

Eye of the Storm, Kaysi Katchmar, BSW, RSW Member Representative

Term: 2021-2024 (1st term)
Region: Northern

Biography



Eye of the Storm, also known by her colonial name Kaysi Katchmar, is First Nations Anishinaabe Ikwe. Kaysi's passion for social work started in 2010 when she studied one of the introductory courses to the program while working on her Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Manitoba; she was instantly hooked. Kaysi applied and was accepted into the Northern Social Work Program in her home community of Thompson. Kaysi's educational journey flourished due to the number of opportunities a rural community, like Thompson, could offer. Kaysi completed her degree with Deans Honours and the University of Manitoba Student Union Scholarship for Outstanding Academic Achievement. Kaysi was also asked to be a part of the Ambassador Program for Social Work. She was a part of two research projects facilitated in Thompson focusing on Sexual Exploitation and Homelessness in Youth. With these opportunities, Kaysi was able to meet, connect and build relationships with community leaders.

Following graduation, Kaysi accepted a position with the Northern Health Region as a Crisis Services Coordinator for the Northern Crisis Services for Youth in Thompson. This opportunity allowed for connections with youth in remote communities, supporting mental health promotion activities, and striving to improve access and enhance mental health services available to youth. In 2013, Kaysi accepted her current position as an Elementary School Counsellor in Thompson. Kaysi loves the diversity of the students and families they serve and welcomes the many hats that come with her role. Kaysi has been able to provide placement opportunities for Social Work Students and has continued to learn more about her own practice through them. Kaysi has coached almost every sport at the Elementary School and furthered her coaching to the Varsity level.

Kaysi has been a Registered Member of the College in good standing since 2014. Kaysi wishes to give voice to the North as a Board Member of the MCSW. Kaysi believes that there is a distinct need for connectivity for the Northern Members to build relationships and resources with their Southern neighbors. Kaysi also considers it imperative that Northern Members have access to training opportunities to satisfy their competencies. Kaysi intends to strive to help bridge the gap and make these connections easier for the Northern Members.