



# BULLETIN

## SECTION DE L'EST: L'ASSOCIATION DES TRAVAILLEUSES ET TRAVAILLEURS SOCIAUX DE L'ONTARIO

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❁ Fall /Automne ❁  
2011 (Vol. 37 No. 3)

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### EASTERN BRANCH NEWS

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT FALL, 2011

It's hard to believe but the OASW-EB Board has already met three times this fall, September 21<sup>st</sup>, October 19<sup>th</sup> and November 16<sup>th</sup> at the Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre, Room 3343. Members are actively encouraged to sit in on these meetings, so feel free to join us.

Once again we have an excellent Board. Kathy Stiell has agreed to continue as our Vice-President, Operations. I owe her a special thanks because she chaired both the September and October meetings for me when I was unavailable. Martha Wiebe is our Board Secretary and is our representative from the Carleton University School of Social Work. Glenn Drover is our Treasurer and Past President. Beverlee McIntosh is our Chair of Membership. Julie Stevenson is a member at large and is also Chair of the 2012 Annual General Meeting/Gala. Sarah Telford and Laurie Alphonse are members at large. Gerry Shea is our Regional Director on the OASW Board, and Jacky Boisvert is the student representative from the Carleton University School of Social Work.

New Board members are always welcome. At the moment we are seeking a student representative from the Ottawa University School of Social Work. We encourage interested students to contact us.

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### **Bulletin**

#### **The Official Publication of the Branch**

**Le Bulletin** est publié trois fois par année : Fall/Automne, Spring/Printemps, Summer/Été. The Publication Committee welcomes submissions that examine public health and social issues, discuss local, regional or provincial issues in social work/social welfare, or which share social work information of interest to social workers or the social service public.

Le comité de publication accepte les articles pertinents traitant de questions relatives au travail social/ bien-être social, sur les plans local, régional ou provincial ainsi que d'information d'intérêt public ou professionnel. Preferred length is **500 words** (650 words **maximum**). **All articles require a précis!**

Submissions may be e-mailed to the address below. They must be in an IBM-compatible word processing format.

**Subscription Price:** Members and Non-members \$12. Single issues: \$4.

**Classified ads/Annonces :** Cost/coût : Full page \$90. Half page \$60. Quarter page \$30. Deadline /date limite : le 17 octobre, le 17 février et le 17 mai.

Contact Graeme Roderick at (613) 226-7081, or request an ad circular from the Branch Office at (613) 238-8406.

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G. Roderick (Chair).

**Translator:** H. Balthazar  
**Editor:** D.A. Davidson

Send submissions and ads by e-mail to/faire parvenir soumissions et annonces par courriel à :

**[oasw-eb@bellnet.ca](mailto:oasw-eb@bellnet.ca)**

#### THE *BULLETIN* FOR SPRING 2012

#### **“Social Work with Adults without Children/Empty Nesters”**

Deadline for submissions: February 17, 2012.

Your news, articles and ideas for this issue are welcomed.

For information about the dates of our future meetings, or if you are interested in joining the Board, please contact the Branch office by email ([oasw-eb@bellnet.ca](mailto:oasw-eb@bellnet.ca)) or by phone (613 238-8406). Emilia Perri, our capable administrative assistant, is always available to respond to emails and telephone calls.

Discussion at the fall meetings again focused on the OASW Board's decision to suspend membership to the CASW for one year. Board members and interested members who attended these meetings expressed concerns about the decision and identified actions that could be taken to have the OASW Board members reconsider their decision. Representatives from the OASW Board and the CASW are currently holding discussions and we hope that the matter can be resolved over the coming months.

Board priorities for 2011-12 will concentrate on strengthening our relationship with the provincial office of the OASW, communicating with our members and reaching out to students, faculty and social workers in the areas outside Ottawa. These priorities will be a challenge and an opportunity at the same time. If you have priorities that you feel deserve the Branch's serious consideration, do not hesitate to share them with me by contacting the Branch office.

Looking ahead into 2012 we need to start thinking about our Joan Gullen Award for Excellence in the Print Media.

We are so fortunate that Virginia Lafond has once more agreed to chair the Bessie Touzel Award recognizing social workers who have demonstrated leadership and vision.

Additional details on both the Joan Gullen Media Award and the Bessie Touzel Award are provided in this issue of the Bulletin.

Social Work Week with its focus on “*How Social Workers Help People Get Back on Track*” will take place from March 5 to 11, 2012.

And finally, our 2012 Gala/Annual General Meeting will be held on April 19, 2012 at the RA Centre.

These events are excellent venues for our members to learn more about Branch affairs and to network with colleagues. Please mark them in your calendars.

Barbara Merriam  
President

## COMMUNIQUÉ TO OASW MEMBERS

This letter was emailed to OASW members on October 31, 2011 and is reproduced here for information. If you have any questions or feedback about this Communiqué, please direct your comments and enquiries to: [info@oasw.org](mailto:info@oasw.org).

Gerry Shea  
Eastern Region Director

\* \* \* \*

### ***OASW News Bulletin, November 2011***

#### **Communiqué to Members Related to OASW's One-Year Suspension of Membership in CASW**

On October 19, 2011, OASW's and CASW's Executive Committees had a constructive discussion about some of the foundational issues that would support a possible reunification of OASW with the national federation. A framework for this conversation was the provision of conditions put forward by OASW to dialogue with CASW. Key issues highlighted are consistent with previous concerns raised by OASW. Primary areas identified relate to:

- an equitable fee structure;
- a flexible mechanism for voting at the national level, given the size of our membership and financial contribution;
- an outreach strategy to bring all provinces into the national federation;
- a more robust government relations strategy; and
- a dynamic national conference implemented by CASW.

[Click

<http://www.oasw.org/en/membersite/pdfs/OASWConditions-October2011.pdf> for more information on these issues.\* ]

We also wish to report that during the period of our suspension from CASW since April 1, 2011, OASW has engaged in discussions with the Alberta College of Social Workers (ACSW) and the Quebec Ordre to identify and discuss issues of shared interest and concern at provincial and national levels. These discussions demonstrated to us the potential for collaboration and joint initiatives with these provinces within or outside the current federation model.

