



National Institute of Forensic Social Work
Bridging Social Work and Law since 2016



WELCOME TO THE DOCKET

Welcome to our Fall edition of The Docket, the quarterly newsletter produced by the National Institute of Forensic Social Work (NIFSW). The Docket provides a forum for the community of forensic social workers in Canada and elsewhere to connect with other forensic social work practitioners, share articles and information about the practice and new developments, list upcoming events, career and job opportunities, mentoring opportunities, on-line professional development webinars and training etc. The Docket is your digital space and place to share information that will highlight forensic social work practise in Canada and with our international members in Chili, Australia, The United Kingdom, Indonesia, and the United States. Each issue highlights a forensic social worker practising in the field. We also provide a list of free webinars offered on the website. We are hopeful that The Docket will build the community of forensic social workers and help to establish forensic social work as a recognized sub-speciality field of social work practice in Canada and elsewhere. If you would like to contribute, please email your

submissions and ideas to info@nifsw.com

What is Forensic Social Work

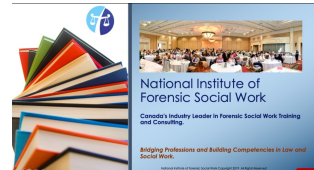
What is Forensic Social Work?]

(<http://www.nifsw.com>)

Click The Link Above for information about forensic social work and the distinction between the

"Generalist Forensic Social Worker" at the BSW and

diploma level versus the "Clinical Forensic Social Worker" at an MSW level.



Course Line-up for Fall 2020: ONLY A FEW SEATS LEFT!!

Only 5 seats remain open for Forensic Social Work Level 1 - Foundational Law starting on September 21, 2020. Seats still open for Level 2 - Hands on Legal Skills commencing in October 26, 2020. Visit our website at www.nifsw.com for a list of the fall courses in forensic social work offered through Dalhousie University School of Social Work Continuing Education.



Click on this link - [Fall 2020 Courses at Dalhousie School of Social Work Continuing Education#FSW2](#)

Upcoming Online & On-Demand courses:

Forensic Social Work-Foundational Law for Social Work & Human Service Practice (Level 1)

Start Date: September 21, 2020- October 19, 2020 (Online only)

To register contact Dalhousie University School of Social Work Continuing Education - Karla Hatt at: Coned@dal.ca

Limited Seats available. Register Now!

Forensic Social Work: Legal Skills for Practice (Level 2)

Start Date: October 26, 2020 - November 22, 2020 (Online only)

To register contact Dalhousie University School of Social Work Continuing

Education - Karla Hatt at: Coned@dal.ca
Limited seats available. Register Now!

Note: Prerequisite is FSW Foundational Law for Social Work & Human Service Practice.

Black Lives Matter: A Call to Action

We are living in a time of social unrest and instability. The death of Mr. George Floyd and so many other Black men, women and children at the hands of the police authorities has angered people around the world and



fueled the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement. The BLM movement demands that we focus our attention on the creation of a "just" and "inclusive" society where ALL people are treated as members of the human race with an opportunity to live with dignity and respect. As forensic social workers we find ourselves directly linked to these issues as our work intersects that of the "Justice" system. As such, we must "ready" ourselves when called upon. In our various roles as Forensic social workers we can purposely intervene and be proactive by building allyship with members of the Black/African communities and organizations, by engaging in continuous cultural competency development and providing culturally proficient services in areas of practice such as child protection, youth criminal justice, adult criminal, corrections and mental health. As the struggle for justice continues the demand for forensic social workers as social justice advocates, navigators, disruptors, generalists and master clinicians will continue to increase. The career opportunities for forensic social workers is expanding as a result of the deaths of Black people at the hands of the police. As change-makers, social justice advocates and legal navigators, the Call to Action is to address the discrimination, prejudice, racism through social and law reform. The death of George Floyd has changed the world in terms of how we think, talk and respond to the issue of race. Don't find yourself on the sidelines, every effort you make to change the current struggle counts. By

What can social workers in private practice do?

It depends on the social worker!

