

# SPOTLIGHT



## On Social Work Regulation

**The Spotlight on Social Work Regulation series is designed to promote an understanding of social work regulation and the role of the NL College of Social Workers (NLCSW). Access the full series at <https://nlcsw.ca/Spotlight on Social Work Regulation>.**

### **Why are applications evaluated for registration?**

As noted in the first edition of the Spotlight series, the primary purpose behind all NLCSW's regulatory activities is to ensure members of the public are receiving the services of qualified practitioners.

Social work practice is complex. Evaluating applications for registration ensures compliance with the [Social Workers Act](#) and [Regulations](#) which have been established by the provincial government. Validating education from an accredited school of social work, criminal record, prior history with other social work regulatory bodies and length of time since an individual practiced assures members of the public that they are receiving services from qualified social work professionals. While having clear and efficient processes and appeal mechanisms ensure applicants that decisions are objective and fair.

The Social Workers Act has an accountability mechanism built in to ensure key outcomes and decisions are reported. Section 16 (1) of the Act requires NLCSW to provide an annual report to the Minister of the Department of the Health and Community Services. This report provides a comprehensive overview of NLCSW's activities including statistics about the number of individuals registered. All annual reports are also publicly available on [NLCSW's website](#).

Accountable regulation affirms clients right to receive skilled, ethical and professional service.