



BC ASSOCIATION of  
SOCIAL WORKERS

Spring 2024

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May 10, 2024

# NORTHERN BRANCH BCASW NEWSLETTER

## SOCIAL WORK

### One profession, many roles.

#### TOGETHER LET'S CELEBRATE SOCIAL WORK WEEK 2024!



*It's not about being different for the sake of being different.  
It's about being different in a way that makes a difference.*

*-Toni Newman*



BC Association of Social Workers

[www.bcasw.org](http://www.bcasw.org)



ALL EVENTS

**Social Work Week 2024**  
One profession, many roles

**Online Events- (bcasw.org)**

Pre Social Work Week Panels

- What Do You Do?": A Day in the Life of Social Workers Panel (Mon, Mar 4 @ 6:30PM)
- Congrats, Graduate: Entering Social Work for First Timers (Tues, Mar 5 @ 6:30PM)
- Organizations That Construct the Profession (Wed, Mar 6 @ 6:30PM)
- Not a Cookie Cutter in Sight: Unique Jobs in Social Work (Thurs, Mar 7 @ 6:30PM)

Social Work Week Panels

- Stepping into a Challenging Ministry (Mon, Mar 11 @ Noon)
- Celebrating Women in Social Work Panel (Mon, Mar 11 @ 6:30PM)
- Anti-Racist Leadership: A Mandate for Social Workers (Tues, Mar 12 @ Noon)
- Practical Advice for Political Influence (Tues, Mar 12 @ 6:30PM)
- Artificial Intelligence in Social Work: Considerations in Practice (Wed, Mar 13 @ 6:30PM)
- Ministerial Reflections on the Toxic Drug Supply in BC (Thurs, Mar 14 @ Noon)
- Supporting Indigenous Social Workers in Frontline Practice (Thurs, Mar 14 @ 6:30PM)


**Local Events- (Prince George)**

Opening Event - Monday March 11th, 12pm, Bridget Moran Statue, (1294 3rd Ave)

Social Work Luncheon - Wednesday March 13th, 11:30am, Omnica Arts Centre, (369 Victoria St)

Pub Night- Friday March 15th, 5pm, Westwood Pub, (233 Cherry Ave)

MAR 10<sup>TH</sup> OPENING

 THE NORTHERN BRANCH OF THE BC ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

**Social Work Week 2024**

**OPENING EVENT**

Gather with us to celebrate and toast to the beginning of Social Work Week 2024

-Opening Remarks: BCASW Northern Branch- Kayla Walker and Marly Whitmer

-Social Work Proclamation Reading: Mayor- Simon Yu

-Toast to Social Work Week 2024

DATE	Bridget Moran Statue- 1294 3rd Ave, Prince George	TIME
MARCH 11		12PM

MAR 13<sup>TH</sup> LUNCHEON

THE NORTHERN BRANCH OF THE BC ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS PRESENTS


**SOCIAL WORK WEEK 2024 LUNCHEON**  
ONE PROFESSION, MANY ROLES

**11:30-1:30PM | MARCH 13, 2024**  
**OMINECA ARTS CENTRE**  
**369 VICTORIA STREET**

- OPENING PRAYER - LHEIDLI T'ENNEH ELDER
- WELCOMING REMARKS
- GUEST SPEAKERS: NORTHERN HEALTH & THE BC COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORKERS
- PRESENTATION OF THE BRIDGET MORAN AWARD

\*Suggested donation for lunch:  
\$5 members/students | \$10 non-members

For more information please email [bcasw.northernbranch@gmail.com](mailto:bcasw.northernbranch@gmail.com)

 [www.bcasw.org](http://www.bcasw.org)

MAR 15<sup>TH</sup> PUB NIGHT

THE NORTHERN BRANCH OF THE BC ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

JOIN US FOR

**Social Work Week 2024**

*Pub Night*

March | **15** | At 5:00pm

**WESTWOOD PUB**  
233 CHERRY AVE, PRINCE GEORGE, BC  
\*NO RSVP REQUIRED\*





# Proclamation

## **SOCIAL WORK WEEK** "ONE PROFESSION, MANY ROLES!"

- Whereas:* the primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance well-being and help meet the basic needs of all people, especially the most vulnerable in society; and
- Whereas:* social workers know from experience that poverty and trauma can create lifelong social and economic disadvantages; and
- Whereas:* social workers are change agents who put the ideals of citizenship into action every day through major legislative, regulatory, and social policy victories; and
- Whereas:* social workers support diverse families in every community, understanding that individuals and communities together can bring about group change; and
- Whereas:* social workers help people in every stage of life to function better in their environments, improve their relationships with others and solve personal and family problems; and
- Whereas:* research shows that all people, no matter their circumstance, at some time in their lives, may need the expertise of a skilled social worker.

