



News & Views

July 2019 Issue



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Message from the President

It is with great pleasure and humility that I thank the NBASW membership for electing me to serve as President and to be the voice of Social Workers in this province. I thank you for the confidence and support in me, and I assure you that I will always endeavor to reflect the utmost compassion, honesty and integrity. I told those at the AGM that I would do my very best to represent them at every table, no matter where it was, that I would be a strong voice, and that I would continue to uphold our values and remain accountable to all of you. I also promised to work inclusively with the Board, Chapters and staff to ensure we all get the recognition we deserve.

This year's AGM was an important one; you elected a new Executive and I have the great pleasure to work with a new Vice President, Carole Gallant, a new Secretary, Julie Ouellette, and Michelle Nowlan, Treasurer.

You also approved "in principle" the new By-laws, which have been in effect since our new Act received Royal Assent on June 15th. By-laws are generally a work in progress and we expect amendments in the years to come as we start working with them.

So the next year will be a busy one with our new Act finally being passed and proclaimed, and the new By-laws being put in place. I'm also excited to work with staff on the upcoming public campaign that will help boost the public's perception of our profession.

The NBASW has a wonderful team and I look forward to working with them all; this year's AGM certainly showed us their impressive work. They are also two years into their five-year Strategic Plan, and I am eager to see this great work continued.

Thank you to the Tracadie Chapter for a great 2019 Conference and Banquet and to the Fredericton Chapter for accepting to host the 2019-20 AGM. You will hear more about this in the months ahead.

I also want to congratulate all of the Bachelor of Social Work students who graduated this spring. Great work, and we look forward to seeing your contributions to our professions.

Finally I want to thank Claude Savoie for his four years of service as President. I know I have big shoes to fill but I will do my best and look forward to his guidance as he serves as Past President.

Géraldine Poirier Baiani, RSW
NBASW President



From the Editor

I hope everyone is having a fantastic summer so far!

The last few months at the Association have been very busy to say the least.

In May we attended the AGM, Conference, and Banquet in Tracadie; we'd like to send a huge thank you to the Acadian Peninsula Chapter for all of their hard work putting this event together!

At the AGM, you, the members, voted on your new Executive. We're pleased to welcome our new President, Géraldine Poirier Baiani, our new Vice President, Carole Gallant, and our new Secretary, Julie Ouellette. We're looking forward to working with everyone!

You also voted to adopt the new By-laws "in principle" at the AGM. We're excited to announce that the By-laws are now in effect after our Act received Royal Assent on June 14, 2019.



We're currently working hard to operationalize the new Act and By-laws, and are looking forward to the work ahead.

All of us at the NBASW would like to thank all of you for the hard work that you do. We know that it's not always easy, but we recognize that your efforts in our communities are worthwhile.

We're looking forward to the upcoming months of hard work.

If you have something you'd like to see us publish in our Newsletter or social media, feel free to reach out to me at iagnew@nbasw-atsnb.ca

NBASW Act

The NBASW Re-Opening of the Act Committee has been working tirelessly for the last several years on modernizing the Act that governs social workers in New Brunswick. The Committee, which was chaired by Géraldine Poirier Baiani, included Claude Savoie, Barb Whitenect, Karine Levesque, Claudette Landry (public member) as well as the non-voting members including the NBASW staff and Dan Ieger, NBASW solicitor.

We are pleased to announce that the New Brunswick Association of Social Workers Act received Royal Assent on June 14, 2019.

We want to thank everyone who had a part in making this task a reality.

To view the Act, please click [here](#).

NBASW By-laws

The By-laws Committee has been working in tandem with the Re-Opening of the Act Committee to ensure the NBASW By-laws reflect the new Act. The By-laws Committee was chaired by Anne Caverhill and included Tanya Smith, Géraldine Poirier Baiani, Eileen Gauthier, Valerie DeLong, and Sheryl Noble.

We are pleased to announce that the NBASW By-laws were accepted “in principle” at the 2018-2019 AGM by the membership. This means that as of June 15, 2019, the By-laws have been in full effect.

We want to thank everyone who worked tirelessly to bring these By-laws together.

