



# March 6, 2024

## The Leaf, Assiniboine Park



A snowy day didn't stop the Manitoba College of Social Workers from hosting the Member Appreciation Networking Event on Wednesday, March 6, 2024. With beautiful views of the falling snow, members, friends, and staff gathered at The Leaf to celebrate and honour the outstanding contributions Manitoba Social Workers make every day. Each year we look forward to this event - an opportunity to meet and reconnect with social work colleagues and express our appreciation for the many contributions of social workers across this province. This National Social Work Month, we honour and celebrate our shared values – the Seven Points of Unity – that guide us on our individual and collective journeys of truth, reconciliation, equity, diversity and inclusion.

The evening's program began with President Jennifer Meixner acknowledging the Treaty 1 land on which we gathered. She welcomed MCSW Board Member Tréchelle Bunn, a member of Chan Kagha Otina Dakhóta Oyáte (Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation), to deliver the opening address. Tréchelle is currently the Youth Chief of the Southern Chiefs' Organization where she represents the voice of youth across 34 First Nations in southern Manitoba. MCSW is incredibly grateful for Trechelle's participation on the Board of Directors and thanks her for opening the Member Appreciation event in a good way.





Barb Temmerman, Jan Christianson-Wood, Jen Meixner and Eveline Milliken

Salina Fukumoto, MB Representative of the Canadian Association of Social Workers, was honoured to acknowledge Jan Christianson-Wood as the 2024 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. Jan has practiced social work for over 30 years – a leader at provincial, national and international levels and a strong advocate for social justice. Jan’s passion for the profession shines through in all that she does. Jan has been an integral part of the development and ongoing work of the Manitoba College of Social Workers – serving on the Board of the Manitoba Institute of Registered Social Workers, the Transition Board, the Board of MCSW, as well as multiple committees throughout the years. Nominator Eveline Milliken described Jan’s passion for the profession of social work and for social justice for children:

*“Jan moves to action through her board leadership, front line work, and educational contributions. Social work is in Jan’s heart and she has a tenacious drive to pursue clarity, to make a better world.”*

MCSW was happy to welcome Fred Phelps, Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Social Workers to present the 2024 Glenn Drover National Award for Outstanding Service to Joan Churley. The Glenn Drover Award is given every two years to an individual social worker who demonstrates outstanding social work practice at the local, provincial, national or international level. Joan has been teaching at the Faculty of Social Work at the University Manitoba for over 20 years. Joan was instrumental in setting up the various cohort programs that make up the distance delivery program. These cohort programs were designed to meet the need for accessible social work education opportunities for rural agencies, communities, and First Nations communities. Joan has worked tirelessly to develop new and innovative ways to conduct field practicums by connecting with others across the country and attending international conferences. Supporter Lynette Nikkel noted:



Lynette Nikkel, Joan Churley, and Carla Gibson Smith

*“Joan also takes pride in serving students from across Canada, from small fishing villages on the East Coast, to northern inlets, to large urban centres. Joan supports accessible and inclusive education and has been an advocate for cohort programs to make social work education more accessible to individuals in remote and rural locations.”*



Congratulations to Joan Churley and Jan Christianson-Wood on their achievements. Thank you to the MCSW members for uniting as a social work profession in honouring our professional values: respecting the dignity and worth of persons, promoting social justice, pursuing truth and reconciliation, valuing human relations, preserving truth in professional practice, maintaining privacy and confidentiality and providing competent and professional services. We thank you for your contributions and we support you in the important work you do.