Now therefore, as Mayor of the City of Prince George,  
I proclaim that **March 10-16, 2024** be observed as:  
**SOCIAL WORK WEEK**  
in the City of Prince George.

Mayor Simon Yu  
City of Prince George

## Student Networking Event to learn from local social workers! One profession, many roles!!

Highlights of Report Submitted by Charla Anderson,  
BCASW Student Representative & Networking Event Organizer



On Feb 2nd, the Thirsty Moose pub at UNBC hosted the social work student networking event. It was a great success!!! The Northern Branch BC Association of Social Workers (BCASW) Chair – Kayla Walker - and Vice Chair – Marly Whitmer were both in attendance as was Dr. Standish, the Vice Provost Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. The Northern BCASW Branch and the UNBC School of Social Work provided free appetizers. During the event, students and local social workers had the opportunity to connect with each other. Every 10 minutes students alternated between tables at which the social work professionals were seated (sometimes known as “speed dating”). Some social workers brought handouts and prizes to give away. In the end, the students shared that they were surprised by how much they learned and appreciated the opportunity to connect with local professionals.

Feedback from volunteer social work professionals was also very positive, with all indicating that they enjoyed meeting the students and learning about students’ journeys while sharing their own. Every volunteer said they'd like to do it again next year, and a couple said they'd appreciate knowing about other volunteer opportunities with the Northern Branch of the BCASW.

Students also shared that they got a better idea of where they want to do their practicum. Others shared they didn't realize how many different opportunities and varieties of social work practice were available in our northern communities. Some asked for even more professionals next year, and a couple said they were interested in attending the Branch meetings, while others who can't attend, said they would look for posters for BCASW events on the Branch's social media pages and emails.

### **Many, many, many thanks!!!!**

I'd like to thank everyone at the **Northern BCASW (Kayla Walker and Marly Whitmer)** for their support in putting on the event, handing out posters, donating money towards the appetizers, volunteering as professionals for the event, and participating in class visits to spread the word. The **NUGGS president** was helpful in organizing the venue and food. I'd also like to thank the **School of Social Work**

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and faculty that funded the appetizers as well and opened up time in their classroom for us to share about the networking event: **Dr. Si Transken, Dr. Muturi Kariuki (Anthony), and Dr. Susan Burke**. The Faculty Chair of the CNC Social Service Worker program, **Glenn Beach**, also helped share information about the event with all CNC students interested in applying to the UNBC BSW program. MSW student **Kelsey Millar** helped share the event details with MSW students and students **Danika Cundy** and **Rebecca Crawford** relayed information to the third-year students as well.

### ***Volunteer SW professionals in attendance:***

Kayla Walker, Intersect Counsellor & Intake Worker, Chair of Northern BCASW Branch; Marly Whitmer, Youth Detox, Vice Chair Northern BCASW Branch; Chris Tyler, PHSA Program Manager; Kristin Olsen, Indigenous SW at SD57; Andy Johnson, IPT SW-Team 7; Jack Jenkinson, Chief Social Worker at Northern Health; Chantal MacDonald, Navigator MCFD & 20 yrs children & youth with special needs work, Family Finder; Adam Buchanan, Guardianship SW- Carrier Sekani; Erica Moore, Director of Operations- YFPS North Region; Christina Dobson, Clinical Director Brazzoni & Associates Mental Health Services; Josh Van der Meer, District Addictions Clinician SD57; Jillian Powell, Learning Programs Facilitator with the Learning and Development Branch of MCFD; Carmen Nutter, STADD/SAJE Navigator with MCFD; Anne Burrill, Social Health and Well-being Consultant "Urban Matters"; Melinda Allison, Adult Guardianship & MAID Coordinator NH Regional Office; April Hendrickson, Indigenous Department Team Lead SD57

### ***Special Guest:***

Dr. Katerina Standish, Vice Provost, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

***And from all of us who are part of the Northern Branch of BCASW, a huge thank you to our student representative, Charla Anderson, for her work organizing this event and for sharing this report! We're all looking forward to next year!!!***

*Provincial Student Representative Report  
Report submitted by Northern Branch Student Representative,  
Charla Anderson*

The BCASW Student Committee is focused on creating greater student engagement with the organization by addressing membership fees and barriers to cost and attendance. One other idea is to ask Schools of Social Work to consider funding five 3rd-year and five 4th-year memberships or possibly fund some through the BCASW Executive. The Committee talked about ways to get students to participate during Social Work Week by using social media posts to give away swag or gift certificates for the first five students who share the event poster. The Committee is also focusing on communicating with the various Schools of Social Work about student elections and how to create continuity from a previous student representative to the next and possibly holding elections during Schools of Social Work Orientations. The committee does not have a bank account but local student reps can access funds through the Provincial Office. We are working collectively to engage more students in BCASW and feel confident that many more students would like to get involved.

