NBASW Newsletter! It's been a busy few months since our last newsletter in July.

In September, the Promotion of the Profession Committee met for the first time to discuss its mandate and complete its Terms of Reference. The Committee continues to work on this and hopes to begin rolling out some activities and opportunities for members in the coming months.

In October, The Bylaws Committee and Association staff participated in a Chapter Tour to bring the proposed changes to the Bylaws to the members across the province. We met with members at each chapter and are currently compiling recommendations based on feedback we heard at these meetings. We would like to thank all members who participated in the Chapter Tour and provided us with feedback!

The Association would also like to remind members that our 30th Anniversary Celebrations are coming up! More details on the event can be found on page 2. All members are welcome at this conference and banquet event and we look forward to seeing you all there!



NEW in this month's newsletter is our First Nations Lens article. Adina McKay, a social work student at St. Thomas University, has written an article on reconciliation, the residential school system and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. You can find the article on page 8.

If there's anything you'd like to see added to the Newsletter, I'm always looking for new additions. Whether you'd like to share information about a Continuing Education event, or feature a great story about social workers, please feel free to email me with information at iagneu@nbasw-atsnb.ca. I look forward to hearing from you!

NBASW 30th Anniversary Celebrations

The NBASW has been working hard over the last few months to organize our 30 Anniversary Celebrations. In celebration of 30 years as a regulatory body, the Association has put together a full-day conference and evening banquet.

Join us on Friday, November 23, 2018 at the Four Points by Sheraton in Moncton.

Conference Speakers

Dr. Michael Ungar, Ph.D., RSW

Presentation: Resilience at Work and at Home: Maintaining our Capacity to Cope During Times of Change and Challenge

Dr. Michael Ungar is the Canada Research Chair in Child, Family and Community Resilience at Dalhousie University, and among the best-known writers and researchers on the topic of resilience in the world. His work has changed the way resilience is understood, shifting the focus from individual traits to the interactions between people and their families, workplaces, and communities. As both a family therapist and professor of Social Work, he has helped to identify the most important factors that influence the resilience of adults and children during periods of transition and stress.



Rina Arseneault, MSW, RSW

Presentation: Trauma Informed Social Work Practice

Rina is a recognized social worker, researcher, activist, organizer, author and educator. The Associate Director for the Muriel McQueen Ferguson Centre for Family Violence Research since 1993, Rina has completed and documented extensive

research, organized and delivered numerous regional, national and international training sessions and workshops on the subject of violence.

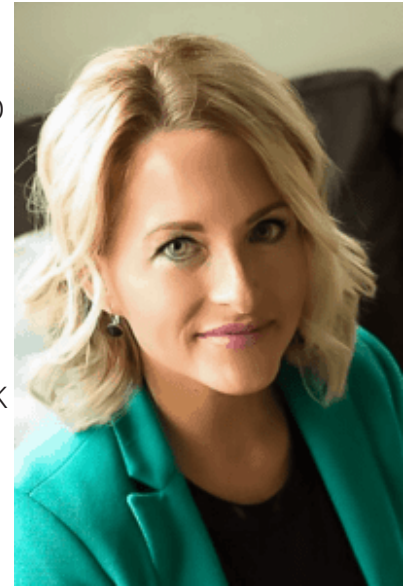
Rina is the recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the appointment to the Order of Canada, the NB Advisory Council on the Status of Women Award, the Canadian Association of Social Workers Distinguished Service Award, among others.

Sheri Coburn, MSW, RSW

Presentation: Harm Reduction: To Tolerate or to Embrace?

Sheri is a core trainer with the Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute (CTRI). She is also a Registered Social Worker who holds a Master of Social Work degree and a Bachelor's degree in Criminology. She has a diverse professional background with experiences as a correctional officer, addictions counsellor and developer and coordinator of a domestic violence outreach program. Sheri is a co-author of CTRI's Counselling Insights book. In addition to her work with CTRI, Sheri is also a counsellor in a private practice setting. She currently provides individual and family counselling in the areas of mental health, addiction, recovering after relationship breakdown, and trauma.

