

# NBASW Featured Social Worker Series

**KATHLEEN CURTIS, RSW**  
**KIMBERLEY WILSON (CURTIS) RICKARD, RSW**



## Where are you from?



Kathleen: I was born and raised in Fredericton, but moved to Saint John for work shortly after graduation in 2015.

Kimberley: I am from Fredericton, N.B. previously known as Nashwaaksis, or the Northside of the Saint John River.

## How long have you been a social worker?



Kathleen: I have been a social worker for a little over 2 years now.

Kimberley: I graduated from STU in 1983, with a Bachelor of Arts {Psychology} and 1986 from the Bachelor of Social Work Program. I am retiring in November 2017 after 31 years of Social Work Practice.

## Where do you work? What do you do there?



Kathleen: I am currently working at the Department of Social Development in the Disability Support Program (Saint John region).

Kimberley: I presently work at the Chalmers Regional Hospital in Fredericton, N.B. on the Healthy Aging and Rehabilitation Program, 3NE. My role on this unit, involves providing assessments, advocacy, and discharge planning. I have also enjoyed supervising students during their practicum for the BSW as well. Working within an interdisciplinary team has been very rewarding for me. I am also grateful to work within a wonderful Social Work Department at the Chalmers, and will certainly miss them upon my retirement.

## How did having a mother who is a social worker influence your decision to pursue social work?

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Kathleen: Having my mother as a social worker was a huge influence towards my decision to pursue a career in social work. From a very young age, my mother would always say how much she loves being a social worker; I would watch her get up every morning and actually be happy to go to work. She would always tell me how rewarding it was to help people and how she never felt like she was actually “working”. Anyone who knows my mom would say that she is very passionate about the social work profession and is very proud to be able to call herself a social worker.

## What are some of the positives of having a daughter working in the same field as you?

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Kimberley: I am enjoying conversations with my daughter on a new level, with greater appreciation for the work we do with patients/clients and their families. This has provided a new depth and maturity to our relationship.

**Thank you, Kimberley and Kathleen for agreeing to be featured by the NBASW and helping us celebrate the diversity of roles held by NB Social Workers!**

## Why are you proud to be a social worker?

"I am proud to be a social worker because there is no greater feeling in the world than someone who trusts you enough to share with you their times of struggle and heartache and allows you to come into their life and help them; whether it be helping them navigate the system, providing them with resources, or just sitting there with them and being an active listener. The core values of the social work profession align with my own values and who I am as a person- the person my mother raised me to be. Social work is a very challenging but very fulfilling profession and it has become such a passion for me that I am so proud to say that my mom and I are both social workers!"

-Kathleen Curtis, RSW

"I started out as a Registered Nursing Assistant, in 1976, and was not even aware of what Social Work was at that time. I worked in nursing homes, and met a Social Worker, Barbara Yerxa, who encouraged me to apply. It was the best and most rewarding career change. As a nursing assistant, patients would often ask me to sit and listen to their stories, and “forget the bed bath”. I was always torn between the medical and the social / emotional support. I have had many wonderful experiences, and opportunities, that I will be forever grateful. It is the BEST profession, and now I look forward to the next phase of my life, and hope to give back to my community as a volunteer."

- Kimberley Wilson (Curtis) Rickard, RSW