

**BCASW Northern Branch
Annual General Meeting
May 23rd, 2024**



BC ASSOCIATION *of*
SOCIAL WORKERS

Northern Branch BCASW
Annual General Meeting - Agenda
Thursday, May 23, 2024 – 5:30pm
Glen Schmidt's Home, Prince George

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. Acceptance of Minutes from 2023 AGM (dated June 6, 2023)
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Treasurer's Report – Charla Anderson
6. Chair's Report – Kayla Walker
7. Correspondence/Communications
8. Other Business:
 - Healing Fire, June 12
 - Newsletter?
 - Provincial AGM, May 24
 - Orientation, UNBC/CNC (raffle membership)
 - Student Pizza Night
9. Nomination/Election of Officers
 - Chair
 - Vice-Chair
 - Treasurer
 - Recorder/Secretary
 - Communications
 - Speakers
 - Liaison with UNBC
 - Awards/Bursary's
 - UNBC Student Representative
10. Planning for the upcoming year (events, goals, meeting dates/times, etc.)

Annual General Meeting
The Northern Branch Of BCASW
Minutes: Tuesday, June 6th
Glen Schmidt's Home, Prince George

Present: Glen Schmidt, Chair, Beth Quesnel, Recorder, Brent Goertz, Dawn Hemingway, Katelynn Stanwick, Jim Campbell, Charla Anderson, Elsa Felker, Kayla Walker. Regrets: Heather Lamb

Called to order at 6:40

1. Introductions not needed as we socialized over delicious supper provided by Glen.
2. Agenda approved.
3. Minutes of the May 19, 2022 AGM approved as circulated and summarized by Glen. Note that Student Pizza Night happened as planned.
4. Treasurer's Report – Balance now \$2,445.36, similar to last year. Expenses of \$250 Donation to Connective Society after Christmas Event, \$100 to Foundry Youth for Social Work Week buttons and some operating expenses covered by \$500 grant from provincial office (which Jim will apply for again).
5. Chair's Report – Glen highlighted his circulated report of the year.
6. Election of Officers: Chair –Kayla Walker, Vice Chair –Marly Whitmer, Treasurer – Jim Campbell, Secretary – Gen Schmidt, Communications – Dawn Hemingway, Speakers – Brent Goertz. Zoom Links – Brent Goertz. Facebook – Ursula Kerr, UNBC Bursary Liaison – Beth Quesnel. Approved as proposed. Plan to get Student Representative this fall.
7. Other Business: a) Beth read thank you letter from last Bursary recipient, Rachel Anatole, noting that she could be contacted as a potential Meeting Speaker. Fund Balance is \$53,300 b) Glenn has booked date for Orientation and Student Pizza Night. c) Dawn reported the Action for Reform of Residential Care for Seniors is seeking support for a letter writing campaign. She will circulate email.
8. Presentation of Bridget Moran Award - presented by Glen who read nomination letter by Chuck Fraser. Brent responded with thanks.
9. Speaker – Kate Stanwick shared some of her personal journey from a family with addictions which led to being troubled teen in foster care and then a young single parent determined to change and dealing with ongoing challenges to obtain here BSW and gainful employment. She was wished every success in her planned move to Calgary.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16

· Next Regular Meeting – not scheduled.

· Kate's story is available in the Amazon book "Women Like Me: Healing and Acceptance", a compilation created by Julie Fairhurs

1. Promotion of the profession and practice of social work: *Promote the knowledge, skills, and abilities of professional social workers and the diversity of social work practice to public, government, and nongovernmental organizations.*

- a) to provide a distinct voice for the profession of social work in British Columbia and to serve as a valuable resource for information on the practice of social work in British Columbia.
- b) to encourage and initiate activities appropriate to the strengthening and unifying of the social work profession
- c) to promote awareness of the scope and value of social work services with the public and to other organizations, strengthening social work identity
- d) to assist and promote the development of high professional standards of practice consistent with the Code of Ethics adopted by the British Columbia Association of Social Workers
- e) to collaborate with professional social work educators to promote the profession of social work and professional social work practice
- f) to support studies and research in issues and topics relevant to the knowledge and practice of the social work profession
- g) to promote the development of supportive working environments in the interests of promoting quality service

Date	Activity	Participants	Comments
February 2024	Student networking event at UNBC – Thirsty Moose	17 professionals, 23 students	Students and practicing social workers network via “speed dating” format. Snacks funded by UNBC School of Social Work. Organized by student reps.
March 2024	Social work week	30+ members and guests, Mayor of PG Simon Yu and counsel members	“Cheers to Bridget” opening event, Luncheon at Omineca Arts Centre, Bridget Moran Award awarded in memorium to Jim Campbell, Pub Night
March 2024	Radio Show – Celebrating SW Week	4 members	Dawn Hemingway “Senior Moments” host invited Kayla Walker, Marly Whitmer, and Charla Anderson to celebrate Social Work Week on Prince George local radio station 93.1 CFISFM.

