

NORTHERN BRANCH BCASW NEWSLETTER

Inside this issue

Celebrate Social Work Week 2025...1

Mayor Proclaims Social Work Week in Prince George...2

Social Work Week events in Prince George...3 - 4

Social Work Week provincial educational webinars ...5

Holiday Open House at the Activity Centre for Empowerment ... 6

Open House hosted by Women's Resource Society and BCASW ...7

International Women's Day 2025 events...8

How did we get here? We – BCASW Northern Branch & UNBC School of Social Work...9

BCASW & UNBC School of Social Work student networking event...10

Women's Memorial March Feb 14th....11

Groundbreaking research on gendered violence...12-13

Monthly Calls for Justice Coffee & Tea events...113

Bridget Ann Moran – A poem by Chuck Fraser...14

Become a BCASW member...15

Electronic Resource Guide for Survivors of Gendered Violence...16

SSOCIATION

SOCIAL WORKERS

Your Northern Branch Executive, meeting info & website links...17

CELEBRATE SOCIAL WORK WEEK 2025 IN BC MARCH 9-15

This year's theme is: SOCIAL WORKERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERYWHERE!

Social workers are practitioners, counsellors, advocates, facilitators, leaders, policy makers, researchers... Social workers are professional and accountable. Social workers are essential!

Proclamation	
SOCIAL WORK WEEK "SOCIAL WORK IS ESSENTIAL: ACTION TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW!"	
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
Mhereas:	social workers know from experience that poverty and trauma can create lifelong social and economic disadvantages; and
Mhereas:	social workers are change agents who put the ideals of citizenship into action every day through major legislative, regulatory, and social policy victories; and
Mhereas:	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 19-25, 2023 be observed as: SOCIAL WORK WEEK in the City of Prince George.
Jur. 2	
Mayor Simon Yu City of Prince George	

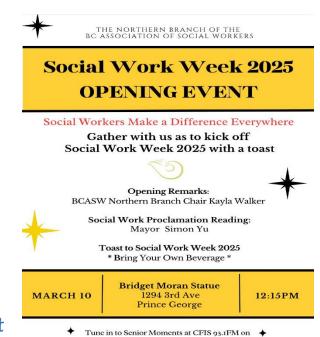
Join Us for Northern Branch Social Work Week Events!

THE SOCIAL WORK WEEK LAUNCH

Social Work Week launch in Prince George takes place on <u>Monday March 10th</u> <u>12:15pm</u> at the Bridget Moran Statue (in front of Intersect Youth & Family Services). The event include a welcome by Northern Branch Chair, Kayla Walker, reading of the Social Work Week Proclamation by Prince George Mayor Simon Yu, and BCASW member and poet, Chuck Fraser, sharing a poem about Bridget Moran. And, importantly, a toast to Bridget!

THE SOCIAL WORK WEEK LUNCHEON

Join us for the Social Work Week Luncheon on <u>Wednesday March 12th</u> <u>between 11:30am and 1:30pm</u> at the Q-3 Creative Business Hub/CFIS 93.1FM Community Radio at 1299 3rd Avenue. This will be an opportunity to celebrate Social Work Week, enjoy lunch, connect with community members, friends and colleagues, and see the presentation of this year's Bridget Moran Advancement of Social Work in Northern Communities Award. Everyone welcome!



March 13th from 1 - 2 PM to hear from local Social Workers

THE NORTHERN BRANCH OF THE BC ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS Invites you to join us at our ... SOCIAL WORK WEEK 2025 LUNCHEON Social Workers Make a Difference Everywhere Join your colleagues for: · a celebration of Social Work Week • lunch, swag, and socializing • the presentation of this years Bridget Moran Advancement of Social Work in Northern Communities Award. 11:30-1:30pm | March 12, 2025 Q-3 Creative Business Hub CFIS 93.1 FM Community Radio 1299 3rd Ave, Prince George. Suggested donation for lunch: \$5 members/students | \$10 non-members For more information please email bcasw.northernbranch@gmail.com Tune in to Senior Moments at CFIS 93.1FM on March 13th from 1 - 2 PM to hear from local Social Worker

More Social Work Week Events!

