



**CALGARY LIFELONG
LEARNING CENTRE**

Rekindling Our Passion to Service

SOCIAL WORKER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Mentorship · Practice · Professional Excellence

University of Calgary Downtown Campus
906 8 Ave SW, Calgary, T2P1H9



About Us

Calgary Lifelong Learning Centre is an educational service organization, incorporated in the province of Alberta. The Centre is founded on the belief that "... regardless of education, age or economic status, people are entitled to the rights and opportunities of learning, access to education tailored to their learning needs, and the environment to achieve lifelong learning".

In order to achieve its mandate, the Centre provides opportunities for students of different ages, from young children to adults. At present, the Centre focuses on three areas: the School of Adult Learning, the School of Community Services, and the Lifelong Chinese School.

Mandate

Our mandate is "Who is my Neighbor?" which is cited from the parable of the Good Samaritan to show compassion and love to those we encounter in our community and everyday activities, regardless of their background, religion, level of education, age and culture.

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Objectives

To provide support and assistance to the new students, families, children and seniors groups:

-  Offer support to the new students based on individual needs and challenges of various learning and living situations.
-  Help to adjust and integrate into Canadian society and providing relevant information and resources
-  Provide services to strengthen families, build resilience and preventive measures
-  Develop skills to cope with challenges and create stable and nurturing environments
-  Provide programs that help children and teens thrive and focus on child development and prepare youth for adulthood
-  Foster social inclusion to combat loneliness and provide recreational. educational and physical wellness programs



CALGARY LIFELONG
LEARNING CENTRE



www.calgarylifelonglearning.ca

Program Vision

This mentorship program is designed to support internationally trained social workers as they transition into professional practice in Alberta. Rooted in community values and guided by professional excellence, the program bridges knowledge, context, and identity – equipping participants to practice ethically, legally, and culturally within the Canadian social service landscape.

Professional Development Courses



Casework Practice and Client Engagement

- Understand the Canadian legal framework for social services
- Learn the major legal issues in social work practice
- Recognize social workers' legal and professional responsibilities
- Apply legal knowledge to real case scenarios



Understanding Canadian Social Service Law and Practice

- Build a foundational understanding of Indigenous Peoples in Canada
- Understand contemporary Indigenous issues through a social work lens
- Practice social work with cultural humility and active allyship



Learning the Land We Work On

- Understanding and applying the NASW Code of Ethics
- Exploring the CASW Code of Ethics in the Canadian context
- Ethical decision-making and accountability in practice



Situational English I

- Situational English for social work and community settings
- Language for consultations, interviews, and client interactions
- Communicating effectively in small groups and professional discussions



Situational English II

- Social work-specific terminology and usage
- Professional correspondence and advocacy writing
- Enhancing clarity and professionalism in communication



Cultural Sensitivity and Competence

- Building cultural awareness in diverse communities
- Applying anti-oppressive and inclusive approaches
- Strengthening professional identity within multicultural contexts



Developing a Professional Social Work Identity

- Building a reflective and ethical professional persona
- Establishing effective working relationships with clients, colleagues, and stakeholders
- Fostering resilience and self-care in practice

Practicum



The Social Worker Mentorship Program is designed to reignite participants' passion for the profession, provide guidance and support in obtaining Registered Social Worker (RSW) status, and assist them in completing the supervised practice hours required by the Alberta College of Social Workers (ACSW).



Social workers with Provisional Licenses are required to complete about 1500 hours under the supervision of Registered Social Workers, usually with 1–2 hours each month.



Upon completion of professional development courses, the Alberta College of Social Workers will recognize the course hours as professional development hours.

Internship Placement includes Children program, Senior Program and Family services in cooperation with the Community Services and Cares Association in Calgary (formerly known as Lutheran Care Ministry) which is a non-profit organization registered with the Alberta Government.

Administrative structure

Executive Director: Rev. Peter Chau

Program Director: Lily Lai

Finance Director: Emily Leung

Communication and Media Director: Junction Li

Program Assistant:

Instructor and Field Supervisor Profile

Celia Li, RSW

Registered Social Worker in Alberta with over 35 years of experience in clinical practice and in Psychiatric Rehabilitation and Elderly Services in Hong Kong and Calgary. She holds a Master of Social Work in Mental Health from Polytechnic University of Hong Kong, is certified in Applied Positive Psychology and Resilience Training, and get certified trainings in Expressive arts and mindfulness practices.