2. Service to members: *Provide valuable, supportive, and accessible resources and services that meet the needs and interests of members.*

- a) to provide and promote accessible & affordable continuing professional development opportunities
- b) to enhance members' identification with the profession and practice of social work
- c) to enhance branch capacity
- d) to advance the professional, social, and economic well-being of social workers
- e) to enhance support for social work practice and provide practice consultations

Date	Activity	Participants	Comments
September 2023 & February 2024	Northern branch newsletter	70+ members	Two editions produced, highlighting BCASW-Northern Branch activities. Branch newsletter to share news and activities with northern branch members and beyond. Edited by Dawn Hemingway. Contributions (articles and photos) submitted by a range of branch members.
March 2024	Social work week events	Varied between 5-10 members and guests	Extensive effort put in my membership to organize event. Efforts to expand activities and engage in fundraising for branch, for example, silent auction at pub night.
Ongoing	Speakers and ethics discussions at monthly branch meetings	Average of 5-10+ members and/or guests per monthly meeting	Speakers/topics included: Brent Goerz (social work ethics and homelessness), Alice Winkel (the transformative power of building a simple pine box, experience with death care), Shannon Croy (self-care and burnout), Misia Slucocki (grassroots social work working with unhoused and marginalized populations, Healing Fires with CSFS), Amelia Merrick (continued education, importance of coordination of service agencies)

3. Advocacy, social justice: *Promote health, social, and economic policy consistent with social work values, to ensure a just and compassionate society.*

- a) to advocate for social policy and social services delivery that will promote equality and will enhance the health and well-being of all British Columbians
- b) to strengthen advocacy and social justice efforts, prioritize issues, & establish effective mechanisms
- c) to strengthening our relationships with external organizations to increase effectiveness
- d) to publicize social justice efforts to members and the public

Date	Activity	Participants	Comments
September 2023	Red Dress Campaign	Unknown	Branch members volunteered at and/or attended the Red Dress Campaign events. Events builds awareness of the epidemic of missing and murdered indigenous women
November 2023	Holiday event – Northern John Howard Society	10-15 members and guests, 5+ staff, Mayor Simon Yu and four City Council members	This event is one of the ways we educate other professionals about social work, while simultaneously learning about local agencies and supporting them during the holiday season. This year funds raised from the event went towards creating a space for the Northern John Howard Society to host their groups, as they do not yet have a dedicated space of their own for the people they serve.
2023-2024	Action for Reform of Long-Term Care	Unknown	BCASW partnered with Dr. Penny MacCourt and the Action for Reform of Residential Care (ARRC) on a campaign to reform BC’s long-term care system. The first phase of the campaign was an online letter-writing campaign demanding that the BC government strike an advisory forum to develop and guide implementation of an action plan for system change, informed by those who live, visit, and work in facilities.

4. Strengthen the Association: *Ensure that the Association is sufficiently resourced to fulfill its mission.*

- a) to provide adequate resources including governing and administrative structures, policies, and processes, to ensure the goals and mission of the association are met
- b) to increase member engagement and diversity with an emphasis on increasing Indigenous social workers involvement
- c) to ensure staff and board members have the supports necessary to fulfil their roles effectively
- d) to ensure good data management processes, including financial and membership database operations
- e) to increase the effectiveness of the Association's communications with members and external agencies

Date	Activity	Participants	Comments
September 2023	UNBC Student Orientation	20-30 UNBC students, 15-20 CNC students	Presentation on BCASW, Northern Branch activities, and the benefits of branch membership to 4th year UNBC social work students.
September 2023	UNBC pizza night	15-20 students and faculty	Presentation on BCASW Branch, benefits of branch membership. UNBC sponsored food and space. Announced nomination of student representative position. Received student representative: Charla Anderson (4th year BSW)
December 2023	UNBC networking event		Charla hosted an event at the University to deepen relationships between faculty and students
February 2024	Branch email address	N/A	New Branch email account: bcasw.northernbranch@gmail.com
April 2024	Branch account	N/A	Updated co-signers to include current executive (Glen Schmidt, Dawn Hemingway, Beth Quesnel, Kayla Walker, and Charla Anderson) and removed outdated co-signers.
Ongoing	Consistent, frequent communication with members, Social Media Presence	Unknown	Ongoing posting on Facebook, and sharing via email, of job postings, social welfare/justice and health/wellness related media articles, and campaign information/articles relating to BCASW and CASW actions. Distribution of meeting minutes and agendas to membership.

Northern Branch Membership

There are currently 93 active members of the BCASW's Northern Branch. This is up from 76 members as of last year's report.

Northern Branch in the Upcoming Year

- More engagement with branch members outside Prince George area
 - Increase social media presence
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Provincial Activity Highlights

- Developing several new communities of practice within BCASW
- Met with Minister Lore to discuss the FNHA decision to restrict counselling services, recruitment and retention, and removing exemptions from the Social Workers Regulation.
- Working to respond to FNHA re: termination of mental health counselling services to non-status people
- Consultation and advocacy pertaining to FNHA program eligibility changes for non-status residential school survivors
- Met with MCFD DM David Galbraith to discuss removal of exemptions from the Social Worker Regulation
- Met BCCSW Registrar Ann Joseph to discuss RCSW, joint projects, exemptions in regulation, promotion, etc.
- Report on oversight of social work, due last May, is now scheduled for completion (and perhaps release) during spring 2024
- Meeting with VI and FR Branch members to revitalize the Branches
- Met with schools of social work to discuss BCASW membership plan
- Met with the Provincial Allied Health Association Collaborative (PAHAC). (Executive Director for the Allied Health Policy Secretariat (AHPS) and B.C.'s Provincial Chief Allied Health Officer, Lorrie Cramb) Systems-level consultation and advice on the strategic direction and priorities- strategies for recruitment, retention, redesign, and training
- Met with Jody-Lee Farah re adoption of ethics and role of Association history in BC

Ongoing Advocacy Efforts

- Repeal section 43 CCC campaign with First Call BC collected 218 letters of support
- Bill C-273 is at the Justice and Human Rights Committee April 15, 2024, for consideration following a 216 to 107 vote at second reading