To view the new By-laws document, click [here](#).

NBASW Conference, Banquet & AGM

The 2018-2019 NBASW Conference, Banquet & AGM was held in the beautiful Acadian Peninsula from May 31-June 1, 2019. The NBASW would like to thank the Acadian Peninsula Chapter for all the hard work they put into this event.

Conference

The “We are important too!” workshop with Monique Savoie, RSW, was a hit! The workshop focused on self-care activities and practices to help reduce stress and maintain and enhance well-being in the short and long-terms.



Monique Savoie, RSW, facilitated a workshop on self-care practices.

Thanks for the great workshop, Monique!



Claude Savoie and Thérèse Doucet

Raoul Léger Award

The Raoul Léger Award is presented annually to a social worker in New Brunswick who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of the practice of social work.

This year the Raoul Léger Award was awarded to Thérèse Doucet.

Congratulations Thérèse!

Board of Directors

A new Board of Directors Executive was voted in by the membership at the 2018-2019 AGM. We are pleased to announce that Géraldine Poirier Baiani is your new President, Carole Gallant is your new Vice President, and Julie Ouellette is your new Secretary. Michelle Nowlan remains the Treasurer.

NBASW Annual Report 2018-2019

Members can now find our 2018-2019 Annual Report on our website [here](#).

Annual Report Addendum

The following report was mistakenly left out of the 2018-2019 Annual Report. The NBASW staff wishes to apologize for the omission.

Edmundston and Grand Falls Chapter Report

The chapter has been slowly renewed since last June after having been inactive for the majority of the period from 2016 to 2018.

Following the appointment of a Chapter Director, some members have confirmed that they are still interested and from there a first invitation to was launched for a dinner and discussion in October where the NBASW also came to present the proposed By-law changes.

An election was held and the executives positions are as follows: President (vacant), Vice-President (Julie Ouellette), Secretary (Kristine Johnston-Leblanc), and Treasurer (Alain Clavette). We are still recruiting to fill the presidency position.

The major project we put most of our efforts towards was the organization of the annual Social Work Month activity, a free training day for members to be held on March 22nd with guest speaker Danie Beaulieu of the Impact Academy, entitled "Capsules éducatives d'Impact". Due to circumstances beyond our control, the day had to be canceled but we are still in negotiations with The Impact Academy and are confident we can postpone the training until later this year. The members of the executive are also very happy to see the interest of its members for this kind of activities having filled the 50 places available in just a few days! The comments of the members have also been very positive so efforts to come back together will certainly be one of the objectives maintained for the next year ... and yes also to find a president!

Finally, the chapter's administrative documents have also been updated to comply with the new NBASW logo and branding. We are well away!

Karine Levesque, RSW
Chapter Director

First Nations Lens: My Reality as a First Nations Woman

Article by Samantha Jesso

When an individual identifies as Aboriginal, particularly women, they often face many barriers and discrimination. As a member of the Qalipu First Nation Band in Newfoundland, these barriers became apparent to me both within my Aboriginal community and in other areas. At this time, many members of my band are “losing” their status for not residing in Newfoundland and Labrador. This means that although they were born and raised in Newfoundland, their heritage, at least in the Canadian Government’s eyes, no longer exists.



Samantha Jesso graduated in May 2019 with her Bachelor of Arts from St. Thomas University and will be entering the STU Bachelor of Social Work program in the fall. She has been working with the NBASW as an Intern since January, 2019.

because I do not “look” Indigenous, I “pass” as white or a non-status person within my peer groups. “Passing” gives me opportunities and privileges that other Indigenous students do not have; I get treated fairly and given equal access to opportunities, but I am also eligible for things like Aboriginal scholarships, bursaries, and programs.

The Qalipu First Nation Band is known as a “landless band,” which means that it does not manage any government-owned reserve lands. What is most perplexing about having our Aboriginal status stripped away is that we were landless to begin with, but that does not mean we don’t have heritage and family history worth recognizing. I believe that choosing who to consider “Aboriginal” based on their residence is discriminatory and shameful.

