



# News & Views

April 2020 Issue



# Table of Contents

A Message to Members.....	1
AGM, Conference & Banquet Update.....	2
COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions.....	2
Zoom for Healthcare.....	2
Use of Technology.....	3
Scholarship & Bursary Winners.....	4
Social Action Placement with the NBASW.....	4
Promote My Profession Contest.....	5
NBASW Committee Vacancies.....	5
Update from Education Committee.....	6
Free Local Resources.....	6

# A Message to Members: Thank You

Welcome to the April 2020 Newsletter! The last several weeks have presented a unique set of circumstances that have changed the way people operate worldwide. The COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting State of Emergency in New Brunswick has meant that we've all had to make adjustments to our day-to-day life in very little time. We know that these changes have caused serious tolls on our communities, and especially on essential workers, including front-line social workers. The NBASW Board, staff, and I are all aware of the difficulties that exist in navigating these unique circumstances and want to acknowledge the inspiring work being accomplished right now.

Social workers play a vital role in ensuring our communities are cared for and safe. We know that in order for your work to be maintained, you are and will be working in new and unique environments, often around the clock, and that this may place new and different stresses on your day-to-day life. We want to emphasize how thankful and appreciative we are for the work that you continue to do. Between the added stresses at work and potentially worrying about the wellbeing of your family, friends, and yourself, there are a lot of unprecedented circumstances to overcome.

We also want to acknowledge those of you facing different circumstances due to an inability to work, or a change in work environment such as working at home. For those of you facing these additional changes as a result of COVID-19, we recognize that this brings about its own set of hardships and stresses for you, and we thank you as well.

It is especially important now to take time to consider your own needs and wellbeing. In addition to taking care of others, it is important that we all take some time in the day to care for ourselves. We recommend taking time to incorporate self-care efforts into your day-to-day life, even if just for short periods of time through activities like journaling, meditation, yoga, or stretching, or through efforts such as participating in self-care webinars or reaching out to friends and family.

Thank you again for all the important work you do and for your dedication to the profession of social work.



Géraldine Poirier Baiani, RSW  
NBASW President

# AGM, Conference & Banquet Update

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Due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the resulting State of Emergency in NB, the NBASW wishes to advise all members that **the Board of Directors has decided to postpone indefinitely the Annual General Meeting, Conference and Banquet**, which was scheduled to occur in Fredericton from June 12-13, 2020.

As a result of the State of Emergency and changing restrictions, the NBASW is unable to provide a re-scheduled date at this time but will continue to provide you with updates as we gather more information

## COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

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We know that the last few weeks have brought with it unprecedented changes to how our communities operate as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting State of Emergency. To help address some of the frequently asked questions we've received as a result of these changes, we created an FAQ page on our website, [which you can access here](#).

If you do not see your question on the FAQ page, please do not hesitate to [contact our office](#). We will do our best to answer your questions as quickly as possible.

## Zoom for Healthcare Now Available for Practicing Members

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In light of the current COVID-19 outbreak and the adjustments being made to online and remote delivery of social work services, the NBASW wishes to advise members that thanks to the Government of New Brunswick, Zoom for Healthcare is being made available to all Practicing Members of the NBASW. This is a measure being put in place to help NBASW Practicing Members provide services to their clients during the COVID-19 pandemic and will be available for one year from the Government of New Brunswick at no cost to these members.

Zoom is a web-based virtual care video conferencing platform and Zoom for Healthcare provides additional security measures to protect the privacy of per-

sonal health information being shared over internet channels. As mentioned in our Letter of Guidance, paid versions of Zoom, including Zoom for Healthcare, are approved as a virtual platform on which social work services may be provided.

Please note that **all Practicing Members of the NBASW are eligible** to receive Zoom for Healthcare. This includes public sector social workers (including those who work for Social Development, Horizon Health Network, Vitalité Health Network, among others), as well as in the private and non-profit sectors.

**Enrolling in Zoom for Healthcare is voluntary;** Registered Social Workers are not required to take this step, though it may be right for you if you:

- Need the enhancement of video to deliver client care;
- Are in self-isolation and/or available to practice remotely;
- Can provide clients currently using smart phones and computers for other only services like banking, shopping, and internet with the instructions they need to connect for care using Zoom for Healthcare; and
- Are concerned about the security of video conferencing services offered over the internet.

