

# Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers

**The role of the  
Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers  
is two-fold. It is a professional association and it is a regulatory body.**

**As a regulatory body**, it is SASW's role to establish, maintain, & develop standards of ethical practice as well as develop skills and competency among its members for the purpose of serving and protecting the public.

It is also the Association's purpose to assert the role of professional social workers, advance their interests and enhance their contribution to social justice. More specifically, SASW advocates for improvement for social policies and programs directly affecting social work clients, publishes a provincial newsletter, and provides tangible benefits and services to its members and the public.

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### SASKATCHEWAN REQUIREMENTS

The **Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers** has ownership of the title "**SOCIAL WORKER**". The title is protected by *The Social Workers Act (1995)*. An individual cannot use this title, unless they are registered with the Association. Many employers require registration in the Association and the title Registered Social Worker (RSW) is recognized as a professional designation.

### REGISTRATION VERIFICATION

New members receive a registration license, membership card, and income tax receipt. Each year a new license will be sent to you upon renewal of your registration. Please keep your income tax receipt in safekeeping as only one receipt will be issued. A registration number is assigned at the time of registration. This number never changes. A listing of registered social workers with registration numbers is posted/updated regularly on the SASW website. A copy of your registration license can be given to an employer or insurance company as proof of registration with SASW. Sign your registration card and place it in your wallet.

## **FEE SCHEDULE FOR NEW MEMBERS**

Please refer to the enclosed sheet for the current fee schedule.

### **VALIDITY OF REGISTRATION**

Registrations are renewed on an annual basis. The fiscal year of SASW is the calendar year (January to December). Fees for first time applicants are prorated in the year they join and are paid annually thereafter. Fees for renewal must be paid by December 1<sup>st</sup> for the upcoming renewal year. Registrations are not transferable/refundable between provinces. Each province has jurisdiction over its members.

### **PREAUTHORIZED DEBIT PLAN**

A monthly preauthorized debit plan is available for full time and part time individuals renewing their registration. If you are interested in paying your fees on a monthly basis as a renewing member, please contact the SASW Office to receive the necessary forms. New members do NOT qualify for the preauthorized debit plan.

### **REINSTATEMENT OF REGISTRATION**

If your registration lapses for more than one year, upon reinstatement, you must pay the full year of registration fee plus a \$50 reinstatement charge. As well, you are required to submit an application for reinstatement, current criminal record check, transcript of marks, curriculum vitae/resume and a letter of reference (on SASW approved form) from a registered social worker or current employer.

### **REGISTERING AS “ASSOCIATE” MEMBER**

An Associate member is a person who supports the objectives of the social work profession and is not eligible for registration with the Association in any other category. Associate members are not deemed eligible for “registered” status nor can they call themselves a “social worker”. As well, they cannot present themselves as benefiting from registration in the Association.

Associate members are entitled to be present as observers at meetings of the Association, but are not entitled to vote or participate in meetings. They are not eligible for election to committees or to Council. Associate members are not listed on the SASW Register.



Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers

Edna Osborne House

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Phone: (306) 545-1922 Toll Free: 1-877-517-7279

Website: [www.sasw.ca](http://www.sasw.ca)

## REGISTRATION/MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA FOR NEW AND REINSTATING REGISTERED SOCIAL WORKERS

Any person who has a certificate, bachelor, master or doctorate in *Social Work* may apply to be registered as a social worker with the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers (SASW). (The Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers accepts only Certificates in Social Work and Indian Social Work from the Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina and from the Northern College where the program was set up by the Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina.)

SASW has been given responsibility for professional self-regulation through *The Social Workers Act*. With this, comes the responsibility for protection of the public and to ensure strict requirements for registration. Accordingly, SASW has a set of specific requirements for applicants to become registered. The requirements to be designated as a **registered social worker** and the privilege of being able to use the title "**social worker**" are set by *The Social Workers Act*, the by-laws of the Association, and SASW Council. Therefore, the following documents/forms must be filed in order to apply for registration with SASW. These documents/forms are to be submitted together in a complete package:

- ◆ Application for registration must be signed;
- ◆ A cheque/money order for the appropriate registration category;
- ◆ An original copy of a current criminal record check (current being not more than six months from date of issue);
- ◆ An original copy of a character reference from a registered social worker or your most recent employer must be provided on the SASW Character Reference Form. In the case of a recent graduate, the SASW form is to be completed by your field practicum supervisor, or by the field practicum coordinator from the university that awarded your degree;
- ◆ A current resume/curriculum vitae which outlines education, employment and volunteer history. Please ensure your resume does not indicate you have been using the title of social worker or registered social worker when you are not entitled to do so. If the title of social worker or registered social worker appears on your resume/curriculum vitae, it must be accompanied by the dates you became registered, the dates registration ceased and the name of the regulatory body that approved the registration.

SASW policy requires that an original **transcript of marks** which indicates the date upon which the social work certificate/degree was conferred be ordered from the academic institution where the certificate/degree was awarded. ***This transcript must be forwarded directly from the academic institution to the SASW Office.*** Once SASW receives the transcript of marks from the academic institution, it will be attached to the application package. Transcripts forwarded by an applicant will not be accepted and will be returned to the applicant.