Since our discussion with CASW on October 19<sup>th</sup>, we have followed up to convey our appreciation for the forum to discuss our concerns and the opportunity to dialogue with the national body. OASW's aim is to foster understanding in support of a revitalized, effective national voice that promotes the value of our profession to support those who most need our services.

In the spirit of responding to feedback from the OASW Membership Survey 2011, we are updating you on the state of deliberations with CASW in regard to the possible return of OASW as a partner in the national federation. We recognize that this is an ongoing process, and we will keep you abreast of future developments.

(\*Extract from Web link above)

#### **Conditions put forward by OASW to discuss reunification with CASW**

- **An equitable fee structure** for all member organizations which recognizes differential fee categories and treats member organizations the same, whether or not they carry a joint regulatory or sole association function (i.e., 6 provinces in the federation). Currently, membership organizations with a dual function receive a 10% reduction in fees. Membership in these professional bodies is frequently mandatory or a condition of employment by major employers, whereas membership in provinces such as OASW is voluntary; our Association does not believe this is equitable.

- **A flexible mechanism for voting** based upon the size of membership and thus the financial contribution of member organizations, which allows for weighted voting under certain circumstances. The existing voting mechanism is one vote per member organization whereas OASW is seeking alternative mechanisms for decision-making for specific, predetermined issues. In fact, the Agora Group Report (March 2010), prepared by an external consulting firm which conducted an operational review of CASW, recommended weighted voting "...because we believe it helps stabilize an organization whose members are of vastly different sizes."
- **An outreach strategy to bring all provinces** into the national federation. Currently, Quebec, Alberta and Ontario are not in the federation. A meaningful national presence is dependent upon the engagement of all parts of the country.
- **A more robust government relations strategy** which addresses the need to have face-to-face meetings with key politicians, policy advisors and bureaucrats in federal government, in order to influence crucial public policies to profile the profession and to promote funding for vital national programs. While position papers and participation on coalitions play a part in influencing government, accessing the expertise of a government relations firm is essential to this process.
- **A dynamic national conference** to bring social workers across the country together to address issues significant to practice, policy, research and education.

## COMMENTARY

### SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT OASW LEAVING CASW

Perhaps like many of you, I paid less initial attention than I should to the startling news that OASW had withdrawn from its membership in CASW for a year subject to ongoing review. As I thought about this separation, I got curious about how the relationship had become so frayed and alarmed about its implications.

The information provided by OASW in its regular communications certainly didn't add up, in my mind, to the need for such a precipitous decision. And the implications of the decision for our profession's ability to speak with a national voice, work collectively within Canada, and collaboratively with national social work bodies beyond our borders, are worrisome.

Following repeated efforts by the Eastern Branch Board and some individual members, helpful information regarding the rationale for the decision and the status of OASW's suspended membership in CASW has finally been provided. The recently-issued *Communiqué* from OASW, printed in this *Bulletin*, provides some of this information.

CASW is now offering memberships to individual social workers. It would appear the separation could become a divorce. Not to strain the analogy too much, I think many Ontario social workers, like the children of separating parents, will feel they need to declare loyalty to one association or the other. And I doubt very many social workers will pay—at least on an ongoing basis—for membership in both organizations.

In assessing the benefits of membership in OASW vs. CASW, there will be an obvious comparison of costs and concrete benefits for the individual social worker. The less obvious—but perhaps more important—comparison is related to the viability and vitality of our profession within Canada.

I hope my Ontario social work colleagues will continue to urge OASW and CASW to resolve the outstanding issues of membership. This separation may turn out to have been instructive—if it has highlighted the costs to our profession and to our country of a divorce.

*Ron Ensom operates a private practice in Ottawa. He is a child abuse consultant and provides training related to family conflict/violence, parenting, poverty and children, and practice ethics.*

## NEW MEMBERS

**Eastern Branch welcomes new members**  
Caroline Bouchard, Victoria L. Hasbani, Alice

Brennan, Mobolaji Laflamme-Lagoke, Alice Layiki-Dehne, Melanie Seguin, Janet Venema, Helene Lepine, Laura Cain, Natalie Cooper, Nancy Galway, Paul Hayes, C. Velma Guvenc, Jared McIsaac, Alyssa Merkley, Helen Pace, Randy Sorenson, Jennifer Derraugh, Margaret Vanessa Morel, Jonathan Pease, Lee-Anne Lavell, Jennifer Laewen, and James Turk.

**Welcome back to** Benoit Veilleux, Jodie Nimigon-Young, Gundel Lake, Rosalind Forster, Karen McRae, and Guy Doucet.

#### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2012- 2013

Get involved with your Branch!

The election of new members of the Board of Directors for 2012-2013 will take place at our **Annual General Meeting** in April 2012. The term of office is for two years.

Please submit your candidature for a position on the Board, or the name of a nominee, to the Branch office by e-mail at [oasw-eb@bellnet.ca](mailto:oasw-eb@bellnet.ca) or by regular mail (address on back cover) **no later than April 1, 2012.**

#### APPEL DE NOMINATIONS POUR L' ANNEE 2012- 2013

Engagez-vous dans l'œuvre de la Section de l'est!

L'élection des nouveaux membres du conseil d'administration pour l'année 2012-2013 aura lieu à notre Assemblée générale annuelle en avril 2012. La durée du mandat est de deux ans.

Vous pouvez soumettre votre candidature ou celle d'un autre membre au bureau de la Section, par courriel à [oasw-eb@bellnet.ca](mailto:oasw-eb@bellnet.ca) ou par la poste (l'adresse se trouve à la dernière page) **avant le 1er avril 2012.**

#### AWARDS: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

##### WANTED: NOMINEES FOR THE 2012 BESSIE TOUZEL AWARD

In the spring of 2012, OASW (Eastern) will give the Bessie Touzel Award for the 27<sup>th</sup> time. Just in

case you might be asking 'Who was Bessie Touzel? What was her contribution to the social work profession?' What is this award about?' we've done a little research.

