



Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Budget *2020 Pre-Budget Submission*

The Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Social Workers (NLASW) is the regulatory body and professional association for over 1500 social workers in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL). The vision is Excellence in Social Work.

As an organization, NLASW is committed to advancing health and social policy through a social justice framework. The NLASW believes that health and social policy development must reflect the social determinants of health framework.

In our submission for 2020, we continue to advocate for a provincial budget that places an emphasis on enhancing health outcomes for individuals, families and communities, and reducing inequities in access to services, programs and supports. Links to full policy submissions on these recommendations have been included in the document and can be assessed on the NLASW website at <http://www.nlasw.ca/social-work-in-nl/health-social-policy>.

Mental Health

- Integration of social workers in the K-12 education system.
- Increase access to mental health services in correctional facilities.
- Continued focus on enhancing access to mental health services and supports throughout NL.

http://www.nlasw.ca/sites/default/files/inline-files/social_workers_in_education_system.pdf

http://www.nlasw.ca/sites/default/files/inline-files/Enhancing_Mental_Health_and_Addictions_Services.pdf

Seniors

- Enhancements to the home support program including an increase in the number of hours seniors can access home support services and flexibility within the program to meet individual needs.
- Increase in housing options in the community for seniors with complex mental health needs.
- Heightened policy initiatives to assist seniors who are living, or at risk of living in poverty (i.e., enhanced transportation services, elimination or reduction in dispensing fees for prescriptions that are filled monthly; and enhanced dental and vision care coverage).
- Improved access to equipment such as wheelchairs and specialized equipment that will allow people to live more independently.
- Increase to the allowance seniors receive in long term care.
- Improved access to online supports and system navigation for seniors and their caregivers.

http://www.nlasw.ca/sites/default/files/inline-files/Long_Term_Care_and_Community_Support_Services_Strategy.pdf

Poverty Reduction

- Annual increases to the minimum wage in keeping with a living wage.
- Monitor and increase income support rates to ensure this program adequately meets the needs of those requiring support.
- Continued support for community-based organizations who are working with populations who experience poverty.

https://nlasw.ca/sites/default/files/inline-files/Minimum_Wage_Consultation_2019.pdf

http://www.nlasw.ca/sites/default/files/inline-files/Minimum_Wage_Consultation.pdf

<http://www.nlasw.ca/sites/default/files/inline-files/Poverty%20Reduction%20Strategy%202015%20Consultation%20Written%20Submission.pdf>

http://www.nlasw.ca/sites/default/files/inline-files/Poverty_Reduction_Strategy_2010.pdf

Children and Families

- Continue to increase access to regulated, accessible and high-quality child-care; infant to pre-teen.
- Ensure that issues such as capped caseloads, appropriate supervision ratios, access to continuing professional education and human resource

planning remain a priority in the delivery of child protection and in care services.

http://www.nlasw.ca/sites/default/files/inline-files/Adoption_Consultation.pdf

http://www.nlasw.ca/sites/default/files/inline-files/CYFS_10-Year_Child_Care_Strategy.pdf

http://www.nlasw.ca/sites/default/files/inline-files/Children_and_Youth_Care_and_Protection_Act_2016_Review_%28Final%29.pdf

Health Care Service Delivery

- Improved access to primary health care services that includes evenings and weekends.
- Ensure any health care reform incorporates the social determinants of health.
- Advance primary health care initiatives that integrates interdisciplinary teams including social work.

http://www.nlasw.ca/sites/default/files/inline-files/Social_Determinants_of_Health.pdf