

SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE IN HIV/AIDS

DID YOU KNOW? Social workers in the field of HIV/AIDS:

- Support persons living with HIV/AIDS, as well as family, friends, partners, and children affected by the disease
- Provide therapy and counselling around issues such as new diagnosis, disclosure, intimate partner violence, depression, fertility, anxiety, relationships, grief and loss, and addictions*
- Create connections with the community to enhance support for individuals, families and caregivers
- Work with a multidisciplinary team, which often includes a nurse practitioner, physician, pharmacist, a psychologist, and a public health representative where appropriate
- Provide education to reduce the incidence of HIV transmission through harm reduction and health promotion
- Link individuals to essential services and programs and help them navigate the various systems (i.e., income support, prescription drug programs, housing, health care, etc.)
- Advocate for services, policies and programs to meet the needs of individuals living with HIV/AIDS
- Provide education to community partners, health care workers and the general public to reduce stigma and discrimination for those living with HIV/AIDS
- Inform social policy change and development

*<http://www.casw-acts.ca/en/social-work-practice-hiv-aids>

There are over 1600 social workers registered to practice social work in Newfoundland and Labrador. Further information about the social work profession can be found at www.nlcsw.ca or by contacting:

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