Sheri believes humor, self acceptance, and social connection is the best framework for successful healing and meaningful learning. Sheri works to reflect this in her facilitation style and is a knowledgeable, passionate, and engaging presenter.



Conference Agenda

9:30am - Registration
10:00am - Sheri Coburn
12:00pm - Lunch
1:30pm - Rina Arseneault
2:30pm - Dr. Michael Ungar
4:30pm - Conference Closing

Banquet Agenda

6:00pm - Cocktail Hour
6:30pm - History of the Profession
7:00pm - Banquet

Debbie Nason Social Work in Health Care Award

On October 18, 2018 the NBASW awarded Gerald Flanagan, RSW with the Debbie Nason Social Work in Health Care Award.

The Debbie Nason Award was created in 2003 in memory of Debbie Nason who devoted her life to the profession of social work.

Gerald has served the Upper River Valley communities for more than 20 years, and volunteers his time and knowledge outside of work to various local organizations and groups. During his time in the Upper River Valley, Gerald has made a huge positive impact on the communities and is well regarded by colleagues and community members alike. Congratulations Gerald!



Scholarship and Bursary Deadlines

Members are reminded of the following scholarship, bursary and award deadlines:

CASW & NBASW Grant

The Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW), in partnership with the NBASW, are pleased to offer a grant to assist in the delivery of continuing education to New Brunswick social workers. The grant may be accessed by a single member or a group of members wishing to host a continuing education opportunity for New Brunswick social workers. Funding for this grant is made possible by BMS, the broker for the CASW liability insurance program.

The application deadline for this grant is December 31st each year.

CASW Distinguished Service Award

The CASW Distinguished Service Award is given yearly by the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) during Social Work Week, to an individual or group of individuals selected from their membership by each provincial association. This award is given in recognition of outstanding contributions to the field of social welfare and to the profession of social work in Canada.

[The nomination deadline for this award is December 1st each year.](#)

Upcoming Continuing Education Opportunities

Members are advised of the following upcoming continuing education opportunities:

Educating Effective Social Workers: Innovative Approaches to Prepare for and Enhance Field Education

November 20, 2018 at 1pm

Available in English only; click [here](#) for details.

Reducing Vulnerabilities and Promoting Resilience in Children and Youth Exposed to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

November 20, 2018 at 11am

Available in English only; click [here](#) for details.

Working with trans youth and their families: evidence based practice for intervention and social change

November 21, 2018 at 2pm

Available in English only; click [here](#) for details.

Substance Use and the Workplace

November 27, 2018 at 2pm

Available in English only; click [here](#) for details.

Pallium Canada, des méthodes pour améliorer la qualité et l'accessibilité des soins palliatifs au Canada

November 28, 2018 at 1pm

Available in French only; click [here](#) for details.

NB Public Libraries Mental Health Resources

The New Brunswick Public Library Service (NBPLS) recently completed a provincial initiative to increase the number of mental health resources available to the public through NB public libraries. Altogether, \$60,000 has been invested to enhance the collection with books covering many mental health topics.

Topics covered include:

