



BC Association of Social Workers
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July 23, 2024

Honourable Grace Lore
Minister of Children & Family Development
PO Box 9057 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Lore,

We write to request a meeting with you to discuss your Ministry's report on the Social Work Oversight Engagement in British Columbia. We are deeply concerned that the report failed in many areas including scope and accuracy. Three areas are particularly noteworthy.

Firstly, the report does not accurately reflect the data presented to consultation participants in the first data validation session held September 12th, 2023. An example of this is that the report seems to significantly minimize the expressed desire of consultees to have all social workers in BC registered with the BC College of Social Workers. Mandatory registration that ensures all social work practice in BC is regulated is of course, central to the consultation and accurate reporting is vital to planning next steps.

Secondly, the report addressed a very narrow segment of social work practice in British Columbia. The report acknowledges the limited scope and attributes this to the fact that MCFD conducted the consultation, the report fails to note how the limited scope affected the report's conclusions.

Lastly, the report conflates the roles of the employer (i.e. human resources/supervision) and regulatory college (i.e. superintending practice) using the one term "oversight". This leads to confusion and is likely to mislead readers about these important, complimentary, and separate functions.

We welcome the opportunity to speak with you about the concerns listed above and others at your earliest convenience.

Regards,

Michael Crawford, MSW, RSW | President (he/him)
BC Association of Social Workers

&

www.bcasw.org

Dianne Heath, MSW, RSW | Executive Director (she/her)
BC Association of Social Workers

CC. Melissa Maher, Senior Advisor
Keith Godin, Acting Deputy Minister

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.