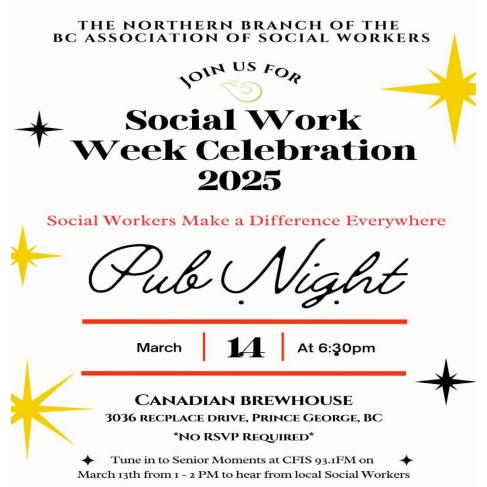
Hear Local Social Workers CFIS 93.1FM Radio March 13th 1 to 2pm

Join BCASW member, Dawn Hemingway, host of the "Senior Moments" radio show on CFIS Community Radio, for a <u>special Social Work Week edition</u> of her show. Dawn will be joined by Northern Branch Chair: Kayla Walker; Vice-Chair: Brent Goerz; BCASW practicum student: Bobbi Moulton; and Chair of the UNBC School of Social Work: Dr. Tammy Pearson. We hope you can join us on March 13th at 1pm or for the repeat show at 11pm – or you can find an archived version of the show on the CFIS website: <u>https://cfisfm.com/cfisfm-podcasting/</u>

<u>PUB NIGHT!</u> MARCH 14TH 6:30PM

To conclude Social Work Week, join us on Friday March 14th for a Pub Night Social Event beginning at 6:30pm at the Canadian Brewhouse at 3036 Recplace Drive, PG. This will be an opportunity to connect with colleagues, friends and make new connections with social workers and community members celebrating Social Work Week.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OF THE SOCIAL WORK WEEK EVENTS, EMAIL: bcasw.northernbranch@gmail.com



Social Work Week Educational Webinars presented by the Provincial Board/Office of the BC Association of Social Workers

Social Work Week celebrates the accomplishments of social workers. Social workers throughout BC plan activities in March that highlight their essential contribution to the health and well-being of British Columbians.

Social Work Week in BC is March 9-15, 2025. Our theme this year is Social Workers Make a Difference Everywhere!

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. Learn more by signing up for some of the wide range of webinars available from March 3rd through to March 13th!

Week 1 Webinars- click links below to register

March 3, 6:30pm - <u>Beyond City Limits: Social Work in Rural & Remote</u> <u>Communities</u> March 4, 6:30pm - <u>Launching Your Social Work Career</u> March 5, 6:30pm - <u>The Journey into Private Practice Social Work</u> March 6, 6:30pm - <u>Exploring Specialized Social Work Careers</u>

Week 2 Webinars- click links below to register

March 10, 6:30pm - <u>Involuntary Care in British Columbia</u> March 11, noon - <u>MCFD Minister Jodie Wickens Celebrates Social Work</u> <u>Week</u> March 11, 6:30pm - <u>Social Work Practice & Allyship in Indigenous</u> <u>Communities</u> March 12, 6:30pm - <u>Examining Social Work Regulation: Public</u> <u>Accountability and Professional Identity</u> March 13, 6:30pm - <u>Reimagining Child Welfare: Prevention and Well-Being</u>

Approaches

Northern Branch BCASW Holiday Open House at the Activity Centre for Empowerment in Prince George

Every December, the BCASW Northern Branch kicks off the holiday season by supporting and learning about a local agency or organization while enjoying lunch and great company! This year, on December 5th, we hosted a luncheon at The Activity Centre for Empowerment (ACE) in downtown Prince George.

ACE provides a variety of programs and services to folks ages 18 and up living with mental illness and/or substance use in the Prince George area. There are drop-in activities, computer access, laundry services, volunteer opportunities, life skills workshops and courses, recreation, and events. The *Healthy Lifestyles Cafe* serves healthy food at affordable prices. Referral is required from a healthcare service provider (doctor, nurse practitioner, counsellor, or social worker) supported by Northern Health Mental Health and Addictions Services. ACE is hosted by the British Columbia Schizophrenia Society - Prince George Branch.