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***MEET MARLY WHITMER –  
VICE CHAIR BCASW  
NORTHERN BRANCH***

Marly is currently a Mental Health Counsellor at Intersect Youth and Family Services. A proud 2023 bachelor's graduate of University of Northern British Columbia, Marly was inspired to pursue a career in social work after experiencing exceptional social service supports as a youth. Prior to working at Intersect Youth and Family Services, Marly was a youth care worker at Carrier Sekani Family Services, while also completing her post-secondary education. In her free time, Marly enjoys being with her family, friends, and animals, as well as experiencing the beautiful outdoors. Marly was nominated to be vice chair of the BCASW Northern Branch in September 2023.



***Are you involved in one of the committees or other initiatives of the BC Association of Social Workers at a local or provincial level or other initiatives you'd like to share?***

We'd like to share your experiences of work, organizing and advocacy with other Northern Branch members. We know many of you are involved in a range of local and provincial activities. We'd like to feature your work and experiences in the next newsletter. Feel free to get in touch with me or send me a photo and brief report about the work you're doing.

***Dawn Hemingway, Editor, Northern Branch Newsletter –  
[Dawn.Hemingway@unbc.ca](mailto:Dawn.Hemingway@unbc.ca)***

REMEMBERING OUR DEAR COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND  
Dr. Jim Campbell



*On Monday, January 15, 2024, Dr. James "Jim" Floyd Campbell, 75, passed away at his home in Prince George, B.C. Born in Vancouver, B.C., Jim was the eldest of five children to Floyd and Betty Campbell. Jim will be remembered as a loving husband of 35 years to Elsa Felker, father to Dara-Mae Campbell and Kora-Mei Campbell, and father-in-law to Dara's partner, Willard Andal. Throughout his distinguished career in Social Work across B.C., Jim positively impacted many lives through his work on child welfare, mental health and substance use, and rural and Indigenous health and wellness. Jim earned his Ph.D. in Health Sciences from the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), complementing his Master of Social Work and Bachelor of Social Work from the University of British Columbia (UBC). Jim enjoyed travelling, kayaking, hiking, reading, music, and spending time with his family. Jim will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and colleagues.*

*Donations in Jim's memory can be made to the Dr. Jim Campbell Memorial Award for UNBC Social Work students at [www.unbcgiving.ca](http://www.unbcgiving.ca). Jim's family is also making arrangements for donations toward a memorial park bench. For donations to the bench, please email: [koracampb@gmail.com](mailto:koracampb@gmail.com)*

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## Community Members Coming Together to Learn from Each Other and to have their Voices Heard!

### *November Opening of New Beginnings Men's Shed*



### *Women's Memorial March & Healing Fire on Feb 14th*





## Community Members Coming Together to Learn from Each Other and to have their Voices Heard! ...continued

**Anti-racism forum hosted by Immigrant Multicultural Services Society on Feb 10<sup>th</sup>**



**Seniors Advocate at Prince George Townhall February 16 Launching new report - "Resourceful and Resilient: Challenges Facing BC's Rural Seniors"**



## Join us to celebrate Social Work Week with a wide range of webinars highlighting this year's theme: *One profession, many roles!*

*Ask any two social workers about their job and you won't get the same answer. The roles we carry are vast, in different areas of care, with different demographics, different organizations and different political environments. Join us for BC Social Work week as we celebrate our profession and discuss matters at the heart of the work we do. Choose from eleven webinars over two weeks and learn from established leaders, newbies with fresh eyes, and political insiders.*

