



# News & Views

July 2018 Issue



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# From the Editor

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First and foremost, for those who don't know me, my name is Isabelle Agnew and I joined the NBASW team in May 2018 as the new Communications Officer. It's been a great few months with the Association and I'm looking forward to continuing to work to improve upon how we communicate with members and with the public.

The last few months since the April newsletter have been busy and the NBASW team has been working hard. In April, we welcomed a group of social work students for a field placement opportunity; the 2017-2018 NBASW Conference, Banquet & AGM was also held in June; and a variety of education events and other activities took place.

The next few months are sure to be just as busy and I look forward to updating you all in the fall!



I'm also excited to announce that the NBASW Newsletter will now be delivered on a quarterly basis. You can now expect a copy to be delivered in January, April, July, and October.

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 [iagnew@nbasw-atsnb.ca](mailto:iagnew@nbasw-atsnb.ca). I look forward to hearing from you!

# NBASW Conference, Banquet & AGM

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The 2017-2018 NBASW Conference, Banquet & AGM was held in beautiful Saint John on June 15-16, 2018. The NBASW would like to thank the Saint John Chapter for all the hard work they put into this event.

## Conference

The **Vicarious Trauma – Strategies for Resilience** workshop with Sheri Coburn, MSW, RSW, was a hit! Members from across the province were in attendance for the workshop on vicarious trauma, its effects on the lives of social workers, and methods to de-stress and cope.

Thanks for the great workshop, Sheri!



## Raoul Léger Award



This year the **Raoul Léger Award** was awarded to Barb Whitenect. Barb has been an active member of the NBASW and committed to the values and principles of social work.

Congratulations Barb!

# STU Social Action Students 2018

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## Social Action Field Placement with the NBASW

The NBASW was sad to say goodbye to the social work students from St. Thomas University who joined us in our office this spring.

Kaitlin Pauley and Kirsty Roxburgh joined us at the NBASW office from April to June to build on the work done during the fall field placement about social workers and their impact on the older adults they serve. They worked hard and we're excited to see what the future holds for them.



## Exploring Social Work Employment in Nursing Homes

Submitted by: Keara Grey

New Brunswick (NB) nursing homes rarely staff social workers, unlike other Canadian provinces. This is problematic, as NB has the most rapidly aging population in Canada. In the past, people entered nursing homes when they were relatively independent, but this is not the case today. Residents increasingly require services to address their complex needs.

As part of their social action placement, St. Thomas University social work students Keara Grey, Jennifer Estey, Holly Hasson, and Amber Brideau worked with the Collaborative for Healthy Aging and Care and the New Brunswick Association of Nursing Homes to explore the value and need of social workers in NB nursing homes by distributing a survey to senior management and board members of NB nursing homes. 78 people, at least one from every region of the province, responded to the survey.

Survey participants noted the need for social workers within their nursing

homes, with 96% stating that their nursing home would benefit from a social workers and 88% stating that social workers should be employed in nursing homes. Although the ability for social workers to help nursing home staff was not included in any survey questions, 31% of respondents stressed the ways in which other staff members would benefit from having a social worker employed.

Survey results demonstrated the value of social workers, as 64% of respondents shared specific cases where social workers would have been beneficial. Examples ranged from assisting residents with complex needs, providing resident advocacy, helping families navigate end-of-life care issues, mediating conflict, providing mental health services, grief counselling, and re-assessing residents.

It was widely recognized that employing a social worker would enhance residents' quality of life. As one respondent noted, "mental health support is a very important part for those residing in nursing homes and this group has little or no access to mental health counselling."

While most respondents indicated that social workers should be employed full-time, the options of having them employed part-time or shared among multiple nursing homes were also deemed plausible; some access to social work services is better than none. Even homes



*St. Thomas University social work students (from left) Keara Grey, Amber Brideau, Holly Hasson, and Jennifer Estey at the Social Action Fair, June 21st, 2018, in Fredericton. Photo by Erin Jackson.*

with fewer than fifty beds noted that social workers would have enough work to justify full-time employment.

While respondents emphasized the need for employing social workers in nursing homes, funding was cited as the most common barrier, at 86%. To obtain funding for a social work position, 68% stated funding should come from government subsidies, 60% believed funds should be redirected from the nursing home's budget, and 49% believed nursing homes should share the cost and services of social workers.

While there is work to be done before social workers are employed in NB nursing homes, results from this survey emphasize the desire to have them as regular members of nursing home care teams. The goal of this research is to help inform care practices among nursing homes and maximize the quality of life for residents.

# NBASW Website

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The NBASW is excited to announce the launch of our new website! Our Social Work Consultant, Rachel Mills, has been hard at work for months with Revolution, a web development company based out of Saint John, to re-design our website in order to make it more accessible and vibrant.

Take a look for yourself at [www.nbasw-atsnb.ca](http://www.nbasw-atsnb.ca)!

## NBASW Committee Vacancies

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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](mailto: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!

### Education Committee

*1 position available*

- Responds to the education needs of the NBASW membership.
- Selects recipients for various bursaries and scholarships.

