



David Macknak, BA, MSW, RSW (Sask.)

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

2006 CASW Award for Distinguished Service for the Province of Saskatchewan

David completed his Master of Social Work 1967 at St. Pat's College, University of Ottawa (now known as Carleton University). He has been an incredible inspiration to many and has provided outstanding leadership in the social work community. SASW would like to draw particular attention to the Family Support Centre in Saskatoon. Through David's vision, a program was created that challenged many to think about traditional government programming through a different lens. David is a proactive thinker, and the Family Support Centre was able to put forward programs which worked on a preventative level with families and supported alternatives to the use of violence in families. The Centre has had a profound positive impact on thousands of people. As a result, a much envied work place was created, an environment that supported the vision of a healthier Saskatoon. The practitioners at this centre were supported in harnessing creativity and creating programs that were unique across the nation.

David has a lengthy history serving the province of Saskatchewan, starting in 1962 as a Financial Assistance Worker, and continued work with the Department of Social Services in virtually every role, including probation, child welfare work, various supervision roles with Corrections and Family Services and that of Acting Regional Manager (Department of Social Services - Saskatoon), and Provincial Program Coordinator in the Young Offenders and Family Services Program areas leading into his retirement. David also had the opportunity to teach with the Welfare Worker Training Program at Kelsey Institute throughout the 1970s. From 1996 to 2003, David also provided sessional lecturer services for the Faculty of Social Work, University of Regina, primarily teaching an Ethics class.

David's "post-retirement" work has included consultant work for various organizations and projects including the Department of Community Resources, First Nations Policing Issues, Saskatchewan Foster Families Inc., and he has acted as the Coordinator and Reviewer for the Children and Youth in Care Review for the Saskatchewan Children's Advocate Office. David is currently working as a consultant with the Meadow Lake Tribal Council, Indian Child and Family Services Agency.

David has been active with SASW on several committees throughout the years such as the Ethics committee and the Advocacy Task Team. He is also the SASW representative of the National CASW Committee on Children's Needs. In his "spare time," David and his wife Anne, assist the Saskatoon Open Door Society in the settlement of Immigrants and Refugees to Canada. David also provides volunteer consultation on program development with NGO's and First Nations agencies.

David is a loyal husband and father. He wholeheartedly involves himself in the upbringing of his three grandchildren. In his “spare time”, he supports the holistic health of family and friends by sharing his homemade bread, wine and stew. He keeps his own well-being intact through his “secret writings,” which the rest of us would refer to as poetry! David is a great philosopher and is also well known for his extensive home library.

David has given unconditionally of himself through his formal work relationships and his many volunteer roles over the years. He is humble by nature and deeply thoughtful in his demeanor. SASW is very pleased to see David receive the CASW award for Distinguished Service Award for the Province of Saskatchewan.