

SPOTLIGHT



On Social Work Regulation

What does it mean to be a self-regulated profession?

Professional self-regulation is a regulatory model whereby government delegates regulatory authority to those with the specialized knowledge and in-depth expertise required to regulate their profession.

The most common mechanism for delegating regulatory authority is through legislation. In NL, the [Social Workers Act](#) sets the educational, professional, ethical and continuing competency requirements that must be met in order for individuals to use the title 'social worker' or engage in the practice of social work in this province. The Act gives NLCSW the exclusive right to regulate the social work profession in NL based on these requirements.

In all professional self-regulatory models, the regulatory body is expected to operate in the public interest. In the Social Workers Act, this is stated explicitly. In other words, the primary purpose behind all NLCSW activities is to ensure members of the public are receiving the services of qualified practitioners, whether those services are offered in direct or indirect practice.