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Hello,

I am a social worker fairly new to the province. I was surprised by the notification I received from the NSCSW to inform us that the legislation governing our profession was repealed with no consultation. Of course with no consultation the implications and concerns those in my profession have are largely unknown to you.

I went and watched the announcement in the legislature and I will say firstly thank you for recognizing the work that is being done by us, and its significance. It can be a profession when working within larger systems like health care can be seen as lesser than.

However, as much as social work is child and families, corrections and health care it is so much more. It's autonomy is a critical feature of the so much more. When social work is regulated by government there are some values and underpinnings that change what we do, shift power and intent. There is a fear and risk that we will be held back from the anti oppressive, advocacy and systems challenging.

Given this decision and how this decision came about it leaves little confidence that the underpinnings of this profession will be honoured or protected. It highlights what is often advocated for (nothing about us without us). We are not unseen nor silent. This approach regardless of the value or intent stains the outcome with the oppressive and colonial marks that cannot be the foundation of this profession, without creating harm.

It is hard enough for us to work within systems that have these origins, to add the layer of superseding governance in this way is removes the self governing foundation which allows us to balance and challenge the often times unintentional abuses that come from colonial frameworks.

Blessings!

Kaitlin Cantrell