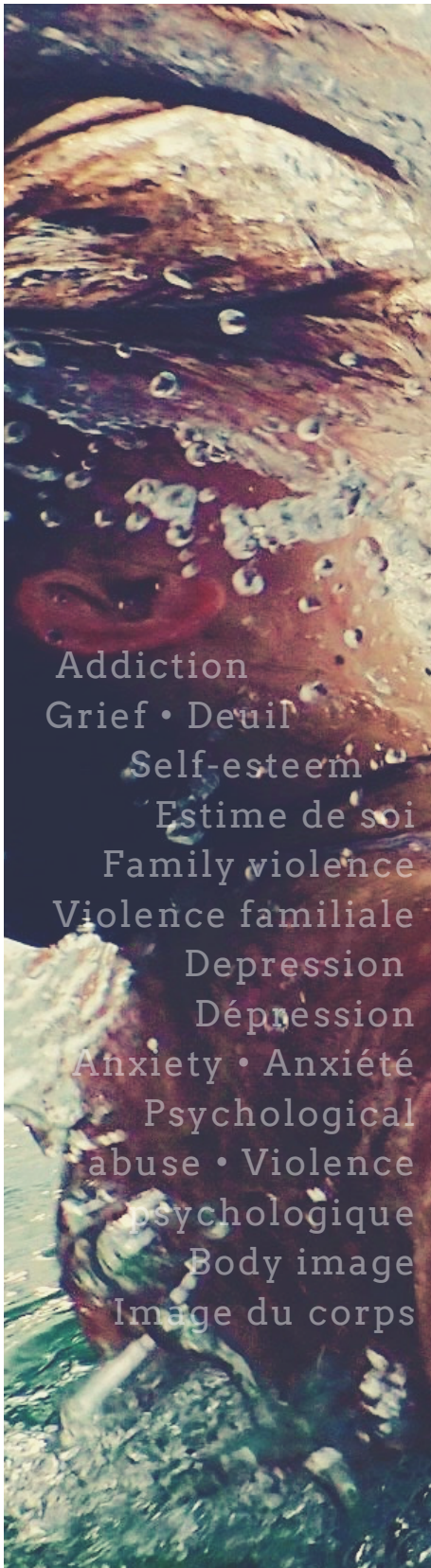
- Abuse
- Anxiety
- Cognitive Therapy
- Eating Disorders
- PTSD
- Suicide
- Addiction to Alcohol
- Autism Spectrum
- Depression
- Loss & Grief
- Schizophrenia
- Smoking/Addiction to Nicotine
- ADHD
- Bipolar Disorder
- Drug Addiction
- Mindfulness
- Stress Management

These books and resources are available for **free** to all New Brunswickers who have a valid NB Public Libraries library card. Library cardholders can place holds on the titles using the online catalogue or Library Services by Mail.

In support of this initiative, a **new virtual space** devoted to mental health was created for the New Brunswick Public Libraries' catalogue. The Mental Health section highlights resources related to mental health, and provides information on the Healing Books project, a bibliotherapy initiative that was launched recently in the Moncton area thanks to a partnership between NBPLS and Horizon Addictions and Mental Health Services.

Mental health virtual space: catalogue.gnb.ca > **Mental Health**

If you would like more information about the library's mental health collection or about how to get a library card, please contact your local public library. A list of libraries and their contact information is available on our website at www.gnb.ca/publiclibraries.



Addiction
 Grief • Deuil
 Self-esteem
 Estime de soi
 Family violence
 Violence familiale
 Depression
 Dépression
 Anxiety • Anxiété
 Psychological
 abuse • Violence
 psychologique
 Body image
 Image du corps

REACH OUT AND FIND THE RIGHT WORDS TO SUPPORT YOUR MENTAL HEALTH.

New Brunswick public libraries offer **books, eBooks and audiobooks** covering many mental health topics. All you need is a **free library card**.

Visit the library or go online to: catalogue.gnb.ca → Mental Health

TROUVEZ LES BONS MOTS POUR APPUYER VOTRE SANTÉ MENTALE DÈS MAINTENANT.

Les bibliothèques publiques du Nouveau-Brunswick offrent **des livres, des livrels et des livres audio** traitant de divers sujets liés à la santé mentale. Consultez notre collection. Tout ce dont vous avez besoin est **une carte de bibliothèque gratuite**.

