

Social Work Technicians

REGULATION & EMPLOYMENT

CURRENT AS OF JUNE 8, 2025



When did social work technicians (SWTs) become regulated?

- The NBASW has regulated the social work technician (SWT) paraprofession since June 7, 2024.

What does SWT regulation mean?

- Only registered SWTs can use the SWT title or practice as a SWT.
- The NBASW regulates the SWT paraprofession by granting individual licenses to practice.

Who determines whether registration is required?

- Anyone representing themselves as a SWT must be registered with the NBASW.
- Employers determine which professionals are suited to fill positions.
- Employers decide whether they wish to create specific roles for SWTs.

Should I become registered if my employer doesn't require it?

- Many roles currently exist across organizations where being a registered SWT is not a requirement but is an asset.
- Employers recognize the value in hiring SWTs. SWTs adhere to the NBASW Code of Ethics, practice standards and guidelines.
- Registration ensures that minimum standards of qualification are met and provides an additional layer of accountability, increasing hirability.

PATHWAYS TO SOCIAL WORK TECHNICIAN REGISTRATION

Regular SWT Pathway

Applies to those who:

- Have successfully completed a recognized SWT program; or
- Are currently registered as a SWT-equivalent in another Canadian jurisdiction.

SWT Substantial Equivalency Pathway

Applies to those who:

- Have not graduated from a recognized SWT program and have completed post-secondary education in a related field.
- Work experience may also be considered.