

***Social Workers for Dignity and Inclusion:
Upholding Human Rights***

March 2011 was Social Work Month in Newfoundland and Labrador. Social workers throughout the province celebrated the month and the theme “Social Workers for Dignity and Inclusion: Upholding Human Rights”.

The month was a huge success and we estimate that over half the membership attended an event during the month.

Given the range of activities held throughout the month, the NLASW has decided to capture many of the highlights and activities in this update. Events were organized by social workers throughout the province and consisted of community, educational and promotional activities.

The NLASW would like to thank everyone involved with the planning and organization of social work month events throughout the province. In particular, the NLASW would like to thank the Promotion of the Profession Committee and the Regional Board Representatives for all their work in making this month such a success. The NLASW would also like to thank all the individuals, businesses and organizations who supported social work month activities.

In the March 2011 update, members were invited to submit photos and events that took place throughout the province in celebration of social work month. This update includes information that was submitted by our members. However, we do recognize that other events and celebrations may have happened throughout the month.

The NLASW would be interested in your feedback on Social Work Month and ideas and suggestions you might have for next year. You can e-mail your comments and suggestions to Annette Johns at ajohns@nlasw.ca.

Thank-you!

Social Work Month at a Glance!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Provincial Proclamation signing Minister of Health & Community Services	1 Launch of OZ FM Radio Ads for Social Work Month	2 Press Release Social Work Month Social Work Breakfast Stephenville JR Smallwood Middle School Poster Contest Labrador West Social Work Breakfast & Proclamation- Gambo	3	4	5 Social Work Announcement & Proclamation Telegram
6 Community Event <i>A Mile in those Shoes</i> St. John's	7 Education Event <i>Strengthening Rural Social Work with Older Persons</i> MUN School of Social Work Municipal Proclamation St. John's	8 Education Event <i>A Legal Lens on the ABCs of Social Work Accountabilities</i> St. John's	9 Social Work Luncheon Port aux Basques	10 Social Work Breakfast Corner Brook	11 NLASW Board of Directors Meeting	12
13	14	15 World Social Work Day Education Event <i>Working Together for Dignity & Inclusion...</i> Provincial Teleconference	16 Provincial Government Coffee Break for Social Workers Education Event <i>Embracing Inclusive Social Work Practice</i> St. John's	17 Social Work Breakfast Labrador West Social Work Dinner Bonavista	18 Student Panel Presentation <i>Preparing for practice</i> MUN School of Social Work	19
20	21 Menehik High School Essay Contest Labrador West	22 Social Work Student Fair <i>Professional Medley</i> MUN Social Work Research Symposium St. John's	23 Social Work Breakfast Presentation CASW Award Breakfast Education session <i>Engaged Empowered, Independent</i> St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Event Social Work Breakfast Grand Falls-Windsor	24 Social Work Luncheon Clarenville House of Assembly Tribute to Social Work	25 Social Work Potluck & Presentation by Homelessness Coalition Labrador West Dessert/tea Grand Falls - Windsor	26
27	28 <i>New Social Workers Act</i> NLASW Provincial teleconference	29 <i>CASW National Webcast</i>	30	31 Proclamation: <i>Social Workers Act</i> Social Work Trivia Contest Draw Central Region	<i>Note: Independent Living 4 Youth originally scheduled for March 25 is rescheduled to May 13, 2011</i>	

Social Work Month Provincial Proclamation

On February 28, 2011, The Honourable Jerome Kennedy, joined by members of the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Social Workers, proclaimed March 2011 as Social Work Month in Newfoundland and Labrador. This proclamation was published in the Telegram on March 5, 2011.



Front (left to right) – NLASW President Pamela Rodgers BSW, RSW, Minister Kennedy, and Annette Johns MSW, RSW.

Back (left to right) – Niki Legge BSW, RSW, Stephanie Mealey MSW, RSW, and Canon Ralph Billard (Community Representative).

*2011 CASW Distinguished Service Award Recipient
Paula Rodgers MSW, RSW*



On March 23, Ian Shortall, CASW Representative on the NLASW Board of Directors, presented Paula Rodgers MSW, RSW with the CASW Distinguished Service Award. Paula was joined by her family and colleagues in celebrating this wonderful achievement. This award recognizes her leadership, her excellent administrative and clinical skills, her commitment to teaching and her vision which resulted in programs that have made a significant difference in the lives of children and families in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Paula graduated with a BSW degree from Memorial University in 1973 and a MSW degree from the University of British Columbia in 1980. She was the first Director of the Social Work Department at the Grace General Hospital and has held the positions of Director of Social Work for Western Memorial Regional Hospital and the Janeway Child Health Centre. Her previous clinical practice positions include Family Counsellor with the Parent and Child Therapy Society in Vancouver and the Dr. Thomas Anderson Centre in St. John's. Since 2002, she has been the Executive Director of the Daybreak Parent Child Centre and since 1995 a Mental Health Practitioner with Aspens and Oaks, a community consultation and counselling service.