We had an excellent lunch, heard from staff about the incredible work that ACE is doing and shared donations of nonperishable goods, grocery gift cards and other contributions to support the members of our community who access ACE. It's always an excellent experience and, if you weren't able to join us this year, we hope you'll watch for our next Holiday Open House in December 2025!

At the right is a photo of some of the Northern Branch team members who helped organize and host the event. Organizing is also fun! We welcome anyone



who would like to help with pulling the next event together or who has any ideas about a good location for our 2025 Holiday Open House! If interested, just email: <u>bcasw.northernbranch@gmail.com</u>.

BCASW Northern Branch Newsletter

FORT ST JOHN DECEMBER OPEN HOUSE HOSTED BY THE WOMEN'S RESOURCE SOCIETY AND THE BC ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

In December 2024, the Women's Resource Society and BC Association of Social Workers in Fort St John hosted an Open House that was an opportunity for community members to learn about the important work and initiatives of the Resource Society and to learn about how to contribute to the work of the Society. Jessenta Cooper, **BCASW** student representative in Fort



Join us for an evening of community and connection!

- 🕓 5 PM 7 PM
- 9912 96th Avenue Fort St. John, BC

Curious about what's new and what we do at the Fort St. John Women's Resource Society?

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO:

- Meet our incredible new team members
 - Discover our unique new program in partnership with Northern Health
- Ask questions about how we impact Fort St. John

Hearn more about how sponsors and donors are helping us support the community

Donate and help us further our mission!

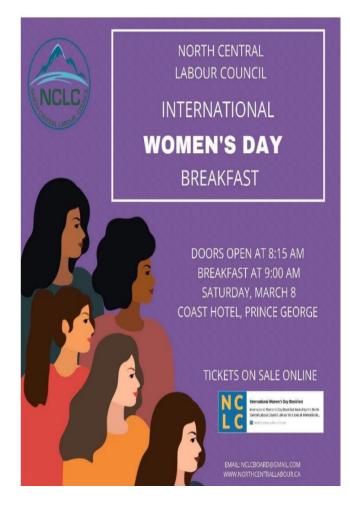




St. John was part of the team organizing this event. To hear more about this holiday Open House, we're sharing a radio clip that is available at: https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1DtwaoESkH/

International Women's Day 2025 – Some of the events in our region...

March 8th is International Women's Day 2025. We hope that you will have the opportunity to join in one of the many International Women's Day events happening in communities across northern BC. We are sharing posters about some of those events. If there are others that you'd like to share with BCASW members, please email: <u>bcasw.northernbranch@gmail.com</u> and we can send the information out to our email list.





HOW DID WE GET HERE? WE - BCASW Northern Branch & UNBC School of Social Work -Beth Quesnel and Bruce Northey

I, Beth, moved to Prince George in 1979 due to my husband's work, and with a new baby. It is relevant that I had completed my MSW at Dalhousie University in 1973. In 1980 I applied for my first social work job here at Alcohol Counselling Services. During my interview with Board members one of the early questions was "Why are you living in Prince George?" which I answered honestly, "for my husband's work". It was many months later, after I developed a close relationship with the Board Chair that she told me they were immediately suspicious of an MSW in Prince George. Was I an alcoholic? Had I lost several jobs?

This personal story exemplifies the education levels in Prince George prior to University of Northern British Columbia being officially created by the legislature in 1990. When working on plans for the 25th Anniversary of UNBC, I asked Bruce Northey to write out his memories of the Branch lobbying for a School of Social Work at the new university in the early 1990s. Bruce's memories of this important, and ultimately very impactful, initiative follows:

"As I remember it, the existence of the UNBC School of Social Work is, in large part, dependent on the initiative of the BCASW Northern Branch.

Shortly after Geoffery Weller was appointed as the first president of UNBC, we arranged a meeting with him to promote the idea of a School of Social Work. We not only wanted an undergraduate, but also a graduate program to start up as quickly as possible. At that time, the University of Victoria was offering a few social work courses up here. As president of the Northern Branch of the BCASW, I approached Andrew Armitage and requested his assistance. He was fully supportive of a School of Social Work at UNBC.

