

Dear Members,

On behalf of the New Brunswick Association of Social Workers and St. Thomas University, we would like to introduce ourselves and invite you to participate in our research project. As students, we are finishing our Bachelor of Social Work Degree and are currently working at the NBASW for our social action placement. For this placement, we are involved in phase 2 of a two part research project. The first phase was initiated last year by three social work students who conducted in person interviews with service users and substitute decision makers in order to gain an understanding and collect data on the experiences of the older adult population, specifically adults 65 years of age and older. In this second phase of the project, we will examine the role of social workers and service providers and their interactions with the aging population.

This research will provide insight into an issue of increasing significance. The NBASW recognizes that issues facing older adults are rapidly becoming an area of primary focus for the province of New Brunswick. According to the 2017 report, we are all in this together: An Aging Strategy for New Brunswick, "In New Brunswick there are 147,929 seniors 3 of which is equal to 19.5% of our population. By 2038, with the current trend, it is expected that 31.3% of the New Brunswick population will be seniors" (GNB, 2017). Research is needed to clarify the specific needs that exist as well as the role, if any, social work should play in meeting these needs. Once the research is completed, the findings of this research will be published by the NBASW.

If you are a Registered Social Worker who works in the Province of New Brunswick and currently serves older adults (age 65+), or has served older adults within the past 5 years, we would like to invite you to participate in our research by completing our electronic survey regarding the aging population, specifically adults 65 years of age and older.

We would like to thank you for your consideration and participation in this research process.

Yours very truly,

New Brunswick Association of Social Workers

Kirsti Roxburgh, BSW Student

Kaitlin Pauley, BSW Student