Dr. Conita Ip, PhD, RSW

Registered social worker in Alberta. Dr. Ip holds a Bachelor of Social Work and a Master's in Family Counselling and Family Education from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, as well as a PhD in Social Work from the University of Calgary, where her research focused on immigrant mental health. With over twenty years of experience, Dr. Ip has worked with individuals and families across government, non-profit, and private practice settings in both Hong Kong and Canada. In addition to her clinical practice, she also serves as a sessional faculty member teaching counselling and marriage and family therapy at Ambrose University.

Derek So, MSW, RSW

Registered Social Worker in Alberta with over twenty years of experience supporting youth, families, and couples in Calgary. He has facilitated attachment-based parenting groups and worked extensively as a family counsellor in various agencies, where he worked with parents, children, and couples to deepen connection and improve relationships.

Stephen Li

MSW, RSW

Stephen Li holds bachelor's degrees in Social and Cultural Anthropology and International Indigenous Studies, as well as a Master of Social Work from the University of Calgary. He has over ten years of experience in social work, supporting Chinese communities, immigrants, newcomers, and refugees in Canada. He has worked in Indigenous and Métis communities, as well as in psychiatric care, crisis counselling, and trauma support. He is currently a Clinical Supervisor with Recovery Alberta, specializing in complex trauma, personality disorders, and Indigenous mental health.

Timothy Lee

RSW

A Registered Social Worker in Calgary, Alberta, Timothy has years of experience as a Child Intervention Practitioner with Alberta's Ministry of Children and Family Services. He works in child protection, family support, and diverse communities, using a holistic and empowerment based approach. He also advises Chinese social workers and counselors in Calgary, comments on social issues on Fairchild Radio FM 94.7, and continues to grow through ongoing professional development.

Trista Lam

BSW(HKU), MSW(UCalgary), MSocSc(Counselling, HKU)

Trista is a Registered Social Worker, Canadian Certified Counsellor, and Canadian Clinical Supervisor with over 20 years of clinical counselling experience and 8 years of supervision experience. She is also an Approved Clinical Supervisor with the University of Calgary, the University of Alberta, and Yorkville University. Her areas of expertise include trauma, complex trauma, PTSD, bipolar disorder, depression, anxiety, midlife transitions, relationship issues, work related stress, infertility, and grief. She has worked across a wide range of settings, including family centres, youth centres, senior centres, mental health outpatient clinics, refugee centres, employee assistance programs, and private practice.

Understanding Canadian Social Service Law and Practice

Instructor

Timothy Lee, RSW

Course Description

(12 hours | 6 sessions | Instructor-led case-based learning)

This is a 12-hour bridging course outline (6 sessions / 2 hours each) designed for Hong Kong-trained social workers settling in Calgary through the Hong Kong Pathway. The course assumes participants already hold a Diploma in SW / BSW / MSW and had completed Law for Social Workers coursework in Hong Kong.

The course introduces Alberta's legal frameworks that govern social work practice, with emphasis on practical application in child protection, family violence, mental health, confidentiality, and courtroom practice.

This short course introduces Hong Kong-trained social workers to the basic legal frameworks guiding social work in Alberta. Participants will explore Canadian legal systems, examine selected Alberta legislation relevant to children and family practice, and analyze the social worker's legal roles within the Alberta social services (children and family) context. Emphasis will be placed on the practical application of relevant legislation to case scenarios in areas such as child protection, domestic violence, mental health, confidentiality, release of information, social workers in the courts, and professional accountability.

Suggested Reading

Regehr, C., Kanani, K., McFadden, J., & Saini, M. (2016).
Essential Law for Social Work Practice in Canada (3rd ed.).

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the Alberta legal system affecting social work practice.
- Identify the legal foundations of Canadian social service delivery and understand the relationship between federal, provincial, and municipal jurisdictions.
- Demonstrate understanding of social workers' legal and professional responsibilities under Alberta's *Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act*, *Protection Against Family Violence Act*, and *Mental Health Act*.
- Apply decision-making to the release of information according to the Access to Information Act, the Protection of Privacy Act, Personal Information Protection Act, and Children's First Act.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of recording, testifying at court, mediation and dispute resolution.

