



Canadian Association for Social
Work Education (CