

Greetings from the Professional Development Committee

Professional development has been described as the process of assessing your learning needs, acquiring new knowledge and skills, applying them to your practice, and reflecting on what you have learned and how this knowledge informs your practice. Through engaging in professional development, social workers ensure that they remain competent in their practice. As well, NSASW professional development requirements are directed towards:

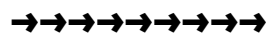
- supporting ethical and professional practice
- promoting continuing learning
- creating a learning community that supports and facilitates the sharing of knowledge and best practice
- protecting the public by ensuring that social workers are knowledgeable and current in their practice
- encouraging social workers to engage in goal setting and planned professional development activities
- acknowledging the many ways in which people learn, including formal courses and workshops, organized discussions with peers, reading and reflection

As social workers, we work with individuals, families and communities in our society. We are challenged to continue learning about a wide range of issues that are relevant to our practice - legislative and policy issues, current social research, therapeutic and counselling theories and techniques. Revisiting and expanding on our understanding of ethical considerations and foundational social work theory and practice are important to our continued competence.

The basic requirement outlined in the Nova Scotia Association of Social Work Standards of Practice is to complete 40 hours of professional development activities per year and to report these activities during the annual renewal process. Within this framework, each social worker is responsible for putting together the particular combination of activities that best meets their learning needs and their employment and personal circumstances. Options for professional development include:

- formal professional development activities (e.g. university courses, seminars, workshops, in-service sessions)
- supervision of Social Worker Candidates and social work students
- volunteer work related to social work practice which fosters learning opportunities (e.g. NSASW committee participation, direct service in a social service agency, Board of Directors or committee involvement in a social service agency, public education about social work and social issues)
- independent learning (e.g. reading, videos and webcasts, academic or community presentations on relevant topics)
- personal reflection (e.g. keeping a journal, developing a professional portfolio)

Please complete the Professional Development Report Form 2008 (for 2007) and return it to the NSASW office along with your other renewal forms. **Your renewal will not be processed without this form.**



We wish to take this opportunity to recognize the commitment to professional development that is demonstrated by so many of our colleagues in the social work community, some of whom face barriers to accessing professional development. We would also like to share some information about ways to explore various on-line or at-home study courses for those who have access to the internet and wish to diversify their professional development options. You can find listings of such offerings at:

www.socialworkers.org - Click on NASW WebEd

www.aswb.org - Click on ACE providers, Click on Approved Providers, and do a search

Also, there are Professional Development Funds available for Regional Groups. Your Regional Representative can provide you with more information about events planned in your region.

To assist you in keeping track of professional development activities throughout the year, we have developed a Professional Development Log. You will find a copy on the NSASW website: www.nsasw.org Keeping track of your professional development activities as they occur throughout the year will make it easier to complete your renewal form in 2009.

Please Note: The Professional Development Committee will be conducting an audit of the 2007 Professional Development Report Forms as part of our ongoing efforts to develop a better understanding of the professional development activities of Nova Scotia social workers. We look forward to sharing what we have learned about professional development activities with the social work community.

Any questions about professional development activities or the forms should be directed to the undersigned by leaving a message at the NSASW office at (902) 429-7799

Thank you, and we hope that your learning experiences are fulfilling and worthwhile.

Mary Crompton, RSW
Co-Chair
Professional Development Committee

Stacy McRae, RSW
Co-Chair
Professional Development Committee

NOVA SCOTIA ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
Professional Development Report Form 2008

(reporting on activities in 2007)

It is the responsibility of each registered social worker to complete this form annually and return it to the office of the NSASW with his/her application for membership renewal. Your application for renewal will not be processed without a completed Form. In 2008, the Professional Development Committee will be conducting an audit of the Professional Development Report Form as part of our ongoing efforts to develop a better understanding of the professional development activities of Nova Scotia social workers.

Name: _____ Registration # _____

Status: (check all that apply) RSW _____ SWC _____ Private Practitioner _____

Field of Practice (as listed on Renewal Information Form)

Please list social work professional development activities undertaken during 2007. Use the reverse side of the page if necessary.

NOTE: For workshops and conferences, you should not count the time spent in lunch and nutrition breaks. For instance, the amount of credit for a one-day workshop that runs from 9:00 - 4:30 is 6 hours, assuming a one-hour lunch and two 15-minute nutrition breaks.

Professional Development Activity

<u>Date</u>	<u>Professional Development Activity</u> (Give title if applicable)	<u>Sponsoring Organization</u>	<u>Instructor/Facilitator</u>	<u># of hours</u>

Total Hours

<u>Date</u>	<u>Professional Development Activity (give title if applicable)</u>	<u>Sponsoring Organization</u>	<u>Instructor/Facilitator</u>	<u># of hours</u>
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Total Hours

RECORD OF READING (if applicable)

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Relevance to Social Work Practice</u>	<u># of hours</u>

Total Hours

OTHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES (Describe and indicate # of hours)

Total Hours

Suggestions for future professional development activities for NSASW to explore