Paula is an expert in the treatment of children and families who have been traumatized by abuse. She exemplifies the values of the social work profession not only through her clinical work but by her commitment to addressing the issues on many levels. In 1991, Paula developed the treatment program *A New Tomorrow* for women caught in the cycle of intergenerational abuse; this program continues. In response to recommendations of the Hughes Inquiry she was hired by the School of Social Work at Memorial University to write the training manuals "A Collaborative Approach to the Investigation of Sexual Abuse" and An

Introduction to Family Violence”. This training has been delivered to 1204 social workers and police officers to date. Paula developed the curriculum for the undergraduate Family Violence course at Memorial and has been teaching that course for the past ten years. As a council member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons she was instrumental in the development of a revised code of conduct ensuring the inclusion of sexual misconduct in the document. She has expanded services offered to families involved with the Daybreak Parent Child Centre and have made these services more accessible. Throughout her career, Paula has chaired and served on a multitude of advisory and program development committees.

Paula Rodgers accomplishments over the past three decades are many. Her ability to combine these with a personality which is sensitive, caring, witty and highly respected is rare making her a truly distinguished social worker and a credit to her profession.

Social Work Promotional Ads – OZ FM

During Social Work Month, the NLASW ran a series of six different promotional ads to highlight the profession in all regions of the province! The NLASW would like to thank Jacqueline Carey (Corner Brook), Colleen Knox (Gander), Charlene Evans (Burin), Vanessa Smith (Labrador City) and Carol Snelgrove (St. John's) for their participation in this project and for sharing their voices and experience. You can listen to these ads by clicking on the links below.



[Social Work Month-Western Region.mp3](#)



[Social Work Month-Labrador Grenfell Region.mp3](#)



[Social Work Month-Central Region.mp3](#)



[Social Work Month-St. John's Region.mp3](#)



[Social Work Month-Eastern Region.mp3](#)



[Social Work Month-CASW Winner.mp3](#)

Social Work Month Celebrations in Western

There were several opportunities for social workers in the Western Region to come together and celebrate the profession. A breakfast was held at the College of the North Atlantic in Stephenville on March 2nd, a luncheon at St. Christopher's Hotel in Port aux Basques on March 9th and a breakfast at the Glynmill Inn in Corner Brook on March 10th.

During each of these events, Susan Fowlow provided her unique perspective on social work. Susan is an instructor at the College of the North Atlantic in Stephenville and a very talented actor, singer and motivational speaker. Her humour, skits and commentaries on the profession were well received.

Many thanks to the provincial department of Child, Youth and Family Services for sponsoring the event in Port aux Basques.



Susan Fowlow



Social workers in Port aux Basques

Western Continued!



Social workers in Corner Brook



New Social Work Legislation Proclaimed

The *New Social Workers Act* was proclaimed during social work month on March 31, 2011.

On March 28th, NLASW President Pam Rodgers and Executive Director & Registrar Lisa Crockwell facilitated a provincial teleconference discussion on the new Act. The discussion included an overview of the regulation of social work nationally and provincially, the context of the new legislation and the implications for the social work profession. A copy of

the new legislation and more information is available on the NLASW website (www.nlasw.ca)

A Legal Lens on the ABC's of Social Work Accountabilities

On March 8th, the NLASW and the Social Work Professional Practice Council of Eastern Health partnered to offer a one-day education session for social workers facilitated by Robert Solomon. Robert is a lawyer in Ontario and author of "*A Legal Guide for Social Workers*" published by the Ontario Association of Social Workers.

During his presentation, Robert discussed a number of key issues:

- Consent and competency to consent to counselling, care and service
- Liability in negligence
- Records and the legal importance of good record keeping policies and practices
- Reporting and duty to warn

One hundred and fifty (150) participants (registered social workers and some BSW students) from Eastern Health and the community attended this event.



Professional Medley Social Work Student Fair

On March 22, Carrie Russell, NLASW Student Board Representative, and Tim Morris, NLASW BSW Student, organized a fair for students and faculty at MUN, social workers and the general public to celebrate and promote the diversity within the social work profession. Organizations from within the Eastern Region were represented by students completing their BSW field internships with them.