Bessie Touzel (1904 –1997), because of an infantile polio attack, did not start school until she was 8 years old. She grew up in Renfrew County and eventually attended the University of Toronto, graduating with a BSW. There can be no doubt that her social work practice demonstrated an abiding commitment to social justice. One of our most senior colleagues and a Bessie Touzel Award winner herself, Dorothy Hodgson, MSW, describes Bessie as 'a dear friend' and 'one of the most marvelous social workers.' She adds: "Bessie was a pioneer social worker, a manager, a teacher, and an international welfare consultant who had ready wit, wisdom, as well as good humour."

Bessie had a significant hand in the *Report on Social Security for Canada* (1943) or, as it has come to be known, *The Marsh Report*, which although largely ignored by politicians at its publication, laid the basic tenets of Canadian social welfare policy.

"I remember that she would rage against injustice" (Hodgson). This memory certainly fits with accounts of Bessie Touzel resigning in protest more than once. One resignation was submitted because the City of Ottawa decided that males rather than professional female social workers would serve as relief distributors. Bessie Touzel was first to receive the award named in her honour. Other awards she received included the City of Toronto's Civic Award, the Order of Ontario (1987), and an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Toronto.

**Once again, OASW (Eastern) invites nominations** for our highest honour, the Bessie Touzel Award. The award will go to a social worker recognized by their peers as one who has demonstrated exemplary social work values and outstanding social work practice.

**The 2012 Bessie Touzel Award Nomination Form** can be obtained by emailing Virginia Lafond at [virginialafond@rogers.com](mailto:virginialafond@rogers.com), or you can find it on [oasw.org](http://oasw.org). The deadline for submission is Friday **January 20, 2012.**

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## A LA RECHERCHE DE CANDIDATURES POUR LE PRIX BESSIE TOUZEL (2012)

Au printemps de 2012, l'ATTSO (Section de l'Est) remettra le prix Bessie Touzel pour la 27<sup>ième</sup> fois. Au cas où vous vous posiez la question « Qui est Bessie Touzel? » Quelle a été sa contribution à la profession du travail social? Quel est le but du prix Bessie Touzel? Nous pouvons vous satisfaire d'après la recherche que nous avons faite.

Dû à la maladie de la polio infantile, Bessie Touzel (1904-1997) n'a pas fréquenté l'école avant l'âge de 8 ans. Elle a passé ses premières années dans le Comté de Renfrew.

Éventuellement, elle a étudié à l'Université de Toronto où elle a gradué avec le diplôme de B.S.W. Il n'y a aucun doute à l'égard de son engagement dans la cause de justice sociale dans sa pratique du travail social. Une de nos plus anciennes collègues et à qui le prix Bessie Touzel a été décerné, Dorothy Hodgson MSW se rappelle de Bessie comme étant une amie sincère et une travailleuse sociale hors pair. Elle ajoute que Bessie était une pionnière en travail social, une gestionnaire, une enseignante et une consultante en bien-être international.

Elle affirmait aussi que Bessie possédait un vif esprit, était d'une sagesse remarquable et son bonne humeur la distinguait. En outre, Dorothy soulignait la grande contribution de Bessie au contenu et à la publication du « Rapport sur la Sécurité Sociale au Canada » (1943), communément connu sous le nom du « Rapport March ». Le Rapport fut en grande partie ignoré à sa publication par le corps politique de l'époque, mais a connu une renaissance en constituant les principes de base de la politique du bien-être social du Canada.

« Je me souviens que toute injustice la dérangeait beaucoup » (Hodgson). Ce fait s'accorde avec les fois que Bessie Touzel résignait de son poste en guise de protestation. Une de celles-ci eut lieu parce que la ville d'Ottawa avait décidé que des travailleurs sociaux plutôt que des travailleuses sociales occuperaient les postes de distributeurs d'aide sociale.

Bessie Touzel était la première récipiendaire du prix dont le nom était en son honneur. D'autres prix et marques d'honneur qui lui ont été décernés sont : prix du civisme de la ville de Toronto; l'Ordre de l'Ontario (1987), et un doctorat à titre honorifique de l'Université de Toronto.

**De nouveau l'ATTSO (Section de l'Est) sollicite des nominations** pour l'honneur le plus recherché de notre Chapitre – le prix Bessie Touzel. Le prix sera décerné à une travailleuse sociale ou à un travailleur social reconnu(e) par ses pairs pour avoir démontré par son travail et sa personne que les valeurs du travail social sont intégrées de façon exemplaire et que sa pratique en soit une d'exceptionnelle.

La demande d'un formulaire pour la nomination d'un candidat pour le prix Bessie Touzel (2012) peut se faire par courriel, adressé à [virginialafond@rogers.com](mailto:virginialafond@rogers.com). Vous pouvez aussi en trouver une au [oasw.org](http://oasw.org). L'échéance des soumissions est vendredi le **20 janvier 2012**.

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### JOAN GULLEN ANNUAL AWARD

This year's recipient of the **Joan Gullen Award for Media Excellence** for in-depth reporting on social welfare issues will be formally recognized during **Social Work Week** in March, 2012.

Joan Gullen is a Bessie Touzel Award winner, and a recipient of a Governor General's Citation. She is a social justice advocate, and a member of the Branch.

There are two categories for the Award. One will be given to large print media which serve cities and towns of Eastern Ontario. A second Award is to be given to small print media which serve ethnic, language, neighborhood and/or religious communities in Eastern Ontario.

The Award consists of a citation, and a monetary prize donated to a local charity of the winner's choice.

**To be eligible for the Award**, a nominee must have produced an article or series that:

- covered social welfare, social concerns and social policy issues of local import;
- used extensive research, case studies, and viewpoints of local or provincial service providers;
- and/or reported on research findings by North American experts;
- made reference to local agencies; and
- called for action.

Nominations must be received in the Branch Office (see address on back cover) **by January 20, 2012.**

#### LE PRIX ANNUEL JOAN GULLEN

Le prochain récipiendaire *du prix Joan Gullen pour excellence médiatique*, destiné à un individu ayant réalisé un reportage en profondeur sur un sujet lié au bien-être social, sera formellement honoré durant **la semaine du travail social**, en mars 2012.

