

Janice (Jan) Christianson-Wood, BSW, MSW, RSW MCSW Member Representative

Term: 2018-2021 (2nd term)
Region: Capital
Committees: By-Law Committee, CASW President, IFSW Regional President

Biography



Janice Christianson-Wood holds a Bachelor of Social Work (1990) and a Master of Social Work (1995) from the University of Manitoba. In 1997 she joined the Manitoba Institute of Registered Social Workers, precursor of the College, and the Manitoba Association of Social Workers. Jan served as a Board member of MIRSWM/MASW and was on the Executive of MIRSWM as it became the Transition Board for the Manitoba College of Social Work. She has been a Board and Committee member of MCSW since its inception and is running for election to a second three-year term. She is currently on the By-Laws Committee.

As a practitioner, Jan worked in child welfare, starting in front line child protection in 1990, moving to a research project at the University of Manitoba and returning to practice at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in 1995, then to the General CFS Authority in 2008 after a brief period at the Office of the Children's Advocate. She retired from Manitoba Family Services in 2017, allowing her to spend more time volunteering as a social worker.

Throughout her career, Jan's interest in the profession has led her to volunteer with MIRSWM/MASW, with MCSW, the Canadian Association of Social Workers and the International Federation of Social Workers, serving on the Board of each organization and on the Executive of each as well. Currently, Jan is President of the Canadian Federation of Social Workers and a Regional President of the International Federation of Social Workers. She believes that giving back to the profession strengthens it and benefits social workers at the provincial, national and international levels. Social workers provide a multitude of services to people in need, serve as advisors within government, as advocates for individuals and organizations seeking social justice and work internationally as advocates for peace and justice and in support of people living in conditions of war, sexual oppression and institutionalized injustice.

Jan has lived in Manitoba for most of her life, including 12 years in Northern Manitoba, two years in Brandon and for the past 33 years, in Winnipeg. She is married, has adult children and shares a home with three poodles, ranging in age from 2 to 13 years. Her current personal challenge is learning to play the clarinet. She is descended from the first Icelandic settlers in Manitoba and maintains connections with relatives in Iceland and Sweden.