The organizations that were represented included the Office of the Child Advocate, Office of the Citizen's Representative, Newfoundland and Labrador Housing, Salvation Army/Wiseman Centre, Red Cross, Planned Parenthood Sexual Health Centre, Elaine Dobbin Autism Centre, Stella Burry, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Social Workers. There was also a booth on rural social work.



Embracing Inclusive Social Work Practice



On March 16, the NLASW facilitated a workshop on multiculturalism, diversity and inclusion. The workshop began with a presentation from the Association for New Canadians (Ashley Crocker BSW, RSW and Sanchita Chakraborty). Following the presentation, there was a panel discussion. The panelists included Dr. Smita Joshi (Office of Immigration and Multiculturalism), Kaberi Sarma-Debnath (social worker with the Multicultural Women's Organization of NL), Jackie Selma (Aboriginal Navigator with Eastern Health) and Natalia Volkozha (Association for New Canadians).

The NLASW would like to thank the organizations who participated in the planning and delivery of this event, and the Office of Immigration and Multiculturalism for their financial contribution.



Coffee Break for Social Workers Employed by Government

The first annual coffee break to celebrate social workers employed with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador was held at the Confederation Building on March 16th.

Over thirty (30) social workers attended this event. The Departments and agencies represented included Human Resources, Labour and Employment, Health and Community Services, Justice, Education, Government Services, Fire and Emergency Services and the Public Service Commission.

Greetings were given by the Honourable Charlene Johnson Minister of Child, Youth and Family Services, Bruce Cooper, Deputy Minister of Health and Community Services, and Lisa Crockwell, Executive Director, NLASW.

This event was sponsored by the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services and the Department of Health and Community Services. It is anticipated that this will become an annual social work month event.



Research Symposium

On March 22nd, the Regional Social Work Professional Practice Council of Eastern Health hosted a research symposium at the Health Sciences Centre. The presenters included Lisa Andrews, Gordon Piercey, Daphne Casey, Denise Butt and Elizabeth Sheppard-Hewitt (*pictured to the left*).



Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Celebrates Social Work Month

On March 23, social workers employed with Newfoundland and Labrador Housing from across Newfoundland and Labrador celebrated social work month and the profession. The regional social work staff joined with the Avalon staff for meetings, an information session with the Child Youth Advocate, an Open House and Coffee Break for all staff in St. John's (of which 130 people attended), lunch at the home of social worker Karen Moores, and a presentation on mental health facilitated by a social work student completing her internship with Newfoundland and Labrador Housing in St. John's. The group also fundraised \$120 for the *Employees Reaching Out* committee that enables employees to provide assistance to NLHC tenants at Christmas and in other times of need.



All social workers in the organization wore t-shirts donated by Newfoundland and Labrador Housing, which were imprinted with – “this is what a social worker looks like.”

Back Row (Left to Right): Stephanie Battcock (Goose Bay), Heather Harding, Cynthia Slaney, Jody Morrison (Social Work Intern), Jacqueline Carey (Corner Brook), Laura Wellman (Grand Falls-Windsor), Elinor MacDonald.

Front Row (Kneeling Left to Right): Charlotte Courage (Goose Bay) and Dalena Rumbolt (2nd Year Social Work Student). Missing from photo are Charlene Taylor and Karen Moores.



Dalena Rumbolt - 2nd Year Social Work Student and part time staff with Program Delivery with the Display Board on the Tenant Relations Program used at the MUN fair on March 22 and at the March 23 event.

Social Work Lunch in Clarenville

Social workers from Clarenville and surrounding areas came together on March 24th for a social work month luncheon and celebration. Eighteen (18) social workers were in attendance.



Lisa Crockwell, NLASW Executive Director, and Annette Johns, NLASW Associate Director of Policy and Practice joined in the celebrations and facilitated a discussion on activities of the NLASW. There were also a number of interactive and fun activities, followed by some prize draws.



Social Workers in Labrador West Host a Poster Contest

On March 2nd, social workers from Labrador West engaged elementary students from J.R. Smallwood Middle School in a poster development contest for social work. Jenna Manuel, age nine and a grade 4 student, was the winner. Jenna's winning submission can be found below. Great job Jenna!



Social Work Month Breakfast in St. John's

On March 23rd, one hundred and ninety (190) social workers gathered for a morning breakfast in celebration of social work month at the Battery Hotel in St. John's.

During the breakfast, Paula Rodgers MSW, RSW was awarded the 2011 CASW Distinguished Service Award.

Following the breakfast, Cheryl Mallard MSW, RSW, with Choices for Youth, facilitated an excellent presentation titled "*Engaged, Empowered, Independent – Filling the Gaps*".



