



## Call for Proposals: 2016 Social Action Field Placement

### About the Social Action Placement

The social action field placement provides an opportunity for our post-degree Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) students to **learn about community-based practices that promote social change** and to gain an understanding of **how social issues are rooted in structural inequalities** at the social, economic and political levels.

One of the ways the social action field placement differs from our traditional direct practice field placement is that its **focus on social issues is broader, targeting community level interventions**, rather than individual and family interventions characteristic of the more traditional direct practice placement.

Another difference is the **team-work focus**, where we match approximately 2-4 students with each field placement project. Students are expected to practice the skills of team work with each other and agency staff in carrying out the initiative or project. This project experience is expected to allow students to learn more about sharing leadership skills and work responsibilities in a respectful and collaborative manner.

The focus of the placement is usually an **initiative or project related to a social issue**, such as:

- poverty,
- homelessness,
- family violence/intimate partner violence,
- bullying in the workplace and schools,
- racism,
- homophobia/transphobia,
- discrimination/human rights violation,
- social isolation/exclusion,
- environmental issues,
- inequality and injustice

During the placement, students work with agency personnel to organize a **social action strategy that helps to raise awareness about this issue, and to address it in some way**. Social action can be defined as “action on behalf of a cause, action that goes beyond what is conventional or routine. The action might be door-to-door canvassing, alternative radio, public meetings, or rallies. The cause might be women’s rights, opposition to a factory, or a gap in services.”<sup>1</sup> It can also include “working behind the scenes” to secure support for an initiative through research, consensus building, grant applications, and public engagement. However, **in all social action placements, there is a clear political goal for change and a public face to the social action**.

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<sup>1</sup> **Martin, B. (2007)**. Activism, social and political. In G. L. Anderson and K.G. Herr (eds.), *Encyclopedia of Activism and Social Justice*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. 19-27.

## Call for Proposals

The School of Social Work is currently seeking proposals from agencies, organizations, and groups for *Social Action Field Placement Projects* to be undertaken (in collaboration with agency staff) by Bachelor of Social Work students completing their Social Action Field Placement (SCWK5083) from September-December, 2016. **Agencies are expected to provide in-kind support and supervision to BSW students; however, financial compensation is not required.** Projects can include (but are not limited to) the following:

- a strategy for influencing public opinion to change attitudes & influence government
- research and social planning
- writing grant applications in support of planning new and needed services
- community consensus building
- general, sympathy, and wildcat strikes
- development of (or support for existing) coalitions
- public education & awareness activities
- building mass movements and organizations
- parliamentary political action – supporting political parties position on issues
- participation in electoral politics
- extra-parliamentary political action such as public protest
- lobbying
- boycotts of products
- building culture and identity
- internet advocacy
- media work
- direct action
- creating social space and building collective identity
- building international ties

All candidates must submit a completed Proposal Form with all required information by **April 1, 2016**. To receive a copy of the proposal form and/or for more information, please contact Karolyn Martin, Field Education Coordinator, by calling (506) 452-7702, or by email at [kdmartin@stu.ca](mailto:kdmartin@stu.ca).

## Benefits of Supervising STU BSW Students

- STU BSW Students are post-degree students, meaning they have already earned a previous degree (minimum Bachelor's level).
- While there is the expectation of in-kind support (e.g. through supervision time, supplies, office space, etc.), STU BSW students are not financially compensated during field placements – they benefit from the learning opportunity you provide, and you are not expected to financially compensate.
- STU BSW students produce high-quality work and are highly regarded in the community--they are passionate and excited to effect social change.
- STU BSW students have a keen understanding of social issues, inequality, and injustice, and will have already completed a Direct Practice field placement.
- For Registered Social Workers (RSWs), supervision hours count towards your Continuing Education hours with the NBASW (contact the NBASW for further information).

**Please distribute throughout your networks!**