Joan Gullen, qui est un membre de notre Section, a reçu le prix Bessie Touzel ainsi qu'une citation du Gouverneur Général. Elle est aussi reconnue pour son militantisme face aux questions de justice sociale.

Le prix comporte deux catégories. La première s'adresse aux représentants de média imprimés à grand tirage desservant les villes et villages de l'Est de l'Ontario. L'autre est destinée à un média ayant un tirage plus limité, publié par exemple dans diverses langues ou s'adressant à des communautés ethniques ou à des groupes religieux dans l'Est de l'Ontario.

Le prix comprend une citation et une somme d'argent destinée à un organisme de bienfaisance choisi par le récipiendaire.

**Pour être éligible au prix**, un candidat doit avoir réalisé un article ou une série d'articles répondant aux critères suivants :

- traiter de questions de bien-être, de préoccupations sociales et de politiques sociales d'intérêt local ;
- s'appuyer sur des recherches approfondies, des études de cas, et les points de vue de pourvoyeurs de services au niveau municipal ou provincial ;

- et/ou rapporter des résultats de recherches effectuées par des experts nord américains;
- se référer à des agences locales ; et
- inviter à poser des gestes concrets.

Vos choix de candidatures doivent être soumis au bureau de la Section (adresse au verso) **avant le 20 janvier 2012.**

#### COMMITTEES

##### SOCIAL WORK IN AGING AND GERONTOLOGY (SWAG)

OASW Eastern Branch sponsors a network for Social Work in Aging and Gerontology (SWAG). All professionals in social work or related fields of practice are welcome to attend any of the meetings. There is no cost and no official "membership" except a common concern about issues related to aging.

Meetings are kindly hosted by Colonel By Retirement Residence, 43 Aylmer Avenue (near Sunnyside). There is always a featured speaker on a topic of interest to Ottawa social workers.

Meetings are always held on a Thursday from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM.

For more information, e-mail [beverlee.mcintosh+swag@gmail.com](mailto:beverlee.mcintosh+swag@gmail.com)

##### SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

**United Way funding reductions** – An important issue for the Committee in the early summer was the new direction chosen by the **United Way of Ottawa (UWO)**, which has led to reduced funding for community agencies.

The Eastern Branch is a member of **People for a Better Ottawa**, an organization which has been collaborating with a number of community groups and agencies to develop a response to the United Way's recent funding changes, using the project-specific name, **Ottawa Community Action**, for this work.

On June 21st, several members of the Social Justice Committee attended the UWO Annual Meeting and supported a motion brought forward by **Ottawa Community Action** that called for

reversals to the changes. While this motion was defeated, the UWOC Board and membership agreed to the following statement: "Trust needs to be rebuilt through an open transparent review of its new funding process". **Ottawa Community Action** has resolved to be a major participant in this review.

**Residents of domiciliary hostels** - The fall meeting of the Social Justice Committee was held September 21st. Bill Dare joined the regular Committee members for the discussion of further steps to take regarding problems for residents of domiciliary hostels. Unfortunately, due to health concerns, Lynda Russett was unable to carry out planned follow-through on this concern over the summer. However, the Committee was encouraged to learn that Bill Dare now has more time to devote to the project. He will continue to collaborate with the Committee.

**Provincial Legislature** - Two upcoming areas of interest to the Committee now that the 40<sup>th</sup> provincial legislature is in session, are the poor performance of the Family Responsibility Office, and the need for more provincial funding for affordable housing in Ottawa.

Meetings are held once a month and interested members are invited to join us. Please contact Margaret Nelson at [margn@magma.ca](mailto:margn@magma.ca) for details of the dates, agenda and location of Committee meetings.

Margaret Nelson  
Chair

## PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

### Retirement...

After many years with the Publications Committee, Hector Balthazar is retiring as our Translator.

We have appreciated Hector's patience with all the times we provided him with long translations and short deadlines, or last minute changes, often on a few hours notice. Hector, we wish to express our sincere appreciation to you for your professionalism and your expertise through it all. You will be greatly missed.

**Interested members** are more than welcome to submit items to the committee for consideration. Members are also invited to sit in on any of our meetings and to put forward ideas and suggestions for the *Bulletin* on subjects of interest to the social work community.

### We invite you to join the Committee...

We meet 3 times a year for an hour at our Eastern Branch Office in Heartwood House on Chapel Street to discuss the next issue.

**If you are interested in joining**, but are located outside the city, let us know! You can join us by teleconference.

**What is involved?** Roughly 3 hours of independent work is required per issue. The work provides opportunities to communicate with and learn from experts in many fields of social work, and to build professional networks of contacts.

The theme of our next issue is "*Social Work and Adults without Children/ Empty Nesters*".

**If you would like to attend our March meeting** to see what it's all about, please contact Graeme Roderick via our Branch office at [oasw-eb@bellnet.ca](mailto:oasw-eb@bellnet.ca) for details.

Publications Committee

## DID YOU KNOW?

... that in 1990 South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu addressed the Ojibway of Osnaburgh in Northern Ontario. He said, "When your nation lives a lie, God cannot allow that lie to prevail. Because your cause is just, it will prevail."

... that the OASW Eastern June 1991 Annual General Meeting speaker was Malcolm Saulis, a Malecite, former professor at St. Thomas University's Native Social Work Program, then a professor at Carleton's School of Social Work, and now coordinator, MSW Aboriginal Field of Study at Wilfrid Laurier University. He spoke about indigenous knowledge being a source to his approach to restorative justice, conflict resolution and healing strategies.

### FIRST NATIONS – THE FORGOTTEN CANADIANS

We are nearing the end of 2011 and I am continually struck by how little change has occurred in the material and social lives of Canada's First Nations. It is never quite clear to me why, except for the lack of Ottawa's political will and an underlying fear that actually First Nations might ultimately have a strong moral, even legal case against Canada and its on-going neglect of their rights and of their social and economic conditions.

