

MEMBERS

- **Total North American Regional Members: 130,531**
- Number of NASW current members: 111,531
- New NASW Members: Net gain 96 members
- New NASW Applications: NA
- Number of CASW Partner Organization members: 20,000

GOOD PRACTICES DEVELOPED IN THE REGION

- (United States) Integrative Behavioral Healthcare
- (United States) Social Work HEALS Scholars Program—funding extended for 1 year. A collaborative endeavor with CSWE. The objective is to strengthen delivery of health care in the U.S. by advancing education and training of social workers.
- (United States) Trauma Informed Practice continues to gain ground as a key approach to mental health treatment and will be especially needed during these times of heightened depression and anxiety due to struggle for racial equity and the co-occurring COVID-19.
- (United States) NASW National and Chapters advanced social justice and social welfare by offering informative educational and knowledge building webinars: racism, COVID-19, voting rights, gun safety, family separation.
- (Canada) *Social Justice and Advocacy in Action* CASW continues to press for a new direction on reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous Peoples through implementation by the government and people of Canada of the Calls to Action in the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We continue to advocate for and support equity in, but not limited to, education, child welfare, health service delivery and treatment before the courts for Indigenous Peoples in recognition of our shortcomings as a country to guarantee and implement these rights set out in *The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. We support the comprehensive nature of the report of the National Inquiry Into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The 231 recommendations affirm social work's holistic understanding of well-being by acknowledging the role of the social determinants of health and Canada's social and political systems in ending violence faced by indigenous peoples, Indigenous women and girls in particular and for Two-Spirit LGBTQIA individuals. To this end, CASW issued a statement

of apology and commitment to Canada's Indigenous Peoples. Fehler! Linkreferenz ungültig.

- (Canada) *Statements* CASW also releases statements to help forward a progressive agenda in Canadian social policy and in support of allies in Canada and North America. Most recently, CASW issued a statement of our stand in solidarity with the Association of Black Social Workers' *Declaration of Systemic Racism* in Canada. CASW also stands in solidarity with NASW's statement on lethal police action against African Americans and in support of NASW's own statements on social concerns. We recognize our responsibilities in the elimination of racism.

CASW continues our advocacy in improving long term care for people in Canada. In particular, CASW provided recommendations for responding to the staggering effects COVID-19 had on our health care system, particularly in long-term care homes across Canada. We support recommendations from the Canadian Nurses' Association, the Canadian Medical Association and are partnering with other Allies in Health to address the significant deficits in health care revealed during the ongoing pandemic.

A statement titled *Ending Mandatory Minimum for Drug Offences* was released in May 2020 to address the devastating and ongoing impact of the opioid crisis and the often-negative impacts of continued criminalization of substance use.

A statement by the Extended Healthcare Professionals Coalition (EHPC), in April 2020 called for a joint technical briefing on newly introduced programs for businesses, employers and individuals as part of the COVID-19 Economic Response Plan to help mitigate the economic impact of the pandemic.

- (Canada) *Member Services* CASW and its Federation partners continue in the revision of the CASW Code of Ethics and Guidelines and in the accordance with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in a spirit of reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous peoples. A revision of the Scope of Practice continues also. CASW offers free national webinars to all partners in the Federation, including topics on policy, practice issues, clinical social work and indigenous knowledge in addition to current topics relevant to issues such as the opioid crisis, aging, child welfare, racial injustice and COVID-19. During the 1919-2020 fiscal year, 49 webinars were delivered to provide 55 hours of continuing education to a total of 21,567 registrants. www.casw-acts.ca

As a unified national voice for Canadian social workers, the Intersectoral Committee represents social work education, regulation and the professional associations in Canada, working in partnership to strengthen and improve the profession.

- (Canada) *Strengthening the Profession* Funding from the Government of Canada is being utilized to review CASW's assessment service for internationally trained social workers for the purpose of registration in Canada; 261 were completed in fiscal year 1919-2020. A new publication for members, *The Social Worker*, planned for a launch in the Fall of 2020, will inform members on CASW

developments and support social work practice with evidence based practice solutions.

- (Canada) COVID-19 The novel corona virus has challenged social workers across the world. In Canada, social workers increased therapeutic and support services through electronic means. In addition, the crisis has allowed some employees access to social work services through enhancements to employee health plans. CASW has issued regular updates on the status of COVID-19 across Canada and social work news related to the pandemic. In support of our members curing COVID-19 and in recognition of the stressors and concerns of remaining safe and ensuring safety of vulnerable clients and of working largely in isolation from home and not being able to continue social work in their usual practice, CASW created a moderated Facebook page for social workers during the pandemic. Over 900 social workers are members.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

NASW Conferences

- NASW Chapters (U.S.) Offered a variety of chapter conferences since June 2019. Several occur in the fall and each year and many are presented in the Spring during Social Work Month which occurs in March. This year's theme was Social Workers: Generations Strong. Many chapters pivoted to having virtual conferences due to COVID-19 and lock down orders. For more information please visit the NASW Chapter Highlights web page <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Chapters/Chapter-Highlights>

The NASW 2020 National Conference in-person conference scheduled for June 15-17 was moved to a virtual format with a plan to have an in-person conference next year. The key focus was racial equity.

CASW Conferences

- CASW held its Annual General Meeting and Federation meeting as a virtual meeting on June 26, 2020. Other events usually held at this time were postponed due to the pandemic.
- The highly anticipated SWSD2020 Calgary conference in partnership between IFSW and the University of Calgary's Faculty of Social work was cancelled due to the dangers of the pandemic and the significant restrictions and difficulties in travel whether within Canada, North American or the world.