### Practice Issues, Ethics and Professional Standards Committee

*3 positions available (2 regular members; 1 board liaison)*

- Responds to questions from the members relating to ethics and practice.
- Works on developing new standards and guidelines when they are needed

### \*NEW\* Promotion of the Profession Committee

*2 positions available*

- Goals include improving image, better education, and building partnerships

### Committee of Examiners

*2 positions available (1 regular member; 1 board liaison)*

- Examines and approves application for NBASW membership

# NBASW Featured Social Worker Series

**Lorise Simon, RSW**

May 2018 Edition

## Where are you from?

I am originally from Elsipogtog, but now I live in Moncton.

## How long have you been at social worker?

Since 2001, so 17 years.

## Where do you work? What do you do there?

I recently started working to Mi'gmaq Child and Family Services New Brunswick Inc. in Bouctouche. My role is recruiting foster parents. It's part of a model that centralizes services for families from all 7 Mi'kmaq communities in NB.

## What is an achievement (professional or personal) that you're proud of?

Receiving a plaque from the NBASW for my contributions as Board member is an achievement I'm proud of.

## What's a fun fact about you that most people don't know?

I enjoy painting with acrylics. I do mostly abstract painting and have hundreds at home!



## If you could offer one piece of advice about self-care, what would it be?

Make a weekly plan. If you plan to do something for yourself, you'll do it. We neglect ourselves a lot of the time

## Why are you PROUD to be a social worker?

I'm proud to be a social worker because I get to help children and families become healthier.

## Tonya Quinn, RSW

June 2018 Edition

### Where are you from?

I am from St. George, New Brunswick.

### How long have you been a social worker?

Since 2012, so 6 years.

### Where do you work? What do you do there?

I started my social work career at Ridgewood Addiction Services in St. John, New Brunswick. I provided individual counselling and group therapy to people recovering from opiate and other addictions. Currently, I work for Addictions and Mental Health on the Child & Youth Team - Integrated Service Delivery (ISD), in St. George, NB. Yes, my hometown! As a clinician on an ISD team, I provide individual counselling to children and youth with a variety of emotional and behavioural needs, as well as support to their families.

My role also involves crisis intervention, completing initial and on-going clinical assessments, collaborating with other department service providers and clinical consultation.



### What is an achievement (professional or personal) that you're proud of?

One of my greatest achievements is becoming a mother to my two daughters, Addison (age 4) and Zoey (age 2). I'm also extremely proud of my decision to return to university, as a mature student, to obtain my Social Work Degree. I have always gravitated to jobs in the helping profession so Social Work has been a fitting and rewarding profession for me.

### What's a fun fact about you that most people don't know?

I love the OCEAN!

### If you could offer one piece of advice about self-care, what would it be?

DO IT! I firmly believe taking time to nurture yourself is fundamental if you want to be effective in your role. Let's

be honest, the job isn't easy and can take a toll, especially if we do not have balance. My favourite self-care activities include: beachcombing, taking my daughters on little adventures, visiting a new coffee shop, spending quality time with friends and family, listening to live music, and practicing mindfulness.

### **Why are you PROUD to be a social worker?**

I am proud to be a social worker because I get to help others see and achieve their full potential. The simple thank-you's and high-fives I receive from the children, adolescents and families I work with make it all worthwhile for me.

**Thank you, Lorise & Tonya, for helping us celebrate the diversity of roles held by NB social workers!**

**If you or anyone you know is interested in being an NBASW featured social worker, please contact Isabelle at [iagnew@nbasw-atsnb.ca](mailto:iagnew@nbasw-atsnb.ca)**

## **Update from the Discipline Committee**

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The Discipline Committee of the New Brunswick Association of Social Workers held a hearing on June 12, 2018, to hear and determine a complaint against a member. Specifically, the member faced allegations of incompetence in the practice of social work and one allegation of violation of confidentiality.

The facts in the affair are as follows:

The member did not manage her files properly, she showed shortcomings with respect to assessment of and interventions with her clients, she did not understand her role and responsibilities as they relate to discharge planning and, finally, she did not properly understand expectations in the area of sharing confidential information among professionals in the same organization.

The member voluntarily admitted before the Discipline Committee that she had shown incompetence under section 23(3) of the New Brunswick Association of Social Workers Act.

The Discipline Committee determined that the member had been guilty of in-

competence and imposed the following sanctions:

- a. A written reprimand in her personnel file;
- b. The obligation to successfully take a course on record keeping at her own expense;
- c. The obligation to write a report on confidentiality;
- d. To be supervised by a RSW when she returns to the social work profession;
- e. This summary of the situation.

## The NBASW is on Social Media!

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Want to stay up to date on our day-to-day work? Follow us on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/NBASW](http://www.Facebook.com/NBASW)

And NEW this month, we're now on Twitter too! Follow us at [@NBSocialWorkers!](https://twitter.com/NBSocialWorkers)

**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](mailto:iagnew@nbasw-atsnb.ca) with all relevant details!**





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