

## **CANSW PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Welcome to Saskatoon! For our 41st conference, we are delighted to be in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, for “Navigating Diversity”. The 2019 Conference Planning Committee, under the leadership of Tricia Hutton, has been working diligently to prepare an exceptional program, which includes participation by Elders. Following the AGM, there will also be a roundtable discussion where members can provide feedback to the Executive and help us envision future directions.

As we begin our conference, Navigating Diversity, in the prairie heartland of the country, we come together to learn and deepen our understanding of indigenous issues and to celebrate best practices. Across Canada, there is a growing awareness about the imperative of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. This is particularly relevant and meaningful in this place, where as of 2016, 16.3% of the population is Indigenous. It is also significant in the context of anti-immigration currents in our country and the world. CANSW members face these issues on the front lines, one patient at a time. Nephrology Social Workers are engaged in a tremendous range of psychosocial issues related to patient care. The issues patients face are increasingly complex and challenging, highlighting the importance and necessity of our role. In such a context, there is a great need for professional development and renewal, both of which will be provided by participation in this conference. I would also like to acknowledge the incredible events of Climate Action Week and the inspiring leadership of youth around the world, significantly at the UN this week. Given that tomorrow is the last day of this global event, I am hopeful we can do something as a group to demonstrate our solidarity.

As I complete my final term as President, I would like to thank you all for the privilege of serving as the President of the CANSW Executive for the past 4 years. Together, we have completed a lot of work over the years. Last year, when we celebrated our 40th Anniversary, I reported that the Executive had updated our Renal Social Work Staffing Recommendations by Treatment Modality. Since then, we have been very busy - we completed a modernization of our website and launched CANSW on multiple social media platforms. We updated our policies and procedures along the way and work was recently completed to integrate our standards of practice and staffing recommendations into one document, utilizing some of the tools from the NKF's Council of Nephrology Social Workers. It is my great pleasure to announce that our new and improved website will go live in October! For now, I'm happy to share a sneak peek.

As CANSW President, I also represented you on the Kidney Foundation's National Programs and Public Policy Committee. This is an engaged, productive committee and a great way for CANSW to have a voice and make a contribution at a national level. It is my pleasure to pass the torch to Corinne MacNab, VP and soon to be President, who will take over for me on this important committee.

I commend the work of Tricia Hutton and the Conference Planning Committee who made this wonderful conference possible and the Executive for all the work completed this past year. I also commend the hard work each of you do as Nephrology Social workers across the county. I wish each of you a stimulating, uplifting experience in the days ahead. Thank you for attending this conference and AGM and best wishes to the incoming Executive.

Sincerely,  
Michelle

Michelle Jensen, MSW, RSW, CANSW President [Michelle.jensen@nshealth.ca](mailto:Michelle.jensen@nshealth.ca)

## CANSW VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello everyone. It's been a busy year behind the scenes. We're excited to be able to introduce the new CANSW website to you all, and have it officially up and running after the conference!

The executive has also been busy updating all the information on the website (Policies and Procedures, Standards of Practice, Staffing Guidelines), as well as launching ourselves into the twenty-first century with the help and support of Sarah Allen and Veronica Javier, who have linked us with Zoom for tele-conferencing, and Veronica who has opened accounts for us with Twitter, Facebook, Linked in and Instagram.

Our executive team worked closely with the consultant who designed our website, so we were able to personalize it with pictures of past conferences, social work images, mission statement and links to helpful resources. We hope you enjoy it, and also find it useful for our practice and networking.

Veronica Javier has made us all proud by carrying on with the vision Sonya, Jane and I had of one Regional Representative in Ontario. She organized our first-in-a-long time-Regional/Provincial meeting in Ontario. We hope this will be the first in a continuing series of meetings designed to help us pull together again, to be able to support each other regarding Ontario Renal Network initiatives, and advocacy efforts specific to Ontario.

This year we also introduced the quarterly "Report from the CANSW exec" in order to keep members more informed, and as part of a larger strategy to engage more Ontario social workers generally, to become CANSW members. I hope you are finding this useful.

I am looking forward to a successful CANSW conference again, this year in Saskatoon, Sask. I am excited that it's in Saskatoon since it's our first ever CANSW conference in Sask, and as a bonus I get to stay with my best friend who lives there, and have a bit of vacation after the conference.

In terms of planning for future conferences, efforts are being made to partner with other organizations, like CANNT, for example, in order to best utilize scarce resources. We may also look at piggy-backing onto another existing conference with an addictions/mental health focus to enhance our learning. I think we're all feeling out of our depth with all the concurrent diagnoses these days.