When I was a teenager in 1960s Ottawa, I can recall Prime Minister Pearson's call for a war on poverty to be aimed, in part, at First Nations whose incomes, living conditions and quality of life then as now were far, far below those of the dominant white, Euro-Canadian population. The 1960s were merely a carry-forward from near the end of World War II when a writer for *The Economist* remarked that it was "a matter of surprise to Canadians to find that their policies with respect to the aboriginal native peoples of Canada...scarcely bear comparison with progressive policies developed in other countries in recent years."

Those remarks came hard on the heels of sociologist John Cormie who, in the 1936-37 edition of *Social Welfare*, wrote that so desperate were the poverty, hunger and health of Indians that they were the 'Forgotten Canadians', a remarkable comment given that Canada was in the throes of the Great Depression. Cormie's observations merely echoed those of Dr. P.H. Bryce who, in 1922, described the government's inattention to the health of Indian children in residential schools as a national crime.

Today, as yesterday, First Nations are over-represented in our prisons and in the child welfare system. Their levels of education, while having improved, still remain far below national averages. So too, is their participation in the labour market. They are more likely to die in house fires than other Canadians. They remain virtually the only Canadians to suffer from tuberculosis – a disease these days that is synonymous with extreme poverty. Many reserve

communities lack drinking water. Housing remains sub-standard.

There have also been many lost opportunities, some of these seen now more clearly through the lens of history and new attitudes and understandings on the part of many – though sadly not all – Euro-Canadians. The first opportunity was in 1867 when First Nations peoples should rightfully have been at the constitutional table as a third order of government. Never mind the vital role they played in the fur trade and opening the continent to European traders. Never mind the fact that had it not been for the Mohawk people bolstering a depleted and weary British army in the War of 1812, Canada probably would not exist. First Nations peoples in the eyes of men like Macdonald were backward and childlike and could not possibly manage the great affairs of state. Following Confederation, the Canadian government did its very best to confine and subjugate them as dependent wards of the state. Their response? They voluntarily enlisted and served with distinction in both World Wars in per capita numbers that far exceeded other Canadians. Their reward for such service? A new Indian Act in 1951 – most analysts agree it was much like the 1876 original – a promise by the government to elevate them to full Canadian citizenship and in the end a return to impoverished lives and the oppressive, paternalistic policies of the Department of Indian Affairs.

The 1960s witnessed the rise of a more radicalized leadership among First Nations – after nearly 400 years their patience was wearing thin – and, thanks to that leadership, the draconian measures proposed by the Trudeau government's infamous 1969 White Paper on Indian Policy were withdrawn. (These measures would have terminated First Nations' special status, their claims to land and dispersed them into the broader Canadian population). Subsequently, Trudeau began to re-think his position with respect to aboriginal rights and eventually was convinced to entrench them – albeit unspecified – in the Constitution Act 1982. Thanks mainly to the resistance of the Western premiers during the 1980s, attempts to define these rights failed. That said, in 1983 a special sub-committee of the House of Commons on

Indian self-government known as the *Penner Committee*, released a report that recommended sweeping reforms for First Nations including the allocation of vast territories to their jurisdiction, the recognition of their inherent right to self-government, a process that would accord to them a substantial level of self-government akin to provinces and new funding formulae to promote and ensure their survival. The Trudeau government accepted aspects of the report – but certainly did not embrace it. Then Trudeau resigned and Penner's report went the way of all progressive reports in Canada – onto library shelves—and another important opportunity was lost.

The Mulroney Progressive Conservative government paid little attention to aboriginal rights. The failed 1987 Meech Lake Accord ignored aboriginal peoples – and instead pursued a carefully managed policy of administrative devolution, artfully calling it self-government. Nevertheless, in an effort to effect constitutional renewal, Mulroney's government spearheaded the Charlottetown Accord that included aboriginal self-government. But the Accord foundered on several principles including whether aboriginal self-government would supersede any Canadian obligation to protect the rights of aboriginal women. The Accord was defeated by referendum in 1992.

The defeat of the Accord came in the aftermath of the 1990 Kanesatake (Oka) crisis that had produced an armed stand-off between the Canadian army and Mohawk warriors. The crisis not only reflected how poorly and with what inertia the Canadian government dealt with land claim issues (this one had its roots in the early 1700s), but delineated the distinction between First Nations – in this case, the Mohawk – and Canadians, the interlopers. The result of the crisis was the establishment in 1991 of a long-desired Royal Commission on Aboriginal People (RCAP). (The *Bulletin*, Summer 1991.)

The RCAP reported in 1996 and made many recommendations that echoed the Penner Report. Had these recommendations been implemented, the fundamental relationship between Canada and First Nations would have been fundamentally altered while still ensuring the federal government maintained its fiduciary

obligations towards them. The Chrétien Liberal government dismissed the recommendations and countered with a somewhat milk toast document called "Gathering Strength," that in its implementation has sustained the federal government's overall stifling policies and careful management and containment of aboriginal rights and aspirations. Thus, yet another important opportunity was lost.

The final sad chapter in this litany of lost opportunities is perhaps the most disgraceful. I refer to the Kelowna Accord of 2005 – a comprehensive agreement among the federal and provincial governments and aboriginal leadership. The agreement was reached after eighteen months of negotiations and provided for a total expenditure of \$5 billion over 5 to 10 years on aboriginal education, health, housing and economic development. In addition, there was a commitment to review the relationship between aboriginal peoples and the two levels of government – implying, I would presume, that more substantive forms of self-government would be considered. All this was for naught. Harper's Conservative government effectively killed the accord in 2006 by allocating far less money in the budget than the accord called for and by questioning whether an accord actually existed.

Despite the \$8 billion spent by Aboriginal Affairs in 2010-11, the outcomes seem minimal. The billions are illusory. In real terms the budget of Aboriginal Affairs as part of the overall federal budget is quite small; small enough to imply that First Nations peoples in Canada are relatively unimportant in the scheme of things. Canada's ongoing failure to come to terms with and to fully acknowledge aboriginal rights is unconscionable and it is this failure that directly contributes to their unequal treatment in Canada to their continued oppression and marginalization. I referred earlier to our being interlopers; this land is not our land. Perhaps we need to face up to that; that we are here because of a great deceit. When I really think this issue through I can't help but conclude that rightfully we are the tenants in Canada and the aboriginal peoples our landlords.

