Name of jurisdiction: Manitoba, Canada

Name of board: Manitoba College of Social Workers

Number of board members: 12-15 elected from the members of the College and the public (currently 10 Interim Transition Board members appointed by the Minister of Family Services to establish the College)

Licensure levels offered: 1 – Registered Social Worker

Number of licensees: approximately 1,500

Biggest achievement in the past 12 months: New legislation (The Social Work Profession Act) resulted in the organization transitioning from the Manitoba Institute of Registered Social Workers (a voluntary organization) to the Manitoba College of Social Workers, on April 1, 2015. This created the first mandatory regulatory body for the profession of social work in the province of Manitoba.

Biggest challenge facing the board: The transition from MIRSW to the College was both an accomplishment and an enormous challenge. The new legislation resulted in increased membership, new eligibility requirements, policy and structural change, and a tremendous increase in workload for both the organization’s staff and the board of directors.

(Complete the sentence) “I would really love to hear about how other jurisdictions manage growth and change within their organizations.”

Completed by: Miriam Browne, MSW, RSW
Executive Director/Registrar
Manitoba College of Social Workers

Useless tidbits from the association news editors:

- The bear who inspired the Winnie the Pooh character was owned by Winnipegger Lieutenant Harry Colebourne and named after his hometown.
- Manitoba’s capital, Winnipeg, is also the geographical center of North America.
- Winnipeg was the first city in the world to develop the 911 emergency phone number.
- Manitoba has reigned as “Slurpee Capital of the World” for 16 consecutive years.