

Ashley Vandepoele, BSW, RSW Member Representative

Term: 2024-2027 (1st term)
Region: Western

Biography



From a young age Ashley knew that she wanted her career path to be one where she could effectively make change and watch human beings grow to be their best selves. This led her to the completion of her Bachelor of Social Work degree with Dean's Honours from the University of Manitoba in 2009. Ashley's practicum placements further cemented her interest in working in the addictions field and she began her social work journey employed at the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba (AFM). Shortly after graduation Ashley moved back to her home town of Ste. Rose du Lac and enjoyed providing rural opportunities for other social work students to complete their practicums closer to home; in 2018 Ashley was awarded the University of Manitoba Field Instruction Award. Ashley enjoys working with students and seeing them mold their experiences to explore their future career options. She didn't set out to be in manager roles, but found herself as both a Supervisor and Acting Director with AFM, and a Care Team Manager role at our local personal care home. Ashley joined the Manitoba College of Social Workers in 2020 when she took on her current role with the health region, as a Manager of Health Services in Primary Care with Prairie Mountain Health. Ashley is currently a member of MCSW's the Continuing Competency Committee and joined to help her learn more about the College.

Ashley is Metis, and a mother of two incredible daughters who never cease to amaze her in all their accomplishments and insights. She is working to instill in them pride and understanding of their culture. Their extra-curricular activities keep her busy and have led to a wealth of committee work that has evolved based on their interests. Currently Ashley is the chair for her communities' signature festival - Ste. Rose Hoof 'n' Holler Days; Vice-President of Ste. Rose Skating Club; and Home Competition Chair for Neepawa Nova's Gymnastics Club. You can usually find Ashley fundraising or volunteering for something.

Ashley looks at board membership as an opportunity to continue her personal growth and continue to advocate for the social work profession in a variety of ways. Our rural geography can make connecting a challenge and she wants to help bring awareness to opportunities for those practicing in this area. Ashley also has an interest in connecting others with a social work background in leadership positions to look at meaningful work connections and networks.