You will have seen an e-mail inviting submissions to the CANNT journal. I encourage anyone interested to participate - CANNT members are willing and happy to learn from our collective expertise, and are happy to mentor first time writers/submitters.

It's been a whirlwind year, but it's been exciting too. I look forward to continuing to build our capacity, enhance our partnerships, and grow our membership with a strong executive team.

Respectfully submitted, Corinne MacNab, MSW, RSW,  
[CJMacNab@osmh.on.c](mailto:CJMacNab@osmh.on.c)

## ONTARIO REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

CANSW successfully moved our national teleconference meetings modality to the online platform, Zoom. This allowed CANSW Ontario Region to pilot its first online regional meeting that was conducted on August 26. Its success will allow other regions to facilitate their own regional meetings and allow Nephrology Social Workers to connect across the county. More to come!

The Ontario Renal Plan III from the Ontario Renal Network (ORN) for 2018-23 was formally introduced. Fellow CANSW member Shirley Pulkkinen presented the details of the rollout plan during our regional teleconference call. We learned the importance and the focus of ORN on the mental health of our patients and families. The spotlight on mental health will empower Nephrology Social Workers to further highlight our specialized skills in developing responsive programs and services for our patients and families.

The ORN is also continuing on with the Patient Centered Decision Making (PCDM) Project. Many Nephrology Social Workers have also been put on the spotlight as clinical leads for their programs. The additional workload however, has facilitated strong conversations among teams on how to better operationalize this project with the support and assistance of all medical professionals. Looking ahead, the ORN have also put a call-out to programs who are interested in piloting their renal palliative care program via the Comprehensive Conservative Pathway. Social workers will surely play a lead role in the development of a province-wide palliative care approach to renal care!

Ontario Nephrology Social Workers also mobilized and worked with Shannon Fogarasi at the Kidney Foundation to successfully advocate for the continuation of the out-of-country dialysis coverage from the Minister of Health! Our advocacy efforts helped unify nephrology practitioners and uplift the voices and stories of our patients and their families. The Kidney Foundation, Ontario region is now working with Nephrology Social Workers again to bring to light the issues our patients and families face accessing reliable and safe transportation to dialysis. Nephrology Social Workers are encouraged to continue sharing their patient's stories and challenges with the Kidney Foundation so that we can continue working together towards the betterment of our patients and their families lives!

It has been a remarkable year in Ontario. There continues to be several opportunities in Ontario for Nephrology Social Workers to play central roles, agitate, mobilize and advocate for our patients and their families. We have Nephrology Social Workers in the front lines, and at the table in the ORN and the Kidney Foundation. It's an exciting time in our province for Nephrology Social Workers. I am looking forward to, and filled with such pride to continue to represent Ontario and Nephrology Social Workers in the months to come!

Sincerely,

Veronica Javier, M.S.W., R.S.W.

[vjavier@shn.ca](mailto:vjavier@shn.ca)

## SASKATCHEWAN/MANITOBA REGIONAL REPORT

As I complete my 3<sup>rd</sup> year as the representative for Saskatchewan and Manitoba I must say that I am so thankful for the support and encouragement that I see each day through our CANSW community. CANSW is truly such a wonderful resource for brainstorming and information.

In Saskatchewan this year we have been heavily focused on planning the 41<sup>st</sup> annual CANSW conference: "Navigating Diversity" and we are so excited to be hosting such an incredible conference. Our hope is that this is a conference you won't soon forget. A few highlights of the conference will be guest speaker Erin Beckwell who will present on "Becoming Trauma-Informed: Reducing Barriers to Care and Promoting Resilience" as well as "Getting Uncomfortable for the Sake of the Patients: Navigating the Messy Journey of Cultural Humility and Cultural Safety". We also have presentations scheduled from Out Saskatoon, The Kairos Blanket Exercise and Carmen Levandorski presenting on "Nîsohkamâtowak – "Helping Each Other".

In Saskatoon our goal of 30% of dialysis patients being successful with a home based therapy has been almost reached. As a result this goal has been increased to 35%. In the last year we have also initiated an assisted Peritoneal Dialysis program and are excited to see some of the barriers to home based therapy removed as a result.

While we are pleased to see the number of patients successful with a home based therapy grow we are also continuing to experience growth in our in-center dialysis units. As in most provinces the challenge to meet the demand for dialysis treatments remains. In response to this the Saskatchewan Provincial Government announced that a new satellite unit should be open within the year in Meadow Lake. This will significantly reduce the travel time and improve the quality of life for many of our patients.