Visitez la bibliothèque ou le catalogue en ligne à catalogue.gnb.ca → Santé mentale

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First Nations Lens

Article by: A.I. McKay

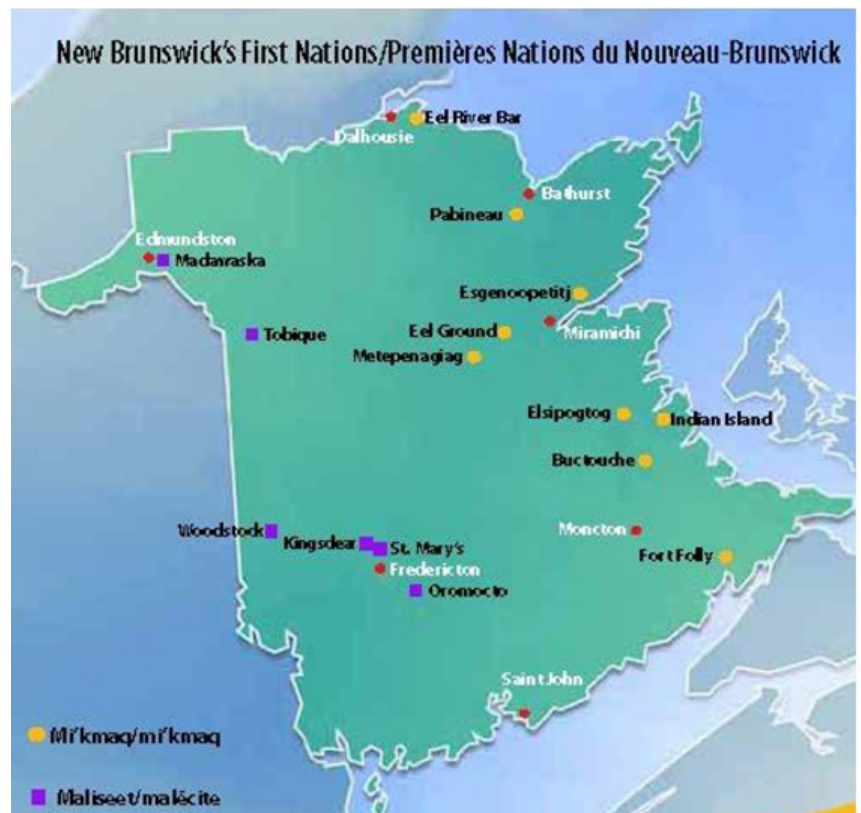
In collaboration with: Judy Levi, RSW, Social Development First Nations Child Welfare (Consultant), and Glen Caplin, RSW, Social Development Clinical Auditor.

Presently in Canada, a movement aiming to revive First Nation communities called “Reconciliation” is capturing the attention of various news and social media platforms. It is well known that First Nations issues are not anomalies but, in Dr. Roland Chrisjohn’s words, “natural responses of human beings living under conditions of severe and prolonged oppression” (The Circle Game, 2016, p. 4). We are left to ask: What is “Reconciliation” and what significance does it have in our country?

The infamous Residential School System’s well documented abuses, neglects, and frequent deaths of incarcerated children provoked this movement for change. Residential “schools” were designed to assimilate “Indians” through direct, often violent, indoctrination and isolation of children from their communities. Forceful removal from not only parents’ care, but also from the tribes’/people’s ways-of-life (i.e., hunting and fishing methods, language, governing procedure, values, etc.) is traumatizing in itself. Although not all stories or experiences are equally alarming, it must be noted that denying children the chance to grow up in their own communities is an issue that desperately needs addressing.

In the 2016 Canadian Human Rights Tribunal case, Elder Robert Joseph, a former residential school attendee, recounts how practices of public shaming, abuse and denial of family contact or gifts were typical occurrences for him and other children (p. 146, ss 409-410). More accounts of this nature can be found in Dr. Roland Chrisjohn, Sherri L. Waterchief (Young), and Michael Maraun’s book *The Circle Game*, specifically in Chapter Three.