### Week One

1. *"What Do You Do?": A Day in the Life of Social Workers Panel* (Mon, Mar 4 @ 6:30PM)  
What does day to day practice look like? Gain insight into the realities of practice and various types of social work.  
[Register Here](#)
2. *Congrats, Graduate: Entering Social Work for First Timers* (Tues, Mar 5 @ 6:30PM)  
What is waiting for you when you graduate? Our guests discuss their insights about and experiences of entering practice.  
[Register Here](#)
3. *Educate, Regulate and Promote: The Organizations That Construct the Profession* (Wed, Mar 6 @ 6:30PM)  
Learn about three organizations that define social worker as a profession and are responsible for educating, regulating, and promoting social work.  
[Register Here](#)
4. *Not a Cookie Cutter in Sight: Unique Jobs in Social Work* (Thurs, Mar 7 @ 6:30PM)  
Social workers blend their special skills within their practice to create fascinating, unique careers. Social Worker/ Documentarian/ Vet/ Fitness Enthusiast/ Indigenous Leader/ Police Officer?  
[Register Here](#)

### Week Two

1. *Stepping into a Challenging Ministry with the Honourable Grace Lore, MCFD* (Mon, Mar 11 @ Noon)  
Join us to hear from the recently appointed MCFD Minister Grace Lore as she shares the challenges and opportunities she sees in her new role.  
[Register Here](#)
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2. [\*Celebrating Women in Social Work Panel\*](#) (Mon, Mar 11 @ 6:30PM)

Let's celebrate International Women's Day with a panel of distinguished women social workers. These women have helped propel the profession forward through their practice. Join us as they share how they navigate successes and challenges in their careers.

[Register Here](#)

3. [\*Social Change through Social Work: Anti-Racism in Action\*](#)

Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard (Tues, Mar 12 @ Noon)

Senator Thomas Bernard has been a leader in anti-racist social work practice for over 40 years. Perhaps more than ever, there is an appetite for organizational change prioritizing equity. Senator Thomas Bernard positions social workers as vital changemakers in promoting anti-racist work as a universal lens for service providers and policy makers.

[Register Here](#)

4. [\*Practical Advice for Political Influence\*](#) (Tues, Mar 12 @ 6:30PM)

Hosted by the BCASW Advocacy Committee

Do you ever wonder if you could better influence government and see the change you are advocating for come to fruition? Join us for insider insight from Shane Simpson, a former BC Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction.

[Register Here](#)

5. [\*Artificial Intelligence in Social Work: Considerations in Practice\*](#) (Wed, Mar 13 @ 6:30PM)

The use of artificial intelligence is infiltrating daily life at a growing pace. What does it look like for social workers to utilize artificial intelligence to optimize the efficacy of their practice and increase face time with clients? Are there foreseeable ethical repercussions? Join us as we discuss the social, ethical, and policy implications of artificial intelligence as it applies to social work.

[Register Here](#)

6. [\*Ministerial Reflections on the Toxic Drug Supply in BC\*](#)

Minister Jennifer Whiteside, MHA (Thurs, Mar 14 @ Noon)

2023 was another record year of deaths from the toxic drug supply. BC, like other jurisdictions, is struggling. Minister Whiteside reflects on what is working and what more needs to be done.

[Register Here](#)

7. [\*Supporting Indigenous Social Workers in Frontline Practice\*](#) (Thurs, Mar 14 @ 6:30PM)

Indigenous kids continue to be disproportionately represented in child welfare services while the call for decolonizing institutions continues to increase. Indigenous Social Workers are instrumental in both areas. How can our organizations implement best practices to improve recruitment and retention of Indigenous Social Workers? Join us as Dr. Susan Burke shares nine recommendations found in her research.

[Register Here](#)

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***BC Association of Social Workers – Northern Branch  
Bridget Moran Advancement of Social Work  
in Northern Communities Award  
Criteria & Application Form***

**Nomination deadline: February 26, 2024**

The Bridget Moran Advancement of Social Work in Northern Communities award honours one individual who has contributed to the advancement of social work ideals. One award will be granted to the nominee who best fits the criteria. A panel of social workers will choose from nominations submitted by their peers and/or other involved parties. As a guide, the panel will use the purpose of social work, condensed below from the BCASW Code of Ethics.

Social work is a profession committed to the goal of effecting social change. Advancement toward this purpose is achieved through complementarity of social reform and therapeutic approaches. The functions of social work include helping people to develop problem-solving skills; enhancing self-determination; and advocating, promoting and acting to obtain a social justice. The criteria for eligible nominees are:

- 1. Minimum requirement is a Bachelor of Social Work degree;*
- 2. Is a northern social worker and a member of the BC Association of Social Workers;*
- 3. Actively promotes the practice of social work and advocates for the profession of social work;*
- 4. Maintains consistently high standard for social work practice;*
- 5. Unique and timely demonstration for why this award should be presented to this nominee this year, noting nominee's achievements in the advancement of social work in northern communities with particular emphasis on social justice aspects.*

**Please note:** Those BCASW members who have previously been nominated and received the Bridget Moran Award may be nominated only if a minimum of 5 years has passed since the previous nomination for and receipt of the Bridget Moran Award.