*The editorial for this issue was written by Hugh Shewell, who is the Director of the Carleton University School of Social Work.*

## FIRST NATIONS LONG TERM CARE IN ONTARIO

by Bernard Bouchard and Megan Davey

*Précis : Les soins à longue durée du peuple des Premières Nations en Ontario depuis les 37 dernières années se sont avérés une lutte en amont. Plusieurs aînés membres des Premières Nations sont forcés de quitter leur communauté pour des foyers aux soins à longue durée ou demeurent dans des hôpitaux sans raison valable. Cependant, pour le peuple des Premières Nations, il y a des centres de soin à longue durée déjà établis et qui fonctionnent bien. Malheureusement, sans support suffisant de la part des communautés pour les personnes âgées, la situation devient critique, car il n'existe dans l'ensemble des communautés que 224 lits. Cet article présente les problèmes auxquels font face les personnes âgées des Premières Nations et leur famille lorsque le besoin de soin à longue durée se présente et qu'il n'y a aucun moyen de les aider étant donné qu'il y a un manque de centre/foyers pour les personnes âgées.*

There is consensus among those who work in Long Term Care that seniors, if at all possible, should remain and be supported in their own homes, not in a long-term care home. Unfortunately, the community support sector for seniors and their families continues to be underfunded, fragmented and difficult to navigate.

The negative outcomes that have resulted are well documented and publicized. The current negative outcomes have included an increase in vulnerable and isolated seniors, seniors **stuck** in hospitals, (the Alternative Level of Care Issue), caregiver burnout, and many seniors who could have possibly maintained their independence who are now deteriorating and waiting for long term-care beds that are not available. First Nation seniors and family members continue to be more vulnerable.

While in Ontario there are currently 77,109 licensed long-term care beds, the total amount of current licensed long-term care spaces for First Nation frail elderly, disabled and chronically ill is 224 beds **spread across Ontario**. The travel distance for First Nation seniors and their families to access a First Nation-run and culturally

sensitive licensed long-term care home is extreme. The small number of First Nation long-term care beds and their locations creates a barrier to both services and support. The lack of licensed long-term care beds for First Nation seniors ensures that these seniors continue to be **vulnerable and isolated**. The brief history of First Nation long-term care in Ontario continues to be one of struggle.

**Wikwemikong Nursing Home**, the first Aboriginal long-term care home licensed in Ontario, opened in 1972 with 60 resident spaces. The second First Nation home, **Iroquois Lodge** in Ohsweken, Ontario (near Brantford), began long-term care operations in 1969 in the local community hospital. Their small hospital was closed by the Ministry of Health, and in 1983 a new long-term home for 50 residents was opened. The third First Nation home, **Tsi ion kwa nonh so'te** in Akwesasne, opened in 1994 as a home for 30 residents and completed a 20-bed expansion in 2001 for a total of 50 resident spaces. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne also runs **lakhishsohtha**, a 30-bed home for the aged in Quebec. In 2007 The Oneida Nation of the Thames, near London Ontario, was successful in being awarded a new long-term care license for 64 residents, and their home is set to open in December of this year. The Oneida successes represented the first new license for a First Nation community in Ontario in the past 20 years.

Without adequate community supports for seniors in First Nation communities and only 224 beds spread across Ontario, the situation is critical. Briefly stated, the challenges that First Nation seniors and their families face are the following: a continued consistent occupancy rate of 99% of licensed long-term care beds without a foreseeable increase in publicly funded licensed long-term care beds; unreasonable travel distances for spouses and family members, many of whom do not drive; access to existing preferred accommodation beds in licensed long-term care beds is negligible; growing waiting lists in spite of increased government community programming such as "Ageing at Home", "Home First" and Alternative Level of Care (ALC) strategies as well as no access to expensive private pay retirement homes or private pay community services. These barriers are

significant and require that social workers continue to advocate for community solutions, First Nation Long-Term Care Homes and affordable supportive housing in First Nation communities.

It is worth noting that for those First Nation communities which have developed services for seniors on reserve as well as long-term care homes, the economic impact is significant. It is estimated that for every licensed long-term care bed 1.5 jobs full and/or part time are created. For a 64-bed licensed home we can anticipate that 96 full and/or part time jobs will be created. This is due to the fact that a licensed long-term care home in Ontario operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, with staffing required around the clock. This is a win-win scenario. First Nation seniors can remain in their community with family members and be cared for by a First Nation community member. The economic spin offs of these jobs are well paying, have a favourable tax treatment and have health benefits that should not be overlooked.

First Nations Long-Term Care in Ontario over the last 39 years continues to be an uphill struggle. Today, many First Nation seniors are forced to move out of their communities into long-term care homes or remain unnecessarily in a hospital bed.

In closing we should congratulate those First Nation communities that have been successful in developing their own community-based services and long-term care homes, and encourage other First Nation communities to do the same. Social work has and will continue to play an important role in supporting this important initiative.

*Bernard is the President of Resident Care Limited and the Executive Director of the Council on Aging of Ottawa.*

*Megan is a social worker employed with the Council on Aging of Ottawa.*

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**JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE AND MAURINA  
BEADLE'S FIGHT FOR IMPLEMENTATION**  
by Cindy Blackstock

**Précis:** *Cet article traite de l'évolution du Principe de Jordan, le principe de l'enfant d'abord, l'enfant en premier dans la résolution de*

*matière de juridiction entre gouvernements qui empêchent les enfants des Premières Nations d'accéder aux services gouvernementaux, services qui sont offerts à tous les enfants. Nommé en mémoire de Jordan River Anderson, un garçon handicapé de la nation Cree de Norway House qui a passé deux ans à l'hôpital inutilement pendant que les gouvernements Fédéral et du Manitoba se disputaient de la question de qui devrait payer le compte. Le principe a été accepté par le Parlement à l'unanimité en 2007. Malheureusement son exécution n'a jamais totalement été respectée.*

Single mother Maurina Beadle lovingly cared for her son Jeremy for the first fifteen years of his life. He was born with extremely high special needs and required assistance in doing tasks like eating, bathing, and getting dressed. Although it must have been exhausting for Maurina, she focused on Jeremy's many gifts – his love of pow-wow music, the drawings he would make, and his own fortitude in living with difference. Maurina then tragically had a double stroke making it difficult for her to hold a glass of water, walk, and to provide the physical care Jeremy needed.

