



PROFILE AND CURRICULUM VITAE OF NOMINEE

This profile and Curriculum Vitae is an IFSW Bylaws requirement and informs voting members of your experience and abilities for the position. It also provides valuable information for the IFSW office. By completing and signing it you are agreeing to be a nominee for this position. Please ensure that the completed form is no longer than five (5) pages using a Times New Roman 12 font and with margins no smaller than 0.75 cm on each side.

IFSW Position to which you seek nomination

Member-at-large North America

Candidate's Name and Country

Janice (Jan) Christianson-Wood Canada

Social Work and Other Educational Qualifications (include institution and date)

Bachelor of Arts, University of Manitoba 1975

Bachelor of Social Work, University of Manitoba, 1990

Master of Social Work, University of Manitoba, 1995

Professional Affiliations

Canadian Association of Social Workers

Manitoba College of Social Workers

Manitoba Institute of Registered Social Workers (predecessor to the College)

Professional Leadership Experience over the past decade

(For a complete Professional Experience see Curriculum vitae)

For most of my social work career, I have worked in child welfare, in child protection service and more specifically in the investigation of deaths of children associated with the child welfare system. Later, I worked in one of the four administrative Authorities for child welfare in Manitoba with a particular focus on improving practice in the assessment of safety and risk with respect to the reports of children in need of protection.

During the past ten years, I have had a number of roles, both at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and at the General Child and Family Services Authority where, as a Senior Manager, I supervised other workers in the oversight of a number of child welfare organizations in Manitoba. I later served the General Authority as Inquiry Coordinator at a public inquiry into the death of a child, representing the Authority when and as needed.

I have spoken to social work classes about the practice of social work, risk assessment and the regulation of social work practice.

National Association and Leadership Experience over the past decade

Canadian Association of Social Workers, Treasurer, current
Canadian Association of Social Workers, Vice President 2011-2015
Canadian Association of Social Workers, Board member, 2009 to present
Canadian Association of Social Workers, National Chair, Children's Issues Interest Group 2007 -2011

Manitoba College of Social Workers, Vice President, 2015 to current
Vice President, Transition Board of the Manitoba College of Social Workers, 2015-2014
Manitoba Institute of Registered Social Workers, President, 2014

- My passion for social justice and for the regulation of social work for public accountability and to aid in the growth of the profession led me to become involved in the provincial and national social work organizations in Canada.
- Being on the CASW Board has given me opportunities to participate in making positive change through consultation, cooperation and innovation.
- Learning to lead through service at the provincial and national levels has allowed me to experience the organizational experience of leadership. I have been fortunate to be on the CASW Board when Darlene MacDonald and later Morel Caissie have been Presidents.

Community/Volunteer and Leadership Experience over the past decade

In recent years, I have been on a local animal rescue Board and assisted in local events for an international organization for children. I have regularly canvassed for organizations raising funds for medical research.

Are you aware of the description, role and responsibilities attached to the position you wish to have within the IFSW Executive?

Yes

If the answer is YES, please respond to the following questions:

a) What are the three most important responsibilities towards IFSW:

- Develop more active policies and position statements and influence the world's social agenda
- Provide enhanced support for national member organizations and regions.
- Generate new sources of revenue that would enable us to extend our activities and provide financial support to member organizations and regions.

b) What are the three most important responsibilities towards your Region:

- Leading the development of regional structure and operations consistent with OFSW constitution and bylaws.
- Attend IFSW Executive committee and General Meetings to represent the region and to contribute to the accomplishment of IFSW global action plan goals.
- In consultation with the IFSW President/Secretary General act as IFSW spokesperson and representative in regional events, activities, and developing networks with regional institutions.

c) What are the three most important responsibilities towards your national association?

- Provide leadership to encourage and support communication, exchange of information, and collaboration in meetings between member organizations in the regions.
- Ensure that there are regional nominations and election processes for the purpose of electing of members of the regional executive or committee.
- Promote collaboration between CASW and IFSW

Please demonstrate:

• **Commitment to the goals of IFSW as laid down in the Constitution**

As President of the Canadian Association of Social Workers I am strongly committed to the goals of IFSW, and in my capacity as Canadian President I intend to follow in the footsteps of my predecessors in supporting our association's involvement and commitment to IFSW and its goals.

• **Leadership in your professional organization**

As a member of the CASW Executive I believe that social workers at the national level have a role to play in important social issues affecting our country. Being on the national Executive provides opportunities to influence decision makers to bring social justice to the forefront in national discussions on the poverty, inequity and violence toward women.

• **Leadership in your country or internationally in promoting social welfare**

CASW is a national leader in promoting social welfare and the President regularly provides comment or responds to inquiries about important social issues in our country.

• **Possession of professional qualifications**

Social worker should possess professional qualifications in social worker education, engaged in ongoing professional development and participate as members of a regulated profession.

- **Possession of language(s) capabilities (preferably bilingual)**

I am working to regain my competence in French; I studied it in university but was unable to maintain competence working in a predominantly English environment.

- **Identification with the region you represent, mainly by residence, work experiences, and knowledge of the main language(s) spoken in the region**

I live and reside in Manitoba in the capitol city of Winnipeg, I also lived in northern Ontario, in rural Manitoba in a small city and in a remote northern area of Manitoba. The language spoken these areas is predominantly English and is the language of business and education in these areas.

- **Practical wisdom and objective interest in international affairs**

My interest in international affairs stems from both my parents being first generation Canadians as is my husband a first generation Canadian. We are, apart from the indigenous peoples, a nation of immigrants and international affairs should be, and often is, of great interest to us as a people. As a 'western Icelander' I maintain a connection to my grandparents' country through relatives but also through accounts of its history and economy. To me, having an objective interest in international affairs means following current events through a number of reputable sources in order to attempt to understand the events unfolding on the international scene. My personal lens for news is social justice and feminism.

I'm not entirely certain what is mean by "practical wisdom" other than you can't always believe that you read in the news, most sources have a bias and it's helpful to know this when searching for information. From personal research, I know that a story by a reputable source in a reputable newspaper may have absolutely no basis in fact or reality. I kept this article for years as a reminder that because something is written (or reported) doesn't make it truth.

- **Willingness and capacity to devote time to assume work responsibilities in the Executive or Regional Committee**

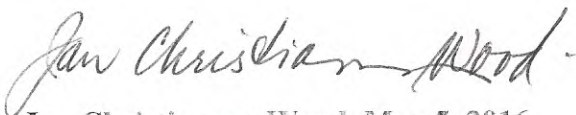
Yes, I am committed to devoting time to assume to the responsibilities of the executive committee

- **Ability, in so far as possible, to attend Executive or Regional Committee meetings**

Yes, I am able to attend Executive Committee meetings

- **Participation, so far as possible, as delegate of the General Meeting or attendance at IFSW Conferences**

Yes, I will be an official delegate at the General Meeting and attend the IFSW Conference.



Jan Christianson-Wood, May 5, 2016