It is the responsibility of the Registrar to determine the good character of any applicant admitted for registration. The material and information required of applicants is collected so that the Registrar can form a conclusion about the applicant's character and capacity to practice social work with decency, integrity, honesty and in accordance with the law, including but not limited to *The Social Workers Act* and by-laws of the Association.

It is also the policy of SASW to return incomplete applications with a check-list letter indicating what is required before processing can occur. The SASW Office cannot hold partially completed applications, documentation and/or funds without the ability to process them.

Should you have questions regarding the application process, please contact the SASW Office.

**Canadian Degrees** in Social Work must have been received from a program accredited by the Canadian Association of Social Work Educators (CASWE) in Canada on the date the degree was granted.

**American Degrees** in Social Work must have been received from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) in the United States on the date the degree was granted.

**All other degrees**, including the **Federal Republic of Mexico**, must be evaluated by a credential assessment agency approved by the council of the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers (SASW) to be the equivalent of such an accredited program before being eligible for registration.



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# REGISTRATION FEE SCHEDULE

## Effective January 1 - December 31, 2009

(prorated for new members)

<b>FULL TIME</b>		<b>PART TIME</b>	
January 1 – June 30	\$319.00	January 1 – June 30	\$196.00
July 1 – September 30	\$191.40	July 1 <sup>st</sup> – September 30 <sup>th</sup>	\$117.60
October 1 – December 31	\$127.60	October 1 <sup>st</sup> – December 31	\$ 78.40
<b>NON-PRACTICING</b>	\$ 86.00	<b>ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP</b>	\$ 70.00

## Effective January 1 - December 31, 2010

(prorated for new members)

<b>FULL TIME</b>		<b>PART TIME</b>	
January 1 – June 30	\$328.00	January 1 – June 30	\$202.00
July 1 – September 30	\$196.40	July 1 – September 30	\$121.20
October 1 – December 31	\$131.20	October 1 – December 31	\$ 80.80
<b>NON-PRACTICING</b>	\$86.00	<b>ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP</b>	\$70.00

### **Please Note:**

Applicants applying for reinstatement of their registration, do not qualify for prorated fees. A reinstatement applicant must pay the full year of registration fee plus a \$50 reinstatement charge as per the SASW Administrative Bylaws.

## WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU JOIN SASW?

The following are some of the benefits of being a member:

- **Professional Credibility:** A registered social worker has agreed to be held publicly accountable for ethical practice by his/her peers. This distinguishes professional practitioners from technical employees. There are approximately 1,175 registered social workers in Saskatchewan.
- **SASW is a member of the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW):** When you join SASW, you have joined the CASW. Your voice is added to over 14,000 other social workers across Canada to advocate for social justice and professional recognition. CASW is also affiliated with the International Federation of Social Workers and many national groups.
- **SASW is a member of the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB):** This association is an umbrella for the regulation of social work in the United States and eight Canadian social work jurisdictions. It is a central resource for information on social work regulation. SASW was the 7th Canadian province to be accepted for membership.
- **Professional Publications:** Members of SASW receive *The Saskatchewan Social Worker* which is published three times per year by SASW as well as a journal entitled *Canadian Social Worker* and *The Bulletin* which are published by CASW and placed on their website. These publications contain scholarly articles and new information concerning continuing education opportunities. CASW also develops discussion papers, position papers, and policy documents which are available to members on the CASW Website.
- **Insurance:**
  - a) Access to professional liability insurance coverage including civil liability and professional disciplinary coverage.
  - b) Access to term life, long term disability, medical and dental benefits.
  - c) Access to home & car insurance.
- **Advocacy:** The Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers lobbies the provincial government and others in areas such as:

**Professional Status** - SASW lobbies for improvement in the status and recognition of social workers. On the national level, CASW is doing the same. CASW has developed a national private practice roster and has lobbied to gain exemption from charging the GST for social workers and for recognition by private insurance carriers. This would also result in clients being able to deduct private social work fees as a health expense.

**Social Issues** - SASW joins with other groups to develop discussion papers, briefs, and position papers to lobby for the "equitable distribution of societal resources" as required by the CASW *Code of Ethics*. CASW works with the Canadian Council on Social Development and other national groups to advocate for a sound social safety net and for human rights.
- **Annual Conference:** SASW holds an annual conference (usually in April) with the location of the conference alternating between various branches. Membership entitles you to reduced conference rates.
- **Opportunity:** Registration/membership in the Association entitles you to be eligible for election to Council. As well, members have the opportunity to join committees/task teams such as the Aboriginal Social Workers Task Team, Health Issues Task Team, Scholarship Task Team, Discipline Resource Pool, Education Committee, Mentorship Committee, Professional Conduct Committee, Public Relations Committee, Practice Ethics Committee, Social Justice, and Standards of Practice to shape activities of SASW. Members may choose to become actively involved at the Branch level. SASW Branches are located in the following areas: Battlefords, Northeast, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, Swift Current, and Yellowhead East.