If you are interested in obtaining a Zoom for Healthcare license, please email [ConnectedCare@gnb.ca](mailto:ConnectedCare@gnb.ca) with “Zoom” in the subject line. Please provide your name, phone number, preferred language of communication, role, employer, and whether or not you work in private practice.

## Letter of Guidance: Use of Technology

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To help guide you in how to use technology in social work practice, please consult our [Standards for the Use of Technology in Social Work Practice](#). This is to serve as a guide for social workers who do not already have policies and procedures in place regarding electronic practice at their workplaces. For further guidance, please consult the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) [Social Media Use and Social Work Practice](#).

The NBASW has also prepared a Letter of Guidance, which is intended to provide further guidance and support to social workers when engaging in electronic social work practice, such as the use of computers and other electronic means. [Click here for the Letter of Guidance](#).

# Scholarship and Bursary Winners

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The NBASW is pleased to announce the winners of the following scholarships and bursaries:

- NBASW Scholarship: Kate Colwell
- Co-Operators Bursary for Members: Erica Vienneau
- Co-Operators Bursary for Student Members (UdeM): Martine Gionet



*Co-Operators Bursary for Student Members (UdeM), Martine Gionet*

## Social Action Placement with the NBASW

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The NBASW is excited to welcome four new social work students from St. Thomas University. Jonathan Ginnish, Valarie Spencer, Kerry Landry, and Kaleigh Simpson will be completing their Social Action Field Placement with the NBASW from April to June 2020. Despite the changes to our office environment due to COVID-19, we're pleased to have the students joining us virtually through Microsoft Teams as they work on a research project regarding safe injection sites.

Stay tuned as the students will soon be issuing a survey on this subject for members.



*From left to right: Kerry Landry, Kaleigh Simpson, and Valarie Spencer. Not present: Jonathan Ginnish*

# Promote My Profession Contest

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The Promotion of the Profession Committee is pleased to announce the winners of the second annual Promote My Profession Contest, which was held during Social Work Month. The Committee was receive everyone's submissions and wishes to thank all those who participated for their efforts in promoting the profession.

The winners are as follows:

- Laura Gatien and her office;
- Christa Blizzard; and
- Denise McClure.

## NBASW Committee Vacancies

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Are you looking for ways to get involved in your professional Association? The NBASW has a variety of committees in search of new members! If you would like to join a committee, please send a copy of your resume to [nbasw@nbasw-atsnb.ca](mailto:nbasw@nbasw-atsnb.ca) indicating the committee of interest.

Committee members will be appointed by the NBASW Board of Directors. We look forward to hearing from you!

### **Social Action Committee**

**1 position available**

### **Education Committee**

**3 positions available**

### **Practice Issues, Ethics, and Professional Standards Committee**

**1 position available**

### **Committee of Examiners**

**2 positions available**

### **Complaints and Discipline Committees**

The Complaints and Discipline Committees are still searching for additional members to sit on their rosters, from which members may occasionally be asked to participate in Committee Panels.

# Update from the Education Committee

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The Education Committee would like to inform members that there are currently 3 vacancies on the committee. The Education Committee is currently working on re-doing the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) Policy and would love to have more members on the committee to work on this project.

If you're interested in joining the Education Committee, please contact Keara Grey at [kgrey@nbasw-atsnb.ca](mailto:kgrey@nbasw-atsnb.ca).

## Continuing Education Opportunities

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As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the State of Emergency in New Brunswick, most continuing education workshops and events have been cancelled, postponed or moved online. We are doing our best to keep our calendar of events as updated as possible, however we recommend checking directly with the event organizers if you are unsure about an upcoming event's status.

To find out what continuing education opportunities are available in the coming weeks and months, please visit our [calendar of events by clicking here](#).

## Free Local Resources

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Did you know that organizations across the province have lots of free resources, including newsletters and more? For example, the Collaborative for Healthy Aging and Care has a free newsletter that provides insight into local events, volunteer opportunities, research projects, and more! You can sign up for their newsletter by [clicking here](#).

Have something you'd like to see in the NBASW Newsletter? We're always looking for stories about social workers, events, and more to add. If you've got something you'd like us to include, please email [nbasw@nbasw-atsnb.ca](mailto:nbasw@nbasw-atsnb.ca) with the subject line "Newsletter."