I arranged for Andrew, Pat Storey (as he was heading up the Social Service Worker program at the College of New Caledonai) and myself to meet with Dr. Weller. He appeared to be interested and asked us if we could provide further indication of support for this idea from the northern communities. Thus began our telephone and writing campaign. I don't know how many people responded but I do know that the enthusiasm was high and that we all felt quite hopeful.

Apparently our hope was justified as a School of Social Work was included in UNBC's first plan of operation. I think we have Andrew Armitage from U Vic and Henry Mauss from UBC to thank for this as both of them supported the idea and lent their names to the campaign. I think it helped that BC's 2 Schools of Social Work at the time were both in support of the idea of a 3rd school being established in Prince George.

~ Bruce Northey, January 24, 2014

Social action is a key component of the social work profession. It is fitting that all students, and in fact all social workers in the BCASW Northern Branch, should be aware of this success story. It was social action led by the Northern Branch (and including the Northwest Branch) that led to this previously unheard accomplishment. A new graduate program of social work was initiated at UNBC before (but followed soon after by) a bachelor's program. We can be proud of this history and the advocacy work carried out by the Northern Branch. Social justice is truly the foundation of social work!

BC ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS & UNBC SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK STUDENT NETWORKING EVENT – MARCH 29^{TH}

We, Northern Branch of the BC Association of Social Workers, are excited to be co-sponsoring a student networking night with the University of Northern British Columbia School of Social Work. This evening will be an opportunity for students and practicing social workers to connect, share experiences and learn from each other. All social work students are welcome to join in this networking opportunity. And we are looking for social workers who would like to spend time with current students, answering their questions and engaging together about the work you do in a wide range of social work settings. As the poster for Social Work Week 2025 so clearly points out: SOCIAL WORKERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERYWHERE! and social work students are interested to learn about your experiences in all the multiple locations that social workers contribute across northern British Columbia. We hope that you can join us for this evening of food, fun and exchange of ideas and experiences. To volunteer to be part of the networking event by sharing your experience as a practicing social worker or if you have any questions about the event, please email Bobbi Moulton at <u>bmoulton@unbc.ca</u>. Hope to see you there!

The Northern Branch of the BCASW and UNBC School of Social Work bring you a...

Saturday | March 29

5:30PM - 8:30PM THIRSTY MOOSE PUB 3333 University Way

Social Work students meet Social Workers practicing in: Mental Health, Addictions, Elder Care, and more!!

FREE APPETIZERS!

For any questions please contact Bobbi at BMOULTON@UNBC.CA We are ACTION

You might be the one we are looking for!



The BCASW Northern Branch & UNBC School of Social Work are hosting a...

Student Networking Event!!

Who: We need practicing Social Workers with a range of education, training & experience to volunteer a few hours of time to help us represent the diversity of Social Work.

What: Join us for FREE appetizers while sharing your background, experiences, knowledge & advice with SSWK, BSW & MSW students.

When: Saturday, March 29th, 2025 | 5:30PM-8:30PM

Where: The Thirsty Moose Pub | 3333 University Way, Prince George

Why: To demonstrate diversity in Social Work practice, promote connection & collaboration within the profession, & introduce students to community practitioners & agencies.

RSVP to Bobbi at bmoulton@unbc.ca

4

WOMEN'S MEMORIAL MARCH – February 14th 2025 Powerful 2025 Women's Memorial March held in Prince George

On a cold and windy winter afternoon, Prince George community members from all walks of life marched from the Native Friendship Centre through downtown to the Courthouse in a powerful February 14th Women's Memorial March. Raising their collective voices, marchers called for justice for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls on the Highway of Tears and for all women, children, men, LGBTQ2S+ community members - everyone facing violence. Drumming, singing and moving presentations were accompanied by participants sharing food and engaging in discussion about how to bring about the changes necessary to create a society free of violence - and one that truly meets the needs of all its members.











Speakers from left to right include Julie Daum, Cameron and Charity West, Dawn Hemingway (BCASW member) and Mary Teegee.