Maurina is a proud woman and although she wanted to care for her son as she had done in the past, she realized she needed help with his physical care. She approached the Pictou Landing First Nation where she lived for help. The Health Director of Pictou Landing, Phillipa Pictou, called the Canadian Government which was responsible for paying for health care on reserve, and the Nova Scotia Government which was responsible for providing health care to all other people in Nova Scotia.

The two governments passed the buck for weeks, so the Pictou Landing First Nation picked up the costs of Jeremy's at-home care until the Federal and Nova Scotia governments could sort out who should pay. It went on for months and the Pictou Landing First Nation was struggling to continue paying for Jeremy's services when it received no funds to pay for them.

The Canadian Government and Government of Nova Scotia both said that Jeremy was entitled to

a fixed amount per month for care and refused to provide more support, even though Jeremy's needs could not be met for the fixed amount. Both governments minimized a prior court decision successfully challenging the fixed amount and a government policy that allowed for additional funding in exceptional circumstances such as Jeremy's. The Canadian Government and the Nova Scotia Government suggested that Maurina place Jeremy in institutional care hundreds of miles from the only home he had ever known. Maurina refused.

In 2010, while recovering from a stroke and caring for her special needs son, Maurina saw no other option than to partner with Pictou Landing First Nation to take the Canadian Government to Federal Court for failure to implement Jordan's Principle.

Jordan's Principle ([www.jordansprinciple.ca](http://www.jordansprinciple.ca)) is a child-first principle for resolving jurisdictional disputes within or between governments that impede First Nations children from accessing government services available to all other children. Named in memory of Jordan River Anderson, a First Nations boy from Norway House Cree Nation, who spent over two years unnecessarily in hospital while the Governments of Manitoba and Canada argued over who should pay. Tragically, Jordan passed away in the hospital in 2005 before ever spending a day in a family home.

Jordan was caught in a jurisdictional quagmire not experienced by non-First Nations Canadians. Provincial/territorial laws governing services like child welfare, education and health apply on and off reserves, but the Federal Government is supposed to fund these services. When the Federal Government does not do so, or more often funds them to a lesser level of benefit, the provincial/federal governments do not top up the funding, resulting in a two-tiered system. On top of this inequity, the provinces and Canada will fight about who should pay for services like Jordan's and Jeremy's.

Jordan's Principle says that when a government service is available to all other Canadian children and a jurisdictional dispute crops up within, or between, federal and provincial/territorial governments about who should pay for services

to a First Nations child, the government of first contact pays for the service and negotiates payment with other levels of government later. In this way, the child's needs are met and there are no additional barriers to service access for First Nations children. It is supported by close to 5000 individuals and organizations including UNICEF, the Canadian Social Work Association, the Canadian Paediatric Society, the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions, and the National Youth in Care Network.

Jordan's Principle was passed unanimously by Parliament in 2007 and yet sadly has never been fully implemented. The Federal Government unilaterally, and without any discussion with Jordan's family, decided to narrow Jordan's Principle to apply only to children with complex medical needs with multiple service providers. The Federal Government claimed it appointed Jordan's Principle "focal points" in every region across Canada and set up a fund to meet the needs of these children, but no one had accessed it. As recently as February 2011, the Federal bureaucrats testifying before the Standing Committee on the Status of Women claimed that no Jordan's Principle cases had been brought to their attention. What the Canadian Government did not say is that it had never educated the public or professionals on how to access both the fund and the Jordan's Principle focal point bureaucrats who administer it.

In effect, the Federal Government set up people and funds for Jordan's Principle while keeping the process and policies to access these services from the very families and professionals who needed them. Easy for Canada to claim there are no cases when no one knows how to contact them.

Maurina and the health director at Pictou Landing knew about Jordan's Principle and Jeremy clearly met even the limited, and incorrect, definition of Jordan's Principle advanced by the Canadian Government (complex medical needs with multiple service providers) and yet they were unable to access the services Jeremy needed.

In October this year, I was in Halifax where lawyers for the Canadian Government were cross-examining Maurina and the Pictou Landing

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health director, Phillipa Pictou. I know it is Canada's legal right to cross-examine Maurina, but I could not help feeling it was a bit much to put a woman, who had gone through so much and was recovering from a stroke, through the stress of a cross-examination. I think most Canadians would agree. Across the street, Jordan's Principle supporters had gathered to give prayers and support to Maurina and Phillipa and to cheer them on for all the good work they are doing on behalf of Jeremy and all other First Nations children. Maurina joined them and sang a song for Jordan.

It is time for the Canadian Government to act in ways that make its citizens proud - to treat all children equitably while respecting their unique cultures and rights. As Maurina said, "I am doing this for Canada."

Her case goes to Federal Court in early 2012. Let's hope she wins because it is good for Jeremy, good for all First Nations children, and good for the country. You can help – sign up to support Jordan's Principle at [www.jordansprinciple.ca](http://www.jordansprinciple.ca)

*Cindy is Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada. She is also an Associate Professor at the University of Alberta.*

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**SEPARATE BUT UNEQUAL: CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS TRIBUNAL DECISION ALLOWS UNEQUAL TREATMENT OF FIRST NATIONS CHILDREN LIVING ON RESERVE**

by Anne Levesque, LLB

**Précis :** *Quand la Section 67 de la loi canadienne des Droits de la Personne qui antérieurement empêchait les peuples de Premières Nations de déposer une plainte discriminatoire reliée à la loi sur les Indiens – quand celle-ci fut abrogée, c'était généralement reconnu comme un développement important dans l'avancement de la cause des droits de la personne au Canada. Le Gouvernement du Canada s'est défait d'une des quelques lois discriminatoires qui existait toujours au Canada. Le peuple des Premières Nations occupant une réserve bénéficierait finalement d'un droit que la*

