**Registered Social Service Worker (RSSW)**

Registered Social Service Workers are regulated professionals in Ontario which are defined by Ontario Regulation 383/00, s. 9 and 10 (1) as:

"Role of a Social Service Worker" means the role of a person who assesses, treats, and evaluates individual, interpersonal, and societal problems using Social Service Work knowledge, skills, interventions, and strategies, to assist individuals, dyads, families, groups, organizations, and communities to achieve optimum social functioning.

**Social Service Workers**provide services to clients dealing with personal and social problems by delivering counselling, community services and social support programs. Registered Social Service Workers have specialized post-secondary education and must participate in continued professional learning and skills development to fulfil the requirements of their professional regulatory body, the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers. Social Service Workers serve in a range of settings.

There are specific activities that are permitted by legislation in which can be performed by Social Service Workers upon their licensure with the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (OCSWSSW). The permitted activities recognized, include serving as a guarantor as per the requirements of the Ontario Vital Statistics Act, the controlled act of psychotherapy as well as per the requirements of the Regulated Health Professions Act and the Social Work and Social Service Work Act.

## Staff/Faculty at thunder bay regional health sciences centre (TBRHSC)

TBRHSC currently employs professionals which have completed their Social Service Worker training as well as various Social Workers.

## Type of learner Placements offered at TBRHSC

We accept students for Social Service Worker clinical placements. The candidate must be completing an Ontario College Diploma in Social Service Worker (or) an acceptable equivalent program, approved by the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers. The program in which the candidate is enrolled, must lead to registration with the OCSWSSW as a “Registered Social Service Worker” (RSSW). A list of approved Social Service Work programs can be reviewed here: <https://www.ocswssw.org/applicants/list-of-social-service-work-programs/>

## how to apply for a placement at TBRHSC

Clinical placements requests should be made directly to the TBRHSC Academic Placement Coordinator for Social Service Work *(see contact details below).* Enquiries should be made by e-mail and should include the following items listed below:

* Cover letter which should state the following
  + Interest in particular service(s)/location(s) in which you desire to complete a placement opportunity *(areas are listed below).*
  + Experience (previous employment, skills, certifications etc.)
  + Learning objectives for placement
  + Required hours for placement (with start and end dates listed).
* Resume (current) -AND- up-to-date unofficial transcript (OR) letter of good standing from your post-secondary academic institution, confirming eligibility for a Social Service Work placement opportunity.
* Forensic Psychiatry
* Adult Mental Health Unit (AMHU)
* Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit (CAMHU)
* Brief Intervention Treatment Team (BITT)
* Assertive Community Treatment Team (ACTT)
* Complex Chronic Diabetes Care (CCDC)
* Shared Mental Health Services at Fort William Clinic
* Cancer Centre
* Transitional Care Unit

Social Service Worker placement students with a significant desire and/or previous education/experience may be eligible to request a placement in one of these areas:

* Emergency Department (ED)
* Critical Care Services
* Surgical Services
* Medical Services
* Bariatric Services
* Renal Services
* Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)
* Paediatrics
* Labour & Delivery (L&D)
* Maternity Centre

Preceptors who supervise learners, include those which have completed Social Service Work education and/or Social Work education. Preceptors are duly registered with the OCSWSSW in their respective classes of registration. Please note opportunities for clinical placement are dependent upon a successful interview and an available learning opportunity. Learners may be expected to submit a police check and/or vulnerable sector check. (Do not apply for such a police/vulnerable sector check in advance until requested during the selection process).

**CONTACT INFORMATION (TO APPLY FOR PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES)**

Social Service Worker Placement Opportunities

Matthew Carrol

Social Service Work Placement Coordinator

Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre

[carrolm@tbh.net](mailto:carrolm@tbh.net)

**AFFILIATED COLLEGES OF APPLIED ARTS & TECHNOLOGY**

* Confederation College of Applied Arts & Technology

Affiliation agreements are required between academic institutions and TBRHSC before placements will be approved. If you are interested in a placement and attend an institution not listed above, please have the social service work program coordinator contact Karen Anderson in Academic Affairs at 807-684-6416 or by email to [anderska@tbh.net](mailto:anderska@tbh.net)

In the case of Social Service Work students, students must be enrolled in an institution considered acceptable to the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers. Unfortunately, private and career colleges are not eligible for Social Service Worker placement opportunities as per the requirements of the OCSWSSW *(see the following for reference).* <https://www.ocswssw.org/applicants/ontario-social-service-work-diploma/>

**HELPFUL WEBSITES**

* Ontario Social Service Workers Association <https://www.osswa.ca/>
* Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers <https://www.ocswssw.org/>
* Confederation College of Applied Arts & Technology (Social Service Work) <https://www.confederationcollege.ca/program/social-service-worker>
* Confederation College of Applied Arts & Technology (Social Service Work - Accelerated) <https://www.confederationcollege.ca/program/social-service-worker-accelerated>
* Confederation College of Applied Arts & Technology (Native Child and Family Services – Onajigawin Indigenous Services [equivalent to SSW as per OCSWSSW]. <https://www.confederationcollege.ca/program/native-child-and-family-services>
* Confederation College of Applied Arts & Technology (Native Child and Family Services – Onajigawin Indigenous Services - Accelerated [equivalent to SSW as per OCSWSSW]. <https://www.confederationcollege.ca/program/native-child-and-family-services-accelerated>
* Social Service Worker Program Standards (Ministry of Colleges and Universities) <http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/pepg/audiences/colleges/progstan/humserv/50721-social-service-worker.pdf>
* Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice Handbook (OCSWSSW) <https://www.ocswssw.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Code-of-Ethics-and-Standards-of-Practice-September-7-2018.pdf>