Groundbreaking Research on Addressing Gender-Based Violence

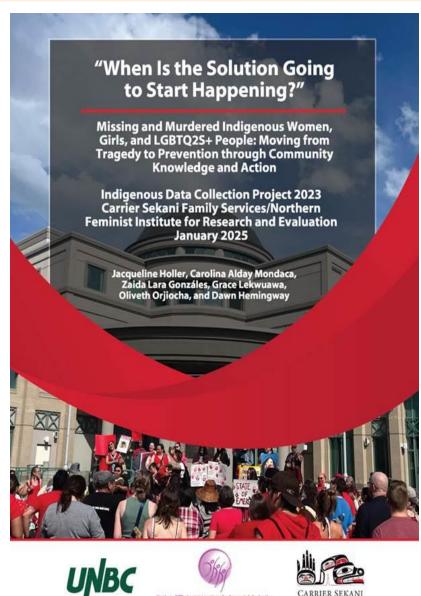
February 7, 2025

Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) and the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), in partnership with the Northern Feminist Institute for Research and Evaluation (Northern FIRE), proudly announce the release of a new research report providing critical recommendations for service providers, government leaders, and policymakers to address the ongoing crisis of gender-based violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ people.

This research, conducted in collaboration with Indigenous leaders, survivors, and community members, sheds light on the systemic barriers that contribute to the overrepresentation of Indigenous women in gender-based violence statistics and the ongoing crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG).

"This report highlights the incredible strength and resilience of the communities along Highway 16," says Julie Daum, Executive Director of Justice at CSFS. "We know there are still many gaps and challenges in addressing violence against Indigenous women, and that's why this partnership between CSFS, UNBC, and Northern FIRE—focused on the voices of those who know this reality best. Our goal was to listen, to uplift these experiences, and to ensure that decision-makers at the highest levels hear your concerns, your challenges, and the advocacy you carry every single day. We hope this report reflects that and honours your voices."

Dr. Geoff Payne, President of UNBC, says that it is essential for research to not just remain within a university, but to extend into community for real



change to happen. "It is important to take research beyond the walls of the University; keeping it confined here means it can't create meaningful change. For such a critical and urgent issue, research must drive real impact. This work can get us to a place where there is no gender-based violence against Indigenous women and children, because one incident is far too many. ...continued on page 12 continued from page 11.....

It's encouraging when research can inform our actions as that's an important goal for the University and our community."

For Jacqueline Holler, UNBC Professor in Women's Studies and History, and lead investigator for the project, the report is about creating action while respecting and building on previous work in this subject area. "At the heart of this research is the need to move the conversation forward and create real change now. Our region is known for its advocacy, but the challenge is turning that into concrete, well-evaluated programs. This project builds on existing recommendations, focusing on actionable steps informed by what we heard from communities. This project is not meant to supplant any of the recommendations that have been made already. It's trying to build on them and make compartmentalized or actionable steps that can be taken, and that is what we heard in community."

Dawn Hemingway, UNBC Professor Emerita of Social Work and Gender Studies, and part of the leadership team of the Northern FIRE, says that this project fits the vision of Northern FIRE due to concern about the unique challenges of health and safety for women in Northern BC. "There are questions of basic needs of Indigenous communities in Northern BC with its particular geographical challenges – questions around health care, transportation, education, and having a basic amount of income. We need to hear the voices of people who have direct experience, and learn from all the programs, plans, research that's been done in the past and work collectively to have a loud enough voice that can't be ignored and make sure that those in the government at various levels actually do something."

The report highlights concrete strategies "to start moving forward", including:

Formation and maintenance of meaningful partnerships that respect Indigenous self-determination and incorporate Indigenous knowledge and perspectives

The need for improved data collection and sharing

Culturally appropriate services and responses by law enforcement agencies

Adequate funding for support services

For a link to the full report and a video about the project, please go to the Carrier Sekani Family Services website at: <u>https://www.csfs.org/MMIWGReport2025</u>

CALLS FOR JUSTICE COFFEE & TEA EVENTS HAVE BEGUN – hosted by Calls for Justice, Carrier Sekani Family Services

The first Calls for Justice Coffee and Tea took place on Thursday, February 27th. We wanted to create a space where we could connect regularly, build relationships, and work further together to address the Calls for Justice with community partners. We hope this is a space where advocates, colleagues and more can learn about different services, supports, and help fill in further gaps that may exist when it comes to supporting and implementing the Calls for



Justice. We hope important conversations can start here to further change. This space is open to both internal and external partners! Please feel free to share this with your contacts. Any questions please don't hesitate to connect with our Calls for Justice Outreach Worker Kelsey Spears at <u>kspears@csfs.org</u>.

