

# SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE IN HIV/AIDS

Social work is a regulated health profession in Newfoundland and Labrador. There are over 1700 social workers registered to practice social work throughout the province. Social workers adhere to a Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice in providing essential, competent, and high-quality services.

Registered Social Workers in the field of HIV/AIDS provide essential services, supports and programs. Through their work, social workers:

- 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 (e.g., income support, prescription drug programs, housing, health care).
- 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>

Further information about the social work profession can be found at [www.nlcsw.ca](http://www.nlcsw.ca) or by contacting:

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