



## Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers

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The role of the **Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers** is two fold. It is a professional association with members in many fields of practice 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 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.

### ***Social work your chosen profession: SASW your professional association***

**Congratulations** on choosing the profession of social work. Social work has a long and honourable history of service to individuals, families and communities. Professional education is more than preparing for a job; it is preparing for a professional career. A professional is someone who accepts a code of ethical conduct and agrees to be accountable to the public.

When you graduate, social work will be your profession and the **Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers** is your professional association and regulatory body. The Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers is an alliance of social workers committed to quality service, accountability and mutual support. As a member of the Canadian Association of Social Workers and the International Federation of Social Workers, SASW is dedicated to ensuring that qualified social workers provide competent and ethical services in an accountable manner.

### ***What do you get when you join SASW as a student member?***

- ▶ Network with professionals and future employers
- ▶ Access to copies of the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for Social Work
- ▶ Receive the journal **Canadian Social Work on-line**
- ▶ Be eligible for reductions in SASW conference and workshop fees
- ▶ Receive all newsletters and communications from SASW and CASW
- ▶ Be able to attend & help plan branch activities
- ▶ Have access to programs such as the Mentoring Program
- ▶ Be able to serve on committees through SASW
- ▶ Be eligible for SASW student award
- ▶ Take part in advocacy efforts on behalf of social workers and their clients
- ▶ Free upgrade from student status to registered social worker status in the year that your social work degree is conferred.

### ***Student Membership Verification***

Student members receive a membership card and income tax receipt. Please sign your membership card and place it in your wallet. Your membership number will appear on the SASW listing of registered student members – [www.sasw.ca](http://www.sasw.ca) Your student membership is renewed on an annual basis. The fiscal year of the Association is the calendar year (January to December). Fees for renewal must be paid by December 1<sup>st</sup> for the upcoming renewal year. Memberships are not transferable between provinces. Each province has jurisdiction over its members. Not all provinces offer a student membership category.

### ***Upgrading From Student To Registered Social Worker***

Student members shall upgrade from student to “Registered Social Worker” in the year that they convocate. You are required to complete the SASW Application for Registered Social Worker & submit the following documents:

- ▶ A transcript of marks must be ordered from the academic institution where you received your social work degree. This transcript, showing that your degree has been awarded/conferred must come directly to the SASW Office.
- ▶ A character reference completed by your field practicum supervisor or the field practicum coordinator. This reference must be submitted on the SASW approved form and must be the original copy.
- ▶ An original criminal record check that is current within the last six months
- ▶ A resme/curriculum vitae which outlines education, employment & volunteer history

Individuals, who were student members of SASW one semester prior to their date of convocation, will be upgraded to a registered social worker free of charge.

### ***Are Social Workers Required to be Registered in Saskatchewan?***

The *Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers* has ownership of the title “**SOCIAL WORKER**”. The title is protected by ***An Acting Respecting Social Workers (1993)***. Only registered members of SASW may use the title SOCIAL WORKER or the REGISTERED SOCIAL WORKER designation. Many employers require registration in the Association and the Registered Social Worker (RSW) is recognized as a professional designation.

Student members **MAY NOT** use the designation SOCIAL WORKER or REGISTERED SOCIAL WORKER.