Bridget Ann Moran

– a poem by Chuck Fraser, Northern Branch BCASW member

Bridget was not afraid To take a stand. Guided by an Irish Heart She cared for all, Not just a few. At times this proved hard to do. Structural social worker Mother of four, She spoke about injustices, and A lack of supports, to Provide adequate care for those in need. Premier W.A.C. Bennet Had her fired, A few weeks later. He heard her roar On the legislature floor! Soon kicked out of there, To no avail. For a voice of reason, was Mistaken for treason, or At least, A Little Rebellion. Bridget Ann Moran, and Her Irish charm, Never meant any harm. An inspiration To those in the trenches A light of hope For the down trodden. Souls of activists before Could be seen in the twinkle of her eyes Heard in the laughter of her voice, I assure you this: When activists are around The likes of Bridget Moran can be found.

CAF/02/12/11

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 longerterm 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...

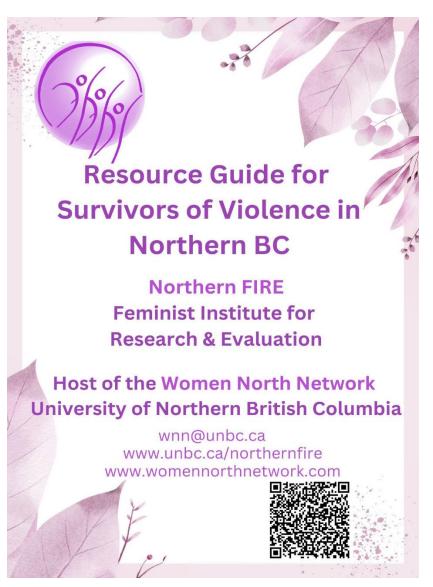
Student rates are available for \$75/year and membership provides an excellent opportunity to connect with social workers and learn more about the work of the professional association, including the significant advocacy work undertaken by BCASW!

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

SHARING ELECTRONIC RESOURCE GUIDE FOR SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN BC

Northern FIRE, the Feminist Institute for Research & Evaluation and hostof the Women North Network are very

happy to be able to share information about our Resource Guide for Survivors of Violence in Northern BC. This guide is the outcome of our 2019 Symposium on Gendered Violence and subsequent research funded by a Civil Forfeiture grant. We are hopeful that the Resource Guide can become a living document, updated annually (or whenever we received new information) in order to ensure up-



to-date coverage. If your agency is in the guide, please keep us in the loop on any changes or updates to your information at <u>wnn@unbc.ca</u>. <u>And a thank you to BCASW members who work</u> <u>with us and helped make this guide a reality!</u>

Your BCASW Northern Branch Leadership Team

Chair: Kayla Walker

Vice-Chair: Brent Goerz

Recorder: Marly Whitmer

Treasurer: Charla Anderson

Branch Rep on Provincial Board: Kayla Walker

Communications & Newsletter: Dawn Hemingway

Speakers: Brent Goerz

Student Reps:

- Jessenta 3rd yr BSW -UNBC Fort St. John
- Simran 1st yr MSW UNBC Prince George

Awards & Bursaries: Beth Quesnel

Advocacy: Everyone

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED AND WELCOME!

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

UPCOMING NORTHERN BRANCH MEETINGS: April 24th & May 22nd

Members will also receive an email reminder about any upcoming meetings. And feel free to invite your colleagues as you don't have to be a member to attend. Meeting are available in person and via zoom.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT AT OUR MEETINGS:

The in-person meeting takes place at the <u>Zen</u> <u>Noodle House in Prince George (693 Brunswick St)</u>. But members can also join on Zoom. The overall schedule is as follows:

- **5pm: Dinner & socializing**: for those attending in person
- 6pm: Meeting: in person and via Zoom
- **7pm**: Educational/guest speaker(s): in person and via zoom

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/programscourses/programs/detail/social-service-workerapplied-diploma [CNC Social Service Worker Program]

http://www.bccollegeofsocialworkers.ca/ [BC College of Social Workers]