



BC Association of Social Workers
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For immediate release

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY'S SOCIAL WORKER SURVEY CLOSES SOON

(Vancouver) The BC Association of Social Workers (BCASW) has lobbied the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) for many years to make changes to strengthen the profession of social work and increase protection of the public interest. The BCASW is pleased to see that MCFD has launched a consultation on oversight of social work practice and is asking social workers and the public to comment. The consultation closes on January 13, 2023.

The Social Workers Act created the BC College of Social Workers (BCCSW) and gave it the authority to superintend the practice of social work. The BCCSW creates standards for social work practice and a code of ethics, requires registrants to upgrade skills and knowledge annually, investigates complaints, and holds disciplinary hearings.

The Social Workers Act requires that social workers register with the BCCSW to practice social work and to use the title "social worker". Unfortunately, MCFD has maintained exemptions in the Social Workers Regulation that permit a wide range of social workers to practice social work without registering and for many individuals to use the title "social worker" without any social work education.

The BCASW campaign to strengthen professional social work aims to have all exemptions removed. The last time an exemption was removed was in 2013 when social workers employed by health authorities were required to register with the BCCSW.

Failing to protect title, confuses the public regarding the qualifications of the service provider and undermines trust in the profession. Service recipients, concerned about the services they have received from a social worker, not registered with the BCCSW, have no readily available avenues for redress of their grievances.

MCFD has struggled with social work regulation and ironically, the Minister administers an Act that created a regulatory college aimed at public protection yet exempts her own staff and many social workers working for other employers.

The BCASW is advising social workers and the public to use their online letter-writing tool to send a message to MCFD and their MLA. It's time to address this public safety issue.

Send a message to MCFD and your MLA -

<https://act.newmode.net/action/bc-association-social-workers/letter-mcfd-consultation-social-work-oversight>

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Contact:

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BC Association of Social Workers

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.