



## Canada comes to Culpeper

*Canadian registrars held their annual meeting September 17-18 at ASWB offices*

Last year, ASWB began inviting members of the regulatory community to take a “road trip to Culpeper” to start or continue the conversation about issues relevant to regulation. This year, some of ASWB’s Canadian members accepted the invitation, coming from as far west as British Columbia to hold the annual meeting of the Canadian Registrars at ASWB’s headquarters. This was the first time that the meeting has been held outside Canadian borders in the 20 years that the group has been in existence.

time to break out of the mold. And we are glad that we did.”

The purpose of the annual meetings: to share information and to talk about issues related to social work regulation across Canada. The model has worked well, according to Browne, because the group is small enough to allow registrars to get to know each other personally, as colleagues and friends, and there is a history of sharing knowledge and helping to solve problems.

“Getting together to really pick each other’s brains” is something that Browne values highly, because it gives her the benefit of learning about current practices and challenges from other provinces that may have more staff and more resources to dedicate to finding solutions. Some of the issues that the group has tackled include complaints, international applicants, and e-practice. This information sharing continues throughout the year, mostly by email or phone. Some topics discussed at the annual meeting become projects that members agree to work on via email during the coming year.

The Canadian registrars began holding an annual meeting in 1994, rotating the location among the provinces. The registrar of the hosting province serves as chair. “The fun thing,” said Browne,



Asked “Why now?” Miriam Browne, executive director and registrar of the Manitoba Institute of Registered Social Workers and volunteer chair of this year’s

meeting, replied: “Most of our jurisdictions have hosted the meeting more than once over the last 20 years. ASWB has sent a representative to our meetings for at least the last seven years. We had never been to ASWB’s offices, but we participate in ASWB services. So it seemed like a good

who has been a member of the group for 18 years, “is that we don’t always go to the largest center within each jurisdiction—and that keeps it interesting.” In 2001, for example, the group met in Winnipeg, capital of Manitoba (and also its largest city), and in 2010 it met in Gimli, Manitoba, a small rural municipality on Lake Winnipeg. Starting in 2008, when all ten provinces were members of ASWB, a staff member from ASWB has attended the meetings.

“ASWB is so pleased to welcome the Canadian registrars to the Commonwealth of Virginia and especially to our headquarters in Culpeper,” said ASWB CEO Mary Jo Monahan. “This meeting underlines the strategic, critical, and creative collaboration among the social work regulatory community in North America.”

As part of the activities for the group, ASWB former executive director Donna DeAngelis hosted the group to a dinner at her home with entertainment provided by local folksingers. The registrars soaked up the Culpeper culture, enjoying the local shops and restaurants. Attending the registrars meeting were: John Mayr, British Columbia; Miriam Browne and Barb Temmerman, Manitoba; Annie Rickett, New Brunswick; Lisa Crockwell, Newfoundland and Labrador; Glenda McDonald, Ontario; and Alison MacDonald, Saskatchewan. Other members of the group include: Lynn Labrecque King, Alberta; Marc Wagg, Nova Scotia; Philip Matusiewicz, Prince Edward Island; and Sylvio Rioux, Québec.