



BC Association of Social Workers  
#402 – 1755 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V6J 4S5

E: [bcasw@bcasw.org](mailto:bcasw@bcasw.org)  
T: 604.730.9111

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#### BCASW'S STATEMENT ON THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS ACT

(Vancouver, BC) The British Columbia Association of Social Workers welcomes the introduction of legislation that will significantly change the oversight of regulated health professions and improve protection of the public.

"This legislation will increase the trust that British Columbians have in healthcare providers," said BCASW President Michael Crawford. "Regulation that ensures that healthcare professionals are qualified, guided by clear standards of practice and ethics, and accountable for their actions will result in greater public trust and improved services."

The social work profession is not fully regulated now.

Social work is currently regulated under the Social Workers Act, administered by the Minister of Children and Family Development. The Act requires that social workers register with the BC College of Social Workers and protects the title "social worker".

"Unfortunately, regulations include many exemptions to the application of the Act resulting in many social workers practicing without the requirement to register," said Crawford. "One notable exemption is the Ministry of Children and Family Development staff, so we have the regrettable situation of the Minister administering an Act designed to protect the public yet exempting her own staff from it's provisions."

The BCASW has made repeated unsuccessful appeals to the Ministry of Children and Family Development to amend regulation to require mandatory registration for all social workers and to protect the title "social worker".

"We have asked Health Minister Adrian Dix to include the social work profession in a college established under the Health Professions and Occupations Act," said Crawford. "We believe that the public has the right to the protection that comes with full regulation."

Michael Crawford | President  
BC Association of Social Workers

The BC Association of Social Workers is a voluntary, not-for-profit membership association that supports and promotes the profession of social work and advocates for social justice.

*BCASW acknowledges that our office is in the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and that our members live and work in unceded territories across British Columbia.*