In May of 2019, I graduated with my Bachelor of Arts Degree at St. Thomas University. Although I spent four years there, no one in my university community knows I am Aboriginal. On formal papers for the university, I declare my status and heritage, but

Prior to moving to Fredericton for school, my mother was much the same as any parent. She was anxious, excited, upset, and ready to throw up all at the same time. However, my mother was different in that she had the burden of some additional worries that other parents did not have. Being aware of and having seen some of the injustices that have been perpetrated against Indigenous women in Canada, she was very worried. She worried I would become the next victim of the missing and murdered Aboriginal women crisis. I remember her telling me repeatedly to deny my status or heritage when asked. This was for both my safety and success at university.

This is my reality. Did my mother do anything wrong by telling me to deny my status? No, definitely not. As a mother, she was trying her best to look after me and ensure I was safe. The real question we should be asking is why she felt she had to tell me. The answer to this lies in the inequality Aboriginal persons experience on a daily basis in Canada. We must work together to fix this issue.

Indigenous peoples, specifically young women, still face differential treatment after disclosing their heritage. For me, I am “damned if I do and damned if I don’t” as the saying goes. This benefits no one; it is a situation in which no one wins, and it’s time that we all step up to the plate, and work towards creating solutions to these problems.

National Indigenous Peoples Day

The NBASW was honoured to host a film showing at our office in Fredericton on June 21, 2019 to recognize National Indigenous Peoples Day. Several social workers, as well as some members of the public were in attendance to watch “Vistas: Boxed In,” a Fifth Estate episode titled “Crimes Against Children at Residential School: The Truth About St. Anne’s,” and the local film “The Silent Witness Journey: Two Women’s Stories.” Following the film showing,

Did you know?

As of December 31, 2018, there are approximately 16,246 First Nations people in New Brunswick. 9,781 live on reserve, and 6,465 live off reserve.



Kyanna Kingbird, from Burnt Church (Esgenoôpetitj) wearing regalia during a ceremony.

we facilitated a group discussion about what came up while watching the films.

National Indigenous Peoples Day is a relatively new initiative, having been announced in 1996 by the then-Governor General of Canada, Roméo LeBlanc. It is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate Indigenous culture and heritage.

We want to thank everyone who came out for this important event.

New NBASW Administrative Assistant

In July, 2019, the NBASW team is thrilled to welcome Shae McCarthy as our Administrative Assistant.

Shae is now the first point of contact for the office and is responsible for day-to-day general inquiries, as well as reception of members and the public. Shae assists the Association staff by coordinating all administrative activities in support of the goals, vision and mission of the Association.

Shae is a settler on Wolastoqey territory, and has a passion for bilingualism, performing arts and their role in the future of New Brunswick. You may find her rock climbing, playing frisbee, or taking in the local performing arts scene in Fredericton.

Welcome Shae!



Article Submission: We Remember

Article by anonymous

I've been waiting for a year for a copy of my official government files on my 10 years as a New Brunswick foster child in the 1960s. It's been a long wait, and I recently sent an email requesting a status update, but I'm not complaining. I was a public servant in social services for 25 years, so I know the enormity of their work. I expect some day I'll receive a heavily-redacted version of the file, names blacked out, that kind of thing.

But that's okay. I remember everything.

I remembered one foster home in particular, and so I googled a name I had never forgotten and discovered a 15-year-old obituary.

I was 11, my brother six. It was the perfect Christian home, a young couple, early thirties, an infant of their own. He was a deacon of a prominent church and they ran a Sunday School for poor children. He was also a monster.

For over a year, this religious zealot beat and sexually abused me. I feared for my little brother, so I stayed silent. I finally managed to contact my caseworker who rescued us.

As I read the obituary, I learned he'd had three more children, and they'd had more children. I wondered if anything had happened to them. He'd also become an ordained Minister and I wondered if his flock ever suspected.

And I became angry. I wanted his family to know how evil their father was. I wanted his congregation to know the truth. I wanted them to suffer as I had suffered. But my anger subsided as I remembered my caseworkers. I can't recall their names or their faces, but all of them were women. I thought of their kindness, their understanding, and I could only imagine the difficulties they faced with a messed-up teenager.

