

**Vicki (Verge) Burgess, BA, HBSW, MSW, RSW**  
**President, MCSW Member Representative**

**Term:** 2017-2021 (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
**Region:** Capital  
**Committees:** Executive Committee, Continuing Competence Committee

## Biography



Vicki Verge's tenure as a Social Worker started in 1992 when she became employed with Winnipeg Child and Family Services after obtaining an Honors Bachelor of Social Work degree from Lakehead University. In 2004, she completed her Master of Social Work degree. Her thesis focused on the importance of the client-worker relationship in a child welfare setting. In April 2005 Vicki published an article titled *The Client Worker Relationship in a Child Welfare setting* on Envision: A Manitoba Journal of Child Welfare (<https://www.researchgate.net/home>).

After achieving her MSW at the University of Manitoba, Vicki left her role as a Program Director in child welfare for a career in Healthcare. At the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA), she worked as a Community Team Manager in Point Douglas, and then moved to a Community Team Manager position in River Heights. In these positions, she was a leader of diverse interdisciplinary teams including doctors, nurses, mental health practitioners, community development and home care professionals. In her later position, she had the opportunity to work at an integrated health and social services site, which allowed her an opportunity to build relationships with many Family Services professionals such as Employment and Income Assistance, Children's Special Services and Vocational Rehabilitation.

In 2012, Vicki became the Regional Director of Social Work for the WRHA. In this position, she is responsible for providing leadership and direction for the provision of Social Work services across the Winnipeg Health region continuum (which includes acute care, long term care and community programming). Within an interdisciplinary program management model she liaises with programs, sites, agencies, support services, recipients, staff and students to collaborate and achieve mutual goals. In addition to this role, Vicki is

responsible for the direct management of a team of medical Social Workers and a team of Spiritual Health specialists in an acute care hospital at an integrated health and social services campus.

Vicki is currently President of the Manitoba College of Social Workers (MCSW) Board of Directors and is also Chair of the MCSW Continuing Competence Committee. Vicki has a lengthy interest with staff education. Starting in 2002 she became an Instructor for the Province of Manitoba and facilitated a 3-day core module titled "Family Centered Child Protective Services". She delivered these modules to child welfare and social service practitioners both within Winnipeg as well as in Northern Manitoba and First Nation communities. In her present role as Regional Director, she offers an annual Social Work Student Learning Series which helps inform social work staff & students in the WRHA about a variety of health topics and programs. From 2012-2016 Vicki was the Chair of the WRHA First Line Managers conference. In 2016 Vicki helped develop and deliver the *A Roadmap for Ethical Responses* Workshop at the MCSW's first AGM and Education day. In 2017 Vicki delivered three national webinars on ethics for the Manitoba College of Social Workers and the Canadian Association on Social Workers (<http://www.casw-acts.ca/en/webinars>).