

# SPOTLIGHT

## On Social Work Regulation

The Spotlight on Social Work Regulation series is designed to promote an understanding of social work regulation and the role of the NL College of Social Workers (NLCSW). Access the full series at <https://nlcsw.ca/regulation/>.

### **What regulatory documents must be adhered to by social workers in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL)?**

This question was previously addressed in the fourth edition of the Spotlight series. However, the 2024 release of a new Code of Ethics and updated Standards of Practice warranted a revisit of this important question.

**Social Workers Act (2010)**: This provincial legislation sets the educational, professional, ethical, and continuing competency requirements for the social work profession in NL. NLCSW regulates the profession based on these requirements and social workers must adhere to the requirements set out in the Act.

**Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) (2024) Code of Ethics**: NLCSW adopted this code for regulating social work practice in NL effective March 1, 2024. This code replaces the 2005 version. The code sets out seven core values that social workers must uphold for the ethical practice of social work. Each value is supplemented by Guiding Principles, Context for Practice Statements, and Guidelines. As detailed by CASW, “all values, principles, and guidelines have equal importance and work together to describe the ethical conduct, behaviour, and professionalism necessary to provide ethical social work services”.

**NLCSW (2024) Standards of Practice**: NLCSW sets the standards of practice for social workers in NL. The 2024 standards replace the 2020 version. Applicable to all fields of social work practice, the 25 standards outline the practice requirements that must be adhered to ensure safe, ethical, and competent social work practice.