Depending on their specializations, they might:

- address mental health, addiction, trauma, grief and loss, or relationship and adjustment issues
- offer anger, stress and crisis management.
- perform mediation, dispute resolution, custody & access and capacity assessments
- use therapy modalities such as CBT, DBT, or EMDR
- use age, gender and culturally-sensitive interventions
- and much more

Check your benefit plan today to see if social work therapy is included.

Visit bit.ly/coverNS for more.



Professional Spotlight



Meet Melani Carefoot MSW RSW
Calgary, Alberta
Interview by> Rebecca Foslake-Luke.

What area of forensic social work are you practicing and where?

I am currently practicing in Calgary, but I have on occasion virtually assisted clients in other parts of Alberta. My areas of practice are in child welfare, as well as parenting coordination and litigation support for family law applications.

When did you get into forensic social work?

Throughout my career my practice has often intersected with the legal profession. I worked for the government in child protection as a team lead for many years. I retired in 2012, but eventually opened up my private practice due to the number of lawyers needing litigation support and consultation on complex child welfare applications.

Why do you think it's important for social workers to have an understanding of the law and legal system?

When the legal system and social work intersect, I believe that it is very important that the professionals involved understand each other's roles and

strengths. Decisions that are made in court, or by consent, often have implications for the family system, and this is an area that most lawyers are not trained in.

What advice can you give to individuals getting into forensic social work?

Remember that you have lots of skills and information to share as well as learning from others. Forensic social work is a model that allows the professionals to use their education, training, and skills to complement lawyers, which lead to better outcomes for clients. It is important to make connections as you start your career, and make sure that lawyers understand how social workers can assist and enhance their practice.

To learn more about her work or to connect with Melani visit her website <https://positivechoicescounselling.com/>

Upcoming Live Events

Save The Date Live Webinar On Zoom: October 28, 2020 @ 6:00 pm AST



The National Institute of Forensic Social Work is excited to present a free webinar entitled” **Forensic Social Work in Canada: Past, Present and Future**”. Join us on October 28, 2020 Time: 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm (AST) Format: Zoom Link. Panelist: Melani Carefoot -Forensic Social Worker Shawna Paris-Hoyte QC, MSW, RSW-Director of NIFSW Rebecca Foshole-Luke -Forensic

Social Worker Registration will be open in October 2020. For more information email: info@nifsw.com or visit our website at: www.nifsw.com

FREEBIE RELEASES - Powerpoints



NIFSW offers free webinars to members and the public. Get your free webinar for Summer 2020 entitled: **Five Steps to Enhance Your racial Awareness and Cultural Competency** __ Download now.

[DOWNLOAD](#)

Practicing During Covid -19



Practising Forensic Social Working during COVID-19: By Rebecca Foslake-Luke BA, BSW, RSW

The global pandemic has changed the way we interact with each other, and the ways we are able to support our clients. For those who are working from home, setting boundaries that allow you to maintain a work/life balance has been impacted. Those working on the front lines are facing additional challenges and anxiety around your wellness and health. Social distancing rules and the limiting of in-person meetings, has also changed the way we engage with, support, and advocate for our clients. As we move towards our "New Normal" it's important to make an effort to practice physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual self-care.

Additional Resources:

COVID-19 Resources Canadian Association of Social Work (CASW)
<https://www.casw-acts.ca/en/resources/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-resources>

Self-care during the Coronavirus Pandemic by the National Association of Social Work (NASW) <https://www.socialworkers.org/Practice/Infectious-Diseases/Coronavirus/Self-Care-During-the-Coronavirus-Pandemic>



Subscribe now for updates on courses, workshops and your copy of The Docket.

[Subscribe Today](#)

Waiting lists for public mental health services are long.

Employers can help by adding social work therapy to benefit plans – usually with no additional cost to them!

Hundreds of social workers in private practice are ready to help people **where** they are and **when** they need it, right across the province.

Check your benefit plan today to see if social work therapy is included.

Visit bit.ly/coverNS for more.



Mental Health, Mediation or Litigation Support



If you or someone you know is interested in Counselling Services, Mediation or Litigation Support visit the website: www.shawnaparishoyte.ca and book a free consultation.

