



Name of Researcher, Faculty, Department, Telephone & Email:

Anne-Marie McLaughlin, PhD, RSW, Associate Dean – Graduate Program, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary (780) 492-1478, amclaugh@ucalgary.ca , (Principal Investigator)

Patricia Samson, PhD, RSW, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary (780) 492-0108, patricia.samson@ucalgary.ca , (Co-Investigator)

Siu Ming Kwok, PhD, RSW, Professor, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary (403) 220 4942, siuming.kwok@ucalgary.ca , (Co-Investigator)

Erin Gray, PhD, RSW, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, MacEwan University (780) 633-3190, graye24@macewan.ca, (Co-Investigator)

Title of Project:

Workforce perceptions of social work professionalism: What role for social justice?

Sponsor:

Social Science and Humanities Research Council

This consent form, a copy of which has been given to you, is only part of the process of informed consent. If you want more details about something mentioned here, or information not included here, you should feel free to ask. Please take the time to read this carefully and to understand any accompanying information.

The University of Calgary Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board has approved this research study.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to explore the perception of registered social workers by those who employ them in the workforce: supervisors, managers, directors. This study seeks to understand if employer perceptions are aligned with the perceptions social workers have of themselves, and if their core functions and duties are in alignment with the profession's values of social justice and advocacy. This research will shed light on the public perception of social work and identify gaps between theory and practice. This is of critical importance to the future development of the social work profession in Alberta.

What Will I Be Asked To Do?

You will be asked to participate in an interview (either face to face or virtual), regarding workforce

perceptions of social work professionalism. You will be asked to share your insights and experiences with social work practice and professionalism as it relates to the values, skills, abilities and unique considerations of professional social workers. Interviews will be audio recorded and later transcribed.

Participation in this study is voluntary. You are not in any way obligated to participate, and you may refuse to participate altogether, may refuse to participate in parts of the study, you may decline to answer any and all questions, and you may withdraw from the study at any time without penalty or loss of benefits.

What Type of Personal Information Will Be Collected?

No personal identifying information will be collected in this study, and all participants shall remain anonymous. Should you agree to participate, you will be asked to provide some demographic data such as your education and job title. Audio recordings will be transcribed and the transcribed data will be analyzed for patterns and themes.

Are there Risks or Benefits if I Participate?

There is minimal risk associated with participation in this study. Data will be reported in aggregate and no names or identifying information will be reported. There is a possibility that someone reading the research report may identify the organization that you belong to but every attempt will be made to ensure confidentiality.

What Happens to the Information I Provide?

The data will be used for research and teaching purposes. The research findings from this study may be published in academic/professional journals and presented at academic/professional conferences. In research publications and presentations, no data will be presented that could identify you as a participant. The anonymized datasets will not be shared with publishers. You may request a copy of any publications produced from this study.

The principle investigator and members of the research team will have access to the information collected. All data collected will be kept confidential. There is a possibility that someone reading the research report may identify the organization that you belong to but every attempt will be made to ensure confidentiality.

Participation is voluntary, anonymous and confidential. You are free to discontinue participation at any time during the study. Should you choose to withdraw, all data contributed by you, that has not yet been transcribed and analyzed, will be removed from the study. No one except the researcher and the research team will be allowed to see or hear any of the answers to the interviews. Only group information will be summarized for any presentation or publication of results. The data are kept in a secure computer only accessible by the researcher and the research team. The anonymous data will be stored for five years on a computer disk, at which time, it will be permanently erased.

Signatures

Your signature on this form indicates that 1) you understand to your satisfaction the information provided to you about your participation in this research project, and 2) you agree to participate in the research project.

In no way does this waive your legal rights nor release the investigators, sponsors, or involved institutions from their legal and professional responsibilities. You are free to withdraw from this research project at any time. You should feel free to ask for clarification or new information throughout your participation.

Participant's Name: (please print) _____

Participant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Researcher's Name: (please print) _____

Researcher's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Questions/Concerns

If you have any further questions or want clarification regarding this research and/or your participation, please contact:

*Dr. Anne Marie McLaughlin, PhD., RSW
Faculty of Social Work
780 492 4724, amclaugh@ucalgary.ca*

If you have any concerns about the way you've been treated as a participant, please contact the Research Ethics Analyst, Research Services Office, University of Calgary at (403) 210-9863; email cfreb@ucalgary.ca.

A copy of this consent form has been given to you to keep for your records and reference. The investigator has kept a copy of the consent form.