This practice of assimilation is rooted in historical events



beginning in the early 1600s. Overzealous missionaries enacted a plan to disrupt functioning communities by imposing European ideals on “Indian” children. The desired outcome was for children in their care to view their families and relations with scorn, while, of course, adopting opinions and values identical to those held by the missionaries themselves. While these attempts did not succeed at the time, the idea was rejuvenated through residential schooling.

Residential schools were established in Canada during the 19th century and remained in operation until the late 1990s. The institutions became official policy in the 1850s-60s. Not long after, “Indians” were assigned, as a “responsibility,” to the colony of Canada.

Facing residential school history goes hand-in-hand with reconciliation. The reconciliation movement itself is borrowed from South Africa and its dismantling of Apartheid. Its applicability in Canada will be determined in the years to come. But, for now, we have the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s (TRC) Ninety-Four Calls to Action to guide policy-making and long overdue structural change.

Did You Know... New Brunswick has 15 First Nations province-wide? The locations stretch from Madawaska to Oro-mocto and from Dalhousie to Fort Folly. Within this province there are currently two dominant First Nation Peoples and one emerging Nation. The Mi’kmaq and Wolastoqiyk (Maliseet) are the former, and the Passamaquoddy is the newly recognized Nation in New Brunswick in St. Stephen.

To best initiate the TRC’s Calls to Action, we first need to humbly practice critical self-reflection. All Canadians are subject to colonial indoctrination. Our biases, Western values, and assumptions feed into how we interact with oppressed and/or marginalized populations. This is why a key recommendation in the Child Welfare section stipulates: “social workers or others who conduct child welfare investigations [need to be] properly educated and trained,” such that they acknowledge First Nations’ own potential to resolve issues directly resulting from long-standing inequities, their history and its impact on them as a whole.

There are many other useful recommendations found in TRC’s Ninety-Four Calls to Action. In any case, what makes the TRC noteworthy in Canada is that some of its recommendations are now being honoured in policy-making. This is a crucial step in making the wheels of colonial control turn in favour of the First Nations, with the assistance of International legal principles.

Publication from the Discipline Committee

A hearing of the Discipline Committee of the New Brunswick Association of Social Workers was held on September 13, 2018 to hear and determine a Complaint against a Member alleging professional misconduct. Specifically, the Member is alleged to have failed to obtain consent from a minor's (13-year-old) legal guardian prior to providing social work services to this minor.

The facts of the matter resulted from a difficult custody case. Despite a court order giving full custody of the minor to the mother, the minor stayed with her paternal grand-parents for the following two years, under the supervision of two supervising governmental agencies.

The paternal grand-mother of the minor sought social work treatment for the minor. The minor was referred to the Member by one of the supervising agencies, acting with the knowledge of the other supervising agency. The Member incorrectly assumed that consent had been given by the proper legal guardian to provide treatment to the minor. However, the mother had never given consent nor was consent of the mother, the sole legal guardian, sought. The Member was never informed by either supervising agency that the mother was the proper legal guardian.

During, the reunification process between the minor and her mother, another social worker who was involved with the minor and had obtained consent from the mother learned that the Member had been treating the minor without the mother's consent. The mother along with the other social worker each filed a Complaint against the Member.

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; and
2. Summary and publication of the proceeding without names for the education of the membership.

Do you have an event or story you'd like to share in the NBASW quarterly newsletter? The NBASW is always looking for new ways to highlight the great work being done by social workers. Please contact Isabelle at iagnew@nbasw-atsnb.ca with all relevant details!



New Brunswick Association of Social Workers
Association des travailleurs sociaux du Nouveau-Brunswick
C.P. / P.O. Box 1533, Station A., Fredericton, NB E3B 5G2 Canada

Tel./tél : (506) 459-5595
Fax/Télec. : (506) 457-1421
Toll Free/Sans frais : 1-877-495-5595
www.nbasw-atsnb.ca