Special Limited time offer - Free Membership



Our membership continues to grow as does our subscriber's list. We are excited to build a community of forensic social workers from around the world. The NIFSW currently has members from Australia, Chili, Indonesia, USA and Canada. We hope you take advantage of this limited-time special offer of general membership with the National Institute of Forensic Social Work (value \$150.00). Go to [www.nifsw.com/shop] Take advantage of this limited-time special offer of general membership with the National Institute of Forensic Social Work.

Valued at \$150.00. To register, please visit our website at

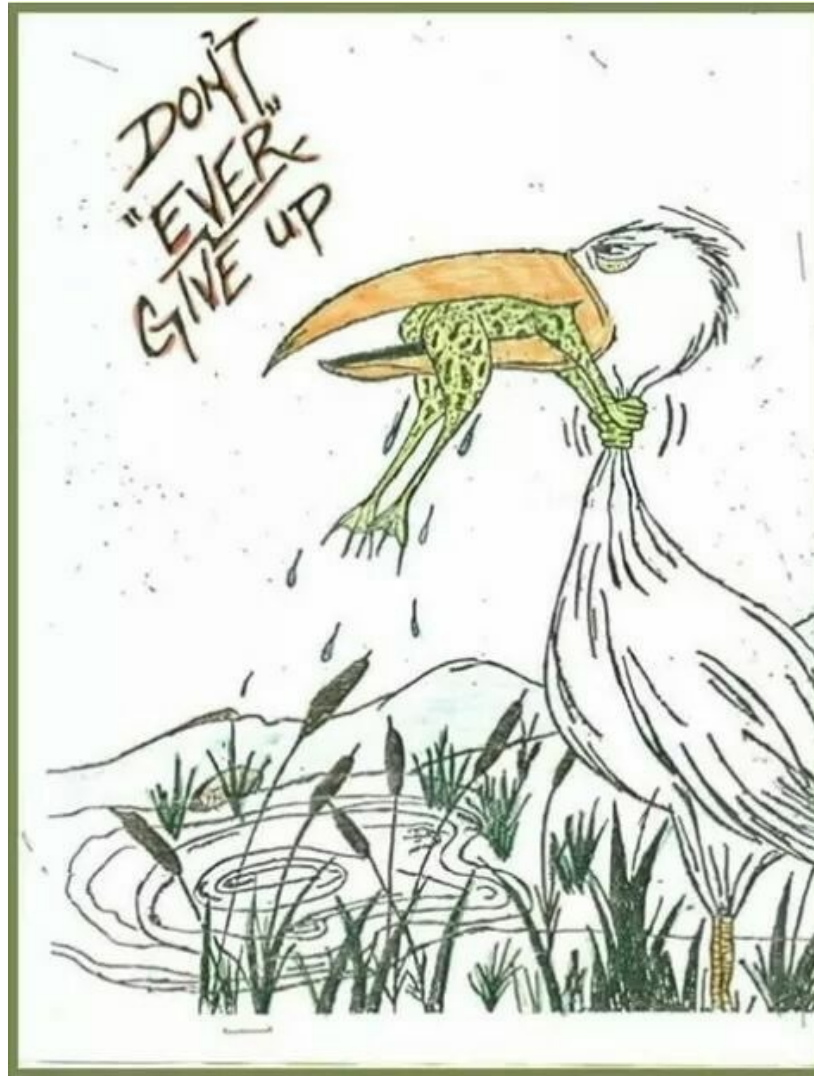
Unlock an Exciting Career in Forensic Social Work.



Grandy Photo

If you are new to the NIFSW and forensic social work practice, we would like to extend a warm welcome to you. This is an exciting and dynamic field of practice. The NIFSW is Canada's first and only professional development training institute that focuses on training individuals in law and social work. Our training is open to lawyers, social workers and others whose work intersects law and social work practice. Our Mission at the NIFSW is to provide professional development training in forensic social work as a generalist and master practitioner, to build a community of forensic social work practitioners in Canada, and to develop forensic social work as a recognized sub-speciality field of social work practice in Canada. Fall 2020 Courses at Dalhousie School of Social Work Continuing Education

Respectfully So... Tidbits :)



Content and Editorial



We hope you enjoyed this issue of The Docket.

Readers of all professions are welcome to contribute to this quarterly digital publication. Submit an article about your area of practice and how it connects to forensic social work. Share photos from professional events and conferences at info@nifsw.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

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