



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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For immediate release

## BC SOCIAL WORKERS RECOGNIZED FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

(Vancouver) As part of BC Social Work Week celebrations hosted by the BC Association of Social Workers, Minister of Children and Family Development Mitzi Dean will present awards to two BC social workers who have distinguished themselves through exemplary service to others and their communities.

The 2023 Canadian Association of Social Workers Award (BC) will be presented to Prince George social worker Heather Lamb. She has dedicated personal and professional time to fighting for a more accessible society for people with disabilities. Heather’s personal and family experience with disability, fuels her passion for addressing ableism in society. Heather provides case management and counselling services to individuals with spinal cord injury or related disabilities, and she addresses systemic inequalities through her advocacy efforts. Heather has worked for Spinal Cord Injury BC since completing her MSW in 2013.

The 2023 Heart of the Grasslands Award will be presented to Kamloops social worker Nadine Ryan. Nadine serves as Director of Operations for the Ministry of Children and Family Development in Kamloops where she provides operational leadership and oversees delivery of services, human resources, and strategic planning. Nadine has been employed by the Ministry for more than 25 years and has made significant contributions to the welfare of children and youth in previous roles as manager, team leader, and child protection social worker. Nadine was instrumental in the development of practice and policy in the areas of youth agreements, domestic violence, and permanency planning. Nadine has a passion for developing teams and mentoring others.

“The theme for BC Social Work Week, ‘Social work is essential: Action today for a better tomorrow’, recognizes the profession’s role and its commitment to serve British Columbians through action that results in a more equitable society,” says Michael Crawford, President of the BC Association of Social Workers. “Heather Lamb and Nadine Ryan are exceptional and compassionate social workers who have made significant contributions improving the lives of British Columbians and it is our pleasure to recognize them with these awards.”

Minister Dean will present the awards at a ceremony held via Zoom, set for noon, Wednesday, March 22, 2023 (Pacific). Registration link – <https://tinyurl.com/485pt4z3>

More information and registration about the awards and other BC Social Work Week events are here – <https://tinyurl.com/5c7cx7e8>

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Contacts:

Michael Crawford, MSW, RSW | President (he/him)  
BC Association of Social Workers  
W: <https://www.bcasw.org>

BCASW is a voluntary, not-for-profit membership association that supports and promotes the profession of social work and advocates for social justice. BCASW is one of the provincial/territorial social work associations in partnership with the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW). Through CASW we support the work of the International Federation of Social Workers. BCASW was incorporated in 1956 and has branches and members (including students) throughout BC.

*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. We also express appreciation to Métis and Inuit peoples across British Columbia.*