*plupart des Canadiens prennent pour acquis – le droit à l'égalité sous la loi des droits à la personne et le droit d'obtenir justice au Tribunal traitant des matières de droits à la personne lorsque quelqu'un aura vécu un incident de nature discriminatoire – ou en est-il ainsi? L'auteur témoigne d'une décision récente qui nous mène à douter de l'effet que l'abrogation de la Section 67 eut pu avoir.*

The 2008 repeal of section 67 of the *Canadian Human Rights Act* ("Human Rights Act"), which barred First Nations Peoples from filing discrimination complaints related to the *Indian Act*, was widely regarded as an important step for the advancement of human rights in Canada. Through this legislative amendment, the Government of Canada did away with one of the few overtly discriminatory pieces of legislation still remaining in our country. First Nations Peoples living on reserve would finally benefit from a right that most Canadians have come to take for granted over the past 30 years: the right to equality under the *Human Rights Act* and the right to seek redress to before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal when they have experienced discrimination.

But a recent decision of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal casts serious doubt upon the actual impact of the repeal of section 67. In her decision, Shirish Chotalia, Chair of the Tribunal, dismissed a human rights complaint lodged by the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society and the Assembly of First Nations alleging that the Federal Government discriminates against First Nations children by providing inequitable child welfare services to First Nations Peoples living on reserves. However, the complaint was not thrown out for lack of evidence, as is often the case. On the contrary, there was ample evidence before Chair Chotalia supporting the complainants' allegations of discrimination.

Several government-funded reports confirm that families living on reserve receive unequal child welfare services compared to those living off reserve. Moreover, in many jurisdictions, the Government of Canada funds little or no preventative services to support families in need and to help keep at-risk children in their homes and communities. According to the evidence that

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was before Chair Chotalia, the underfunding of child welfare services on reserve causes an alarming number of First Nations children to be put into child welfare care. In fact, there are currently approximately three times more First Nations children in care than there were in residential schools at the nadir of that saga.

In spite of this evidence, Chair Chotalia dismissed the complaint on the basis that a finding of discrimination required a difference in treatment between two individuals or groups who receive services from the same provider (or in this case, the same level of government). In other words, even if it is clear that the Government of Canada underfunds First Nations child welfare services, this did not amount to a breach of the right to equality under the *Human Rights Act* because child welfare services on and off reserves are not provided by the same level of government.

The legal implications of this case cannot be overstated. As a result of this decision, First Nations Peoples have no recourse under the *Human Rights Act* if the Government of Canada underfunds services such as health, education, policing, and home care. This is because, according to Chair Chotalia, Canada's services cannot be compared to those provided by provinces/territories to people living off reserve. In short, it means that in spite of the repeal of section 67, First Nations Peoples of Canada still do not have the full right to equality under the *Human Rights Act*.

Beyond the larger implications of the case for First Nations Peoples generally, the decision also has devastating repercussions on the over 27,000 First Nations children who are currently in care and the thousands of families served by the system. Because of this decision, these families will not have access to the support and resources they need to stay safely together, even though these services are available to other Canadians. This means that yet another generation of First Nations children will be unnecessarily taken from their homes and communities.

In a 1970's case called *Bliss v Canada*, the Supreme Court of Canada dismissed a sex discrimination case brought by a pregnant

woman. According to the Court, discriminating against pregnant women could not be considered a form of sex discrimination because not all women get pregnant. Not surprisingly, the Court has since abandoned this line of reasoning, but *Bliss* is still often cited as an illustration of the dangers of using rigid, formalistic thinking in cases involving equality rights and discrimination. It is my prediction, and certainly my hope, that Chotalia's decision will be overturned and that it will soon join *Bliss* in Canadian law textbooks as a shocking reminder of the grave injustices that can occur when decision-makers in discrimination cases focus on legal technicalities rather than the central objectives of the right to equality: to protect the human dignity of Canada's most vulnerable and marginalized individuals.

*Anne works with Champ Law and Associates, and has acted as legal counsel for the Caring Society on the First Nations Child Welfare Tribunal.*

### OASW SPRING GALA AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Mark this date on your calendar! Our annual Spring gathering will take place on

April 19, 2012  
at the RA Centre in Ottawa.

More details on program and how to register will be available in the next issue of the Bulletin.

### SOCIAL WORK WEEK

This year, Social Work Week in Ontario, will take place from March 5 to 11, 2012. Each year a theme is selected that reflects the ideals and values of social workers. This year's theme is:

“How Social Workers Help People  
Get Back on Track”

For more information on Social Work Week, please check the OASW Web site at <http://oasw.org/en/communitysite/default.asp>.

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**UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS**

The Carleton University School of Social Work Class of 1972 will hold a 40-year reunion in Ottawa, May 11-13, 2012.

**If you are a member of that class**, or have contact information for someone in that class, please send a note to one of the following organizers:

- Suzanne Robinson  
([srobinson67@sympatico.ca](mailto:srobinson67@sympatico.ca)),
- Ken Goldberg  
([kennethgoldberg@rogers.com](mailto:kennethgoldberg@rogers.com)), or
- Ron Ensom ([ensom@rogers.com](mailto:ensom@rogers.com)).

**NOMINATIONS DUE:**

**Joan Gullen Annual Award**  
**January 20, 2012**  
**Bessie Touzel Award**  
**January 20, 2012**  
**Eastern Branch Board of Directors**  
**April 1, 2012**

**THE BULLETIN FOR SPRING 2012**

“ Social Work and Adults without Children/Empty Nesters ”

Deadline for submissions:  
 February 17, 2012

Send us your ideas and submissions  
 for this issue!

**MEILLEURS VŒUX DE LA SAISON!**

Les membres du Conseil de la Section de l'est de l'ATTSO et le Comité de Publication du Bulletin vous souhaitent d'heureuses fêtes et une nouvelle année comblée de joie et de prospérité.

**SEASON'S GREETINGS!**

The Members of the Eastern Branch Board and the Bulletin Publication Committee wish you a very Happy Holiday Season and a peaceful, prosperous New Year.