It is business as usual in Regina with Chronic Kidney Disease and Home Dialysis Programs. One of our new initiatives is our Renal Patient Rounds. Representatives from each of our Renal Programs (in-center dialysis, CKD, Home Hemo and Transplant) gather in-person every two weeks for patient review. This allows for some clear and up to date conversations about patients that are moving between programs and how we as a renal team might best support them. This has been a welcomed addition to our practice and we are already seeing benefits of improved services to our patients.

In August of 2018 the Saskatchewan Health Authority unveiled the new Organ & Tissue Donation Program – the team consists of 6 donor coordinators & 4 donor physicians. This program has started in Saskatoon, with intentions to roll out to Regina in 2019-2020. The Team is responsible to assist families in their consideration and facilitation of donation during the loss of a loved one. They are also available to provide organ and tissue donation awareness and education to staff and public.

The SK Transplant Program continues, 30 years strong, to provide support to patients pre and post kidney transplant, to provide education about living kidney donation and the facilitation of living kidney donation between pairs, and to manage the care of SK residents and families who must travel out of province for adult liver, pediatric liver, heart, lung and pancreas transplants. The arrival of the new Organ & Tissue Donation Program has allowed SK the opportunity to extend further awareness to the province about the importance of donation.

Submitted by: Tricia Hutton BSW, RSW  
[Tricia.hutton@saskhealthauthority.ca](mailto:Tricia.hutton@saskhealthauthority.ca)

## ATLANTIC/QUEBEC REGIONAL REPORT

The Atlantic Region encompasses several provinces including Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec and Nunavut.

Social workers in the Atlantic regions continue to provide social work services across continuum of care and modalities – Renal Clinic to Transplant.

The Nephrology Social Workers in this region continue to supervise social work students interested in the field of Medical Social Work, particularly Nephrology.

Nova Scotia: The Nova Scotia Renal Program is faced with major capacity issues across the province. Nephrology social work is now providing exclusively outpatient Nephrology coverage. Transplant Atlantic conference is scheduled for Oct. 25/19 with social workers attending. The Kidney Walks in the Atlantic Regions were postponed due to Hurricane Dorian.

Cape Breton: The Cape Breton Renal Program continues to evolve. A new satellite unit in Glace Bay, NS will be opening this year. The patient population continues to grow in the Cape Breton area and there is ongoing challenges in providing dialysis for people near their home communities resulting in waitlists and people dealing with the social and emotional impact of being away from home and supports. Two communities in rural Cape Breton have been running a Community Bus for those without transportation for medical appointments, groceries, etc. with great success. As the population in Cape Breton ages we are seeing more elderly people starting dialysis with more age related illnesses.

Halifax: Expansions are underway in Dartmouth and Kentville and there is continued growth in home therapies. Dartmouth satellite patients will be transferred to Halifax in October so that renovation/expansion can be completed more quickly. Trial of NxStage is starting in October. A new coverage model for Social work – 2 FTE's in-Centre (VG and HI), satellite patients + home dialysis (PD and HHD) and donor assessments. 1 FTE for Renal clinic and post-Transplant clinic and recipient assessments.

PEI update: After much dedication from Diane Levesque and her team, a pilot project will be in place for the Pedals Program in January 2020. They have partnered with the University of PEI kinesiology exercise physiology program to start this program.

Thank you to my colleagues for regional updates.

Respectfully submitted: Anna Deveaux, MSW, RSW  
Cape Breton Regional Hospital  
Anna.deveaux@nshealth.ca

## ALBERTA/NWT REPORT

This year, the Alberta Kidney Care program honored different events that celebrated care and support of Nephrology teams in both north and south of Alberta.

The yearly event of Kidney Days, combined between both the northern team (Edmonton division) and southern team (Calgary division) was held this year in Calgary on March 13/19 having sessions related to the theme of 'Partnership for Quality Kidney Care'. Various topics such as; 'Financial Burden of Chronic Kidney Disease'; 'Amputation Prevention in Hemodialysis Patients; Improving Quality of Care Pathways' and keynote speaker Dr. Adeera Levin, University of British Columbia presented on Kidney Health and Disease in Canada and Global Opportunities and Challenges.

Next year, the 2020 one day conference will be held back in Edmonton.

A Living Organ Donor Appreciation Night – ALTRA donor program organized an event to honor those who have been given a gift of life, through stories, photos and organ donation awareness. This program comes together to discuss and work on extensive diagnostics, medical appointments, and other necessary tests to determine potential living donors who can donate their kidneys.

