

Organizations to be Aware of as a Social Work Student or New Graduate

by

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(With contributions from the OASW, OCSWSSW, and CASW)

There are four organizations whose mandates relate directly to social work that you may have heard about in your social work education and practice. These organizations differ in their role and their membership structure.

To support students learning about these organizations and what they do, we have developed this information sheet. For more detailed information, we would encourage you to go to the organizations' websites and find out more.

Ontario Association of Social Workers (OASW) –
Professional Association
<https://www.oasw.org/>



The Ontario Association of Social Workers is a voluntary member organization, and the voice of the social work profession in Ontario. OASW promotes the interests of the profession by demonstrating the value of social work through research and advocacy. OASW members have access to free and low-cost networking and professional development opportunities, as well as cost-saving benefits and career support. Members also receive regular information about key issues in the profession.

OASW's key activities and services include:

- Providing professional development, networking opportunities, information, and resources relevant to social workers and social work students.
- Expanding awareness of the value of the social work profession with the public, cross-sectoral partners, and government.
- Sharing eBulletins with relevant news items and opportunities to connect with others in your field.
- Providing access to networking and professional development opportunities as well as resources for job searching and career support.
- Automatic membership in Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW).
- Offers a student membership and new graduate rate.
- Offers benefits including discounts on liability insurance bundles, gym memberships and more.

Fellow Carleton BSW student Sharah Mar-Kaminsky will welcome and orient students and new graduate who become members of the OASW and attend Ottawa Network Meetings in 2022! Please reach out to Sharah at sharahmarkaminsky@cmail.carleton.ca if you have questions about the OASW.

The Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers is the organization that regulates the profession of social workers and social service workers in Ontario. Its mandate is to serve and protect the public from unqualified, incompetent, and unfit practitioners. While membership is voluntary, only members of the College can use the title of “social worker, registered social worker, social service worker and registered social service worker. For some social work jobs, membership in the OCSWSSW is required.

Some key activities of OCSWSSW are:

- Sets registration requirements and protects the title for those with specialized academic qualifications who meet specific standards.
- Sets minimum professional standards: Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice.
- Supports ongoing learning including continuing competence and professional development through resources and practice support.
- Provides oversight and maintains rigorous complaints and discipline processes.



The CASW is non-profit organization that promotes and strengthens the profession of social work across Canada and advances social justice. The CASW Federation is comprised of 10 provincial and territorial partner organizations. Membership in the OASW provides automatic membership in the CASW.

Some key activities of the CASW include:

- offering professional development and continuing education opportunities
- providing timely responses to national issues
- regularly updated employment opportunities
- providing the best professional liability insurance program in Canada
- publishing reports and papers on issues that matter to the profession
- influencing social policy and advancing social justice through stakeholder and government relations, and participation in national coalitions
- promoting resources and research opportunities for social workers
- keeping you up-to-date with a daily media monitoring service sent straight to your inbox
- maintain the CASW Code of Ethics and guidelines for ethical practice
- Sonnet Home and Auto Insurance - including pet insurance!
- represent Canada in the International Federation of Social Workers
- recognize social workers providing excellent service across Canada
- assess credentials of social workers trained abroad

Canadian Association of Social Work Education –
CASWE

<https://caswe-acfts.ca/about-us/>



CASWE-ACFTS
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR LA FORMATION EN TRAVAIL SOCIAL

The CASWE is a national not-for-profit association with a social justice focus that promotes excellence in social work education, scholarship, and practice. CASWE-ACFTS currently oversees 43 accredited social work programs in universities throughout the nation.

CASWE is an educational association. **CASWE is not a professional association.** Student can join, if they want to have a voice about social work education, but social workers cannot join CASWE – it is only for schools of social work, faculty, and students.