

NOTICE OF MEASURE

to Achieve a Legitimate objective under Chapter 7 of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA)

Approved by the **GOVERNMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA**

Regulated Occupation Name: Social Worker

Province(s)/Territory(ies) whose workers are affected: Alberta, Saskatchewan

Under which legitimate objective(s) is/are the measure(s) being filed:

Consumer Protection

Protection of human, animal or plant life or health

Rationale/Justification:

There is a material difference in scope of practice between Nova Scotia and the affected jurisdictions. All registered social workers in Nova Scotia are required to perform psychosocial interventions as a core part of the scope of practice. To support this required competency, all applicants are required to complete a degree program accredited by the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE) as a requirement for registration. In comparison to non-accredited programs, accredited Bachelor of Social Work degree programs uphold high standards in intensity, breadth, theory and research and are more rigorous in assessment, which helps ensure that applicants have a strong grasp on key skills and competencies. Completing a CASWE-accredited degree program ensures that social workers have the necessary training to competently perform psychosocial interventions, by providing assurance that the graduate has the knowledge and skills to:

- Identify as a professional social worker and adopt a value perspective of the social work profession;
- Adhere to social work values and ethics in professional practice;
- Promote human rights and social justice;
- Support and enhance diversity by addressing structural sources of inequity;
- Employ critical thinking in professional practice;
- Engage in research;
- Participate in policy analysis and development;
- Engage in organizational and societal systems' change through professional practice; and
- Engage with individuals, families, groups, and communities through professional practice.

In Alberta and Saskatchewan, psychosocial interventions are not a part of the scope of practice for all registered social workers. Alberta and Saskatchewan both accept applicants who have graduated from accredited and non-accredited programs, and only social workers with sufficient training and competency are eligible to perform psychosocial interventions as part of their scope of practice. This means that a limited cohort of registered social workers in Alberta and Saskatchewan do not have the knowledge, skills and competency to perform the full scope of practice for social work in Nova Scotia.

To protect the public interest and to ensure that all social workers in Nova Scotia are competent in the full scope of practice, the Nova Scotia College of Social Workers (NSCSW) must individually assess

<p>the educational credentials of applicants from Alberta and Saskatchewan. The NSCSW relies on the CASWE accreditation standards to assess social work competence to conduct psychosocial intervention.</p> <p>Applicants who have not completed a CASWE-accredited degree will be required to complete one prior to being eligible for registration.</p>	
<p>Additional Requirement(s):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NSCSW will conduct an individual assessment of the educational credentials of applicants registered in Alberta and Saskatchewan. 2. Applicants who have graduated from a non-accredited program will be required to complete an accredited degree program to be eligible for registration. 	
<p>Anticipated Duration of the additional requirement(s): Indefinite</p>	
<p>Date Approved:</p>	<p>20/ 11/ 16 YY MM DD</p>
<p>Date(s) Reviewed and/or Updated</p>	<p>20/09/11 YY MM DD</p>
<p>Contact Information</p>	<p>902 424-7573, labourmobility@novascotia.ca</p>