*Cheryl Mallard
Choices for Youth*



Working Together for Dignity & Inclusion: Personal and Professional Perspectives on Mental Illness, Stigma and Recovery

On March 15th, the Canadian Mental Health Association of NL (CMHA-NL) and the NLASW hosted a public education session on mental health, stigma and inclusion. George Skinner MSW, RSW, Executive Director of the CMHA NL (pictured to the right) facilitated the discussion and was joined by four individuals who shared their personal experiences and perspectives. This session was offered on-site at the Health Sciences Centre and through provincial teleconference.



Social Workers in Gambo Celebrate Social Work Month



Social workers in Gambo joined Mayor Peter Lush to proclaim social work month on March 2nd during their breakfast gathering.

Left to right:

CCNC, Christine Feltham
Candice Collins (social work student)
Colleen Moulton (social worker)
David Oxford (social worker)
Lori Osborne (social worker)
Mandy Chaulk (social worker)
WPE01, Alice Bradley

Front: Mayor Peter Lush

Missing from photo: Dawn Mesh, Irene Pack (social work manager), Deanne Jerrett (social work assistant) Marilyn Dowden and Sueann Kean (client care services manager)

Social Work Trivia Contest

Social workers in Central were invited to take part in a social work month bingo/trivia contest. The winner was Senga Jo Canning. The trivia questions are included below. Go ahead and test your own knowledge to many of these questions!

- A. When was NLASW established?
- B. Signature of a social worker who is also a “volunteer.”
- C. Who was Newfoundland’s first Minister of Social Services?
- D. Name a regional (central) recipient of CASW’s Distinguished Service Award?
- E. Signature of a social worker who has traveled outside of Canada?
- F. Who is the present Minister of Health?
- G. Name a university that offers studies towards a Social Work Degree by distance.
- H. Signature of a social worker who has practiced for minimum of 20 years.
- I. Who is the president of CASW?
- J. Signature of a social worker with experience in three or more program areas.
- K. Who is the Executive Director of NLASW?
- L. Signature of a social worker who is also a student.
- M. How many registered social workers are presently in NLASW?
- N. What two Canadian provinces recently ceased membership within the CASW?
- O. Name a subcommittee of NLASW?
- P. Signature of a social worker who graduated in 2010.
- Q. Who was the first Executive Director of NLASW?
- R. Who is the present Minister of Child Youth and Family Services?
- S. Signature of a social worker who has membership in a fitness club?
- T. How many present cabinet members have Social Work backgrounds?
- U. Who is the present Director of Memorial University’s, School of Social Work?
- V. How many health boards are in Newfoundland and Labrador?
- W. Signature of a social worker who has vacationed in eastern Canada.
- X. Name an activity that is good for both physical and mental health.
- Y. What is the theme of this year’s NLASW Annual Conference?

NLASW Press Release – Social Work Month

{This press release was sent to media contacts throughout Newfoundland and Labrador}

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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For more information, please contact:
Lisa Crockwell, Executive Director
753-0200 or visit www.nlasw.ca.

National Social Work Month Recognized

{The following statement was given in the House of Assembly on March 24th by the Honourable Charlene Johnson, Minister of Child, Youth and Family Services}

I rise today to recognize the significant contributions of social workers across Newfoundland and Labrador during National Social Work Month.

Social work is an established profession in Newfoundland and Labrador, with 1,350 registered social workers practising throughout the province. Within the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services, these professionals work with individuals, families and communities in a variety of program areas including regulated child care, protective intervention, youth corrections, adoptions and foster care.

This year's theme for National Social Work Month is Social Workers for Dignity and Inclusion: Upholding Human Rights. The theme is extremely important and succinctly encompasses their overall role.

Social workers, in particular child protection social workers, are sometimes portrayed negatively with respect to the work they perform, when on the contrary, they are working on behalf of the public interest to ensure the safety and well-being of children and youth.

Since assuming the role as Minister for the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services a little over two months ago, I have been out meeting social workers within the department, and they are some of the most caring, socially-conscious people I have ever met. They are working hard on the front lines, making difficult decisions in the best interest of our most vulnerable population.

The general public isn't always fully informed about the imperative role of social workers, and I encourage everyone, particularly during National Social Work Month, to learn more about these highly ethical and skilled professionals.

As Minister for the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services, I would like to take this opportunity to commend social workers for their dedication and commitment to the children and youth of Newfoundland and Labrador. They certainly play an essential role in society, and March provides an opportunity to recognize and celebrate their important contributions to our province.