



# ASWB member boards, in their own words

## ASWB profiles

**Name of jurisdiction:** Saskatchewan

**Name of board:** Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers

**Number of board members:** Up to nine. Currently we have seven social workers, one public member, and one vacancy.

**Licensure levels offered:** RSW

**Number of licensees:** Approximately 1,600

### *Useless tidbits from the association news editors:*

- Estevan, Saskatchewan, is the sunniest place in Canada with 2,537 hours of sunshine per year.
- Saskatchewan is the world's largest producer of potash.
- In Saskatchewan, they call a hoodie a "bunny hug."
- It is rumored that the Saskatchewan Science Centre is haunted by at least three mischievous ghosts.
- You know you are a true Saskatchewanian when you know all 4 seasons: almost winter, winter, still winter, and road construction.

**Biggest achievement in the past 12 months:** In 2013, our legislation was changed to allow social workers with appropriate education and supervised practice to begin issuing diagnoses using the DSM. In May of 2014, our membership approved the bylaws (rules) that will allow this to move forward. We are now waiting for final government approval and anticipate having the first group of authorized social workers active in 2015. We will be using the ASWB Clinical Exam as part of the assessment to ensure that authorized members have the appropriate knowledge and skills.

**Biggest lesson learned in the past 12 months:** A lesson that keeps coming back is that we need to plan for at least four times as much time as we think something should take, particularly when dependent on action by volunteers and government. While we appreciate and understand the necessity of both, the delays can be very frustrating.

**Biggest challenge facing the board:** We decided to move forward with plans to implement online registration and license renewal in 2014 rather than 2015 as had originally been planned. We also made a decision that all members will have to use the new system and pay online immediately (i.e., we will not be sending out or accepting paper renewals). It will be interesting to see how members react to this change, particularly given that many of them have their fees paid by their employer. We are anticipating some push back but hope that members will see that it is for their own benefit in the long run.

**(complete the sentence) "I would really love to hear about how other jurisdictions... respond to complaints from licensees about internal processes.**

**Completed by:** Alison MacDonald, Executive Director and Registrar