And I remembered that they stuck with me.

After bouncing around a few foster homes, my caseworker performed what must have been a miracle at the time. I quit high school in Grade 10. My grades were exceptional, but I couldn't cope with the bullying and I refused to return.

Today I can only marvel at the work that woman must have done to clear the bureau-

cracy and convince her bosses, but she managed to send me to a boy's private school to complete high school, the first foster child in the province to do so. My foster child identity was kept secret, and so I lived on an equal footing with young people from prominent families and studied with exceptional teachers. It was truly life-changing.

Because of the tireless work of that nameless, faceless social worker, I went on to become a journalist at 18, a political assistant, and a writer for countless magazines. I've travelled the world writing stories, and ended my career as a public servant in social services ministries.

I don't say this to brag; I say it to say thank you.

Thank you to those long gone women who pioneered an innovative solution that transformed the life of a frightened, confused child. Thank you for caring, for seeing potential I never knew existed, for going that extra mile and most of all, thank you for

"I hope you know how much your work can change a child's life. You can't fix everything; no one can. But your work does change so many lives for the better."

giving a damn about a kid that no one gave a damn about. Because of their work my life has been rich, I've had an amazing career, and I have found peace and love in my old age.

Their shoes have been filled by countless women and men who deal with cases like mine and worse every day. I hope you know how much your work can change a child's life. You can't fix everything; no one can. But

your work does change so many lives for the better.

And we remember.

Congratulations Grads!

The NBASW Staff and Board would like to extend our congratulations to all recent Bachelor of Social Work graduates. We recognize that you are the future of our profession, and we're excited to where life takes you!

NBASW Committee Vacancies

Are you looking for ways to get involved in your professional Association? The NBASW has a variety of committees in search of new members! Keep reading for information about the work of each committee and available volunteer positions. If you would like to join a committee, please send a copy of your resume to nbasw@nbasw-atsnb.ca indicating the committee of interest.

Committee members will be appointed by the NBASW Board of Directors. We look forward to hearing from you!

Social Action Committee

1 position available

Education Committee

2 positions available

Committee of Examiners

2 positions available

Promotion of the Profession Committee

1 position available

Practice Issues, Ethics, and Professional Standards Committee

1 positions available

Discipline Committee & Complaints Committee

As part of the operationalization process for the new By-laws, the NBASW is looking to create rosters of New Brunswick social workers for both the Discipline and Complaints Committees. These rosters will be used to fill in any conflict-of-interest issues that arise, or meet expertise needs of the committees. If you're interested in joining either roster, please contact the NBASW at nbasw@nbasw-atsnb.ca.

Continuing Education Opportunities

Anxiety and Play Therapy - Blending Behavioural and Psychodynamic Technique

August 19, 20, 21, 2019: Charlottetown, PEI. Click [here](#) for details.

NBASW Awards, Bursaries, and Scholarships

Co-operators Bursary for Student Members

The Co-operators home and auto insurance, in partnership with the NBASW, are pleased to offer three student bursaries awards on an annual basis. Student members of the NBASW who are studying in the following Schools of Social Work are eligible to apply for a bursary: Mi'kmaq/Maliseet Bachelor of Social Work Program, Université de Moncton School of Social Work, and St. Thomas University Post Degree Program.

Students enrolled in St. Thomas University's Post Degree Program should be advised that the deadline to apply for the STU student bursary is August 1, 2019.

Mi'kmaq/Maliseet Bachelor of Social Work and Université de Moncton School of Social Work students should note that the deadlines to apply for those student bursaries have passed for this year.

Scholarship and Bursary Winners

Co-Operators Bursary for Université de Moncton Students:

Emma Brideau

Co-Operators Bursary for Mi'kmaq/Maliseet Bachelor of Social Work Students:

Nicole Augustine

Co-Operators Bursary for Members:

Laura Gatien

NBASW Scholarship:

Karine Duguay

CASW & NBASW Grant:

Marc Bossé and Karine Levesque

Do you have an event, article 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!

