

**Social Workers Celebrate Social Work Month
March 2011**

For Immediate Release

St. John's, March 2, 2011 – Social workers throughout Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) are celebrating National Social Work Month. The theme is “***Social Workers for Dignity and Inclusion: Upholding Human Rights***”.

"Social workers are employed in diverse areas of practice throughout the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, and are committed to enhancing the physical, social, and emotional well-being of individuals, families and communities", says Pamela Rodgers, President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Social Workers.

As a profession, social workers understand the impact of poverty, exclusion, violence, and discrimination on people's lives. According to Rodgers, "social workers believe that individuals have the right to be fully included in their communities, to be free from violence and the threat of violence, and to feel respected and valued."

Social workers in NL are supportive of the province's plan to develop strategies for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, Early Childhood Learning, and Long Term Care and Community Support Services. Social workers also continue to support the province's Poverty Reduction Strategy and Violence Prevention Initiative. "Having these strong foundations will allow us to move forward in building a prosperous and healthy province" says Ms. Rodgers.

Social workers have organized a number of events to celebrate social work month, and bring attention to strategies that address the issues impacting on the lives of individuals, families and communities.

NLASW is the professional association and regulatory body for over 1300 professional social workers in this province. Our vision is to ensure excellence in social work.

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