Teaching & Learning Methods

- Brief presentation with PowerPoint and case examples
- Guided discussion of selected Alberta legislation
- Case exercises
- Reflective journal and practical scenario analysis

Session Overview

Session 1 Introduction to Canadian Legal and Social Service Systems

Topics

- Overview of Canada’s constitutional framework and division of powers
- Alberta social services and CFS practice model
- Social workers’ statutory roles within the legal system

Activities

- Mapping exercise: Child Intervention service systems
- Discussion: Rule of Law?

Session 2 Child Protection in Alberta

Topics

- Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act (CYFEA)
- Reporting obligations, investigation process, court involvement
- Family court process, custody, guardianship

Activities

- Case simulation: Mandatory reporting decision-making
- Role-play: Social worker’s affidavit and testimony in child welfare court proceedings

Session 3 Alberta Family Law Act and Protection of Family Violence Act

Topics

- Understand the Alberta Family Law Act and Protection of Family Violence Act.
- Discuss roles of the social worker in Family Violence.

Activities

- Brief presentation: Alberta Family Law Act and Protection of Family Violence Act.
- Discussion: Social Workers’ roles and functions within the legal context.

Session 4 Alberta Mental Health Act Objectives

Topics

- Understand the Alberta Mental Health Act.
- Circumstances leading to involuntary admission.
- Identify social workers' legal obligations to protect the safety of others if a person with a serious mental illness is at risk of inflicting harm.

Activities

- Brief presentation: Alberta Mental Health Act.
- Discussion: Social Workers' roles and functions within the legal context.

Session 5 Sharing and Release of Information

Topics

- Understand privacy obligations under ATIA, HIA, and PIPA.
- Learn documentation standards and legal implications of record keeping.
- Apply confidentiality principles to real-life multi-agency settings.
- Identify legal risks and ethical boundaries in information sharing.

Activities

- Mini-lecture with case examples from Alberta social agencies.
- Role-play: Handling a CFS request for client information

Session 6 Professional Accountability & Courtroom Practice

Topics

- Social Work Record, Testifying at Court, Alternative Dispute Resolution / Mediation
- Recording and Documentation as required by CFS.
- What happens if a social worker is asked to testify in Court?

Activities

- Brief presentation
- Demonstration of testifying at court

Learning the Land We Work On

Instructor

Stephen Li, MSW, RSW

Course Description

(Indigenous Peoples, History, and Immigrant Social Work Practice)

This module builds a foundational understanding of Indigenous Peoples in Canada and equips immigrant social workers to practice with cultural humility, anti-oppressive awareness, and relational accountability.

Session Overview

Session 1 History of Indigenous Peoples in Canada

This module provides a foundational understanding of Indigenous Peoples in Canada, including First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, their diverse nations, worldviews, and governance systems that existed long before colonization. Participants will explore the impacts of colonial policies—particularly residential schools—and how these systems disrupted family structures, languages, spiritual practices, and community life.

Session 2 Contemporary Indigenous Issues in Canada

Building on historical knowledge, this module examines current realities facing Indigenous communities, including social determinants of health such as housing, education, food security, and access to culturally safe services. Participants will explore complex mental health presentations, polysubstance use, and the role of intergenerational trauma, unresolved grief, and collective loss. The module also introduces Truth and Reconciliation, the 94 Calls to Action, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), and Orange Shirt Day as ongoing national responses to historical and contemporary injustices. Emphasis is placed on understanding how these issues intersect with social work practice rather than viewing them as isolated problems.

Session 3 Health Equity & Anti-Oppressive Practice

This module focuses on recognizing and responding to high-acuity health and mental health needs within Indigenous contexts, particularly in crisis-driven and under-resourced systems. Participants will learn to apply anti-oppressive and trauma-informed frameworks to Indigenous people. The module emphasizes cultural humility, reflective practice, and awareness of how immigration status, and institutional roles can unintentionally reproduce harm if left unexamined.

Session 4 Intersecting Identities & Indigenous Allyship

This module explores intersecting identities, inviting participants to examine their own identities as immigrant social workers and how these shape power, privilege, and responsibility in practice. The concept of Indigenous allyship is introduced as an active, ongoing commitment rooted in listening, accountability, and relational trust. Practical examples illustrate how allyship is expressed in everyday social work decisions, advocacy, and collaboration.