- CASW supports members of its Federation partners with transfers of scholarship funds to the partners for their distribution and to individual social workers at the national level wishing to attend conferences focused on issues of social justice. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these opportunities have been limited.
- The Association of Black Social Workers held a 40th Anniversary celebration and conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia in the fall of 2019. CASW is deeply appreciative of the invitation issued to our President to celebrate the role of Black social workers in exposing and confronting racism in Canada.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE REGION

National Association of Social Workers

- **Integrating Social Care Into Health Care Delivery** – NASW played a significant leadership role in securing the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine’s Consensus Study Report *Integrating Social Care into the Delivery of Health Care*, released September 25, 2019, the report’s findings highlight the critical role social workers play in improving our nation’s health. We will continue our ongoing efforts to leverage this study for membership engagement, advancing the profession, and addressing health disparities. There is emphasis on the Social Determinants of Health. To read the report, go to
- <http://nationalacademies.org/hmd/Reports/2019/integrating-social-care-into-the-delivery-of-health-care>.
- **Social Work Votes Coalition** with the Nancy A. Humphries Institute for Political Social Work (ongoing)
- **Advocacy for the Workplace Violence Prevention for Healthcare and Social Service Workers Act**
- **Advocacy for compassionate immigration policy**, opposing Trump Administration on new regulations that overturn protections for immigrant children.
- **Development of a workforce data center** in collaboration with the Council for Social Work Education and the American Social Work Board
- **Advocacy for the First Step Act legislation for Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform**
- **NASW Foundation Social Work Pioneers 25th Anniversary Celebration.** November 1-2, 2019. Twenty-six new Pioneers were inducted who have made special contributions to the field.
- **Social Work Month** –
- **“Social Workers: Generations Strong** was the theme for Social Work month, March 2020. With a special commitment to educate the public and media about social work.
- NASW completed participation on the development of the American Psychiatric Association’s Task Force for Interprofessional Collaboration. The group produced

a set of principles to guide the care of individuals with serious mental illness.

Canadian Association of Social Workers

- Social Work Month -This demonstrates the impact of social work as a profession and on the lives of individuals to educate the public and media about professional social work practice
- “Hill Day” National Social Work Month – a shared reception with prominent social workers in Canada’s Senate combined with office visits to elected officials responsible for social policy and health in addition to visits with members of the Opposition parties to share our vision for Canada.
- Invitations to our President, Board Members, Executive Director and Director of Strategy and Policy to speak at conferences, coalitions and alliances.
- CASW continues its active role in alliances and advocacy with advocates for social justice and ongoing improvement in the lives of the people of Canada.

CHALLENGES and SOCIAL ACTION IN THE REGION

COVID-19

- (Canada) COVID-19 has challenged social workers across the world. CASW issues regular reports on the status of COVID-19 across Canada and social work news related to the pandemic. **Fehler! Linkreferenz ungültig.** We acknowledge the impact on social workers of working in situations of exposure to the virus and the impact on social workers who practice with vulnerable peoples for the impact on their ability to meet clients privately and in safety.
- (USA) Social workers are serving on frontlines due to their professional roles in a variety of practice settings. Social workers are also having to adapt to Telehealth environments very quickly which has been challenging on a number of fronts. NASW has worked hard to provide support and resources as exemplified in the following resources:

Coronavirus (COVID-19) 8 Ethical Considerations

<https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Ethics-Education-and-Resources/Ethics-8/Coronavirus-8-Ethical-Considerations-for-Social-Workers>

Podcast: Supporting Seniors During Social Distancing

<https://www.socialworkers.org/News/Social-Work-Talks-Podcast/EP49-Supporting-Seniors-During-Social-Distancing>

Self-Care During the Coronavirus-Pandemic

<https://www.socialworkers.org/News/Social-Work-Talks-Podcast/EP48-Self-Care-During-the-Coronavirus-Pandemic>

COVID 19 Political Advocacy

<https://www.socialworkers.org/Advocacy/Policy-Issues/COVID-19-Advocacy>

Additional COVID-19 Resources

<https://www.socialworkers.org/Practice/Infectious-Diseases/Coronavirus/Learn-About-Coronavirus>

In addition, NASW has endeavored to produce a variety of podcasts and articles that particularly focus on social work's role in promoting mental health care.

Former NASW Maryland Social Worker of the Year Darryl Webster

[Staying Mentally Healthy During a Pandemic](#)

Lynn Hagan

[How to deal with disasters such as the coronavirus](#)

[Preparing Your Family for a Pandemic](#)

Lindsay Brine

[Podcast: Supporting Seniors During Social Distancing](#)

Kristin Lee

[Self-Care for Social Workers During the Coronavirus Pandemic](#) (this advice also applies to non-social workers)

Black Lives Matter and Social Action Across the USA and Canada

Canada

CASW stands in support of the marches and demonstrations by Canadians acknowledging the struggles of our American neighbours peacefully protesting violence against Black Americans in their homes, on the streets and during public demonstrations as citizens. We acknowledge the injustices experienced by Canadians who are Indigenous, Black and people of colour and stand in support with them. As a profession, we are pledged to continue in opposing and eliminating racism.

USA

NASW is approaching the racism that was so brutally demonstrated by the killing by a police officer of George Floyd, and others before him, as a “second pandemic.” Racism has long been with us as a country that was largely built on slave labor. The Floyd murder, captured on video, provided a galvanizing moment for our country, and our association will fight for racial justice in everyday we can. We are appreciative of our Canadian colleagues and those around the world who have expressed solidarity with the fight for racial equity.

The following issues continue to be challenges to the North American Region

- Racism
- Gun Violence; the United States and Canada deal with the impact of gun violence
- Opioid Epidemic; deaths and addiction as a result of easily obtainable opioids in North America
- Immigration and treatment of children
- Abortion Rights and access to service are issues of concern in the United States and Canada
- 2020 National Elections – US