This award will be presented during Social Work Week at a luncheon 11:30am to 1pm on March 13<sup>th</sup>. (Watch for future communication about details regarding the luncheon and other Social Work Week activities). Please complete the nomination form and **return it no later than Feb 26, 2024** to: Marly Whitmer [marlywhitmer@hotmail.com](mailto:marlywhitmer@hotmail.com).

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## Joining the BCASW provides multiple benefits to you and our profession...and joining as a student provides connections, professional development & mentoring

BCASW, your professional association, will be an important resource for you throughout your career. BCASW's mission is to promote and strengthen the profession of social work, to advance social work's interests, and to be a strong and visible advocate for social justice. Through BCASW, you will receive the information, continuing education, leadership and networking opportunities, mentoring, and support that will assist you to grow and flourish in your practice.

As a member of BCASW, you will have access to the support you need - whether a consultation on a practice or ethical issue; guidance in career, job search, or relocation decisions; or longer-term mentoring program for recent graduates.

You will be kept current with email bulletins, *Perspectives* newsmagazine, and access to resources in the BCASW and CASW websites. BCASW also provides continuing education opportunities and benefits, a variety of insurance choices, membership discounts, and other services such as job postings. You can look up the many benefits of membership [here](#).

As an association of members serving members, BCASW's success and vitality is built on the active involvement of members who share a commitment to good social work practice and a thriving profession.

As a professional member services association, BCASW is distinct from the regulatory body for social workers in British Columbia, the BC College of Social Workers (BCCSW), whose role is to protect the public. Although they share common interests and work collaboratively, BCASW and BCCSW are separate and distinct organizations with [different yet complementary mandates](#).

Residents of British Columbia, or of a region of Canada where there is no Association of Social Workers, who meet the following qualifications are welcome to join. Eligibility for membership in the Association is based on the applicant having obtained a Baccalaureate Degree, Master Degree, or Doctoral Degree from a program of social work education recognized by the BC College of Social Workers; or having achieved a non-Canadian academic qualification equivalent determined by BCCSW; or being a Registered Social Worker in the province of British Columbia; or being a student enrolled in a recognized social work degree program....

*Student rates are available for \$75/year and membership provides an excellent opportunity to connect with social workers and learn more about the work of the professional association, including the significant advocacy work undertaken by BCASW!*

For full information, go to: <https://www.bcasw.org/joinbcasw>

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## Your BCASW Northern Branch Leadership Team

Chair: Kayla Walker

Vice-Chair: Marly Whitmer

Recorder: Glen Schmidt

Treasurer: Open

Branch Rep on Provincial  
Board: Kayla Walker

Communications &  
Newsletter Editor:  
Dawn Hemingway

Speakers & Zoom:  
Brent Goerz

Student Rep: Charla  
Anderson

Awards & Bursaries: Beth  
Quesnel

Advocacy: Everyone

**VOLUNTEERS ARE  
ALWAYS NEEDED  
AND WELCOME!**

## You Are Invited to the BCASW's Northern Branch Monthly Meetings

Following Social Work Week activities March 10 to 16<sup>th</sup>, the next Northern Branch meeting – our AGM - is scheduled for April 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 pm in person at the Zen Noodle House in Prince George or via Zoom.

*Please Note: Members will also receive a reminder about any upcoming meetings. And feel free to invite your colleagues as you don't have to be a member to attend.*

### WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT AT OUR MEETINGS:

- Regular business; Provincial committee events and activities
- Community connections: events, advocacy and issues of interest
- Professional Development/Education via guest speakers on topics of interest.

### WEBSITES OF INTEREST

<http://www.bcasw.org>

[BC Association of Social Workers]

<http://www.casw-acts.ca/>

[Canadian Association of Social Workers]

<http://www.caswe-acfts.ca>

[Canadian Association for Social Work Education]

<http://www.unbc.ca/social-work>

[UNBC School of Social Work]

<https://cnc.bc.ca/programs-courses/programs/detail/social-service-worker-applied-diploma> [CNC Social Service Worker Program]

<http://www.bccollegeofsocialworkers.ca/>

[BC College of Social Workers]

*If you would like to submit an article or opinion about local, national or international social work issues for the BCASW Northern Branch Newsletter please contact us at: Dawn.Hemingway@unbc.ca*

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO NEXT (Fall) NEWSLETTER: May 10, 2024**