The popular, and always sold out yearly event, The Kidney March hosted by Alberta Kidney South/Kidney Foundation was a great success were participants, crew and patients/families marched, tented, and fundraised for kidney related issues, research and care. This three day event from K-country to Calgary fundraised just over \$1.4 million. Amazing work!!

A shout out to the Chronic Kidney Clinic and Alberta Kidney Care North who was one out of 23 recipients selected to win the 2019 President's Excellence Award by demonstrating innovation, research and collaboration with patient centered care. Attending physician Dr. Davidson, part of the Kidney North team rolled out the Conservative Care Management program that will be provincial wide in the next few years. Congratulations to the team of CKD!!

And finally, our colleague and respected social worker Neil Thompson, announced he will be retiring from his position as the Team Lead with the Kidney South Team in October 2019. Neil has been a great advocate and support for his team in Calgary as well as with CASNW, leaving a mark that will not be forgotten. Best wishes for your non-social work adventures Neil - you will be missed!

Aman Dhaliwal  
Renal Social Worker  
Alberta Kidney Care-North  
Aman.Dhaliwal@albertahealthservices.ca

**Financial Statements- Fiscal Year (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019)**  
**TREASURER REPORT**

**1-2018 CANSW Conference (Orillia, ON)**

***Income:***

Sponsors: \$15648.74 (\$14 211.38 plus Otsuka paid for a portion of meals at venue: \$1437.36)

Registrations: \$ 12664.89 (registration and accommodation)

Total conference income: \$28313.63

***Expenses:***

Venue: 15 999.68 (*meals, accommodation, venue*)

Speakers: \$1097.60

Poster Presentations: \$0

Assistance to Members: \$300 (2 daily rates)

Complementary (complimentary) therapies: \$1200

Incidentals (conference bags, liquor, thank you cards etc): 1360.30

Total conference Expenses: \$19 957.58

+ \$8 356.05

*\*2019 Conference (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan) financial statement- to be provided at the 2020 AGM.*

**2-General Income and Expense Statements:**

Income:

Membership Registrations: \$4335

Total income: \$4335

Expenses:

Website Hosting: \$0 (paid 2 year term last year)

Website Management: \$711.90

Listserv Management and website administration: \$250 (to CANSW member)

Teleconferencing Fees: \$2817.01 (PGI)

Teleconferencing Fees: \$160.48 (Zoom) \*

PayPal fees: \$365.75

Office Expenses: \$ 0

Other: \$155.04 (NKF membership for listserv moderator)

Total expenses: \$ 4460.18

\*have switched over the using Zoom teleconferencing since January 2019.

**3-Funds Statement (TD CANADA TRUST):**

Balance as of July 1, 2018: \$28 444.85

Balance as of June 30th, 2019: \$46 423.29

Balance as of September 10/19: \$46 113.15

Submitted by Sarah Allen, CANSW Treasurer  
AllenS@rvh.on.ca

## 2019 Nominating Committee Report: CANSW Executive Vacancies

The Nominating Committee of: Shirley Pulkkinen (ON); Marisa Reise (ON) and Neil Thompson (past President and nominating committee chair) (AB) were tasked with seeking nominations for vacancies as per our CANSW Constitution.

**Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the Annual General Meeting of CANSW on September, 2019. Job Descriptions will be available at the AGM and are also on the CANSW website. Robert's Rules of Order will be followed for elections.**

**The following positions are vacant:**

**President:** Michelle Jensen is stepping down from this role, having completed her terms. Corinne MacNab (ON) is prepared to be nominated. No other nominations were received prior to the date of this report.

**Vice President:** Corinne MacNab is stepping down from this role. Tricia Hutton (SK) is prepared to be nominated. No other nominations were received prior to the date of this report.

**Atlantic/Quebec:** Anna Deveaux is stepping down from this role, having completed her terms. Samantha Mason (NS) is prepared to be nominated. No other nominations were received prior to the date of this report.

**BC/Yukon:** Jody Max (BC) is prepared to be nominated as Co-Representative. No other nominations were received prior to the date of this report.

**SK/MB:** Tricia Hutton (SK) is stepping down from this role. Carly Froese (Man) is prepared to be nominated. No other nominations were received prior to the date of this report.

Continuing on for the remainder of their terms:

**Secretary:** Dianne Levesque (P.E.I.) (First year of second term)

**Treasurer:** Sarah Allen (ON)(First year of second term))

**AB/NWT:** Aman Dhaliwal (AB) (Second year of second term)

**BC/Yukon:** Amy Frey (B.C.) (First year of second term).

**Ontario Representative:** Veronica Javier (ON) (Second year of first term)

Respectfully Submitted:

Neil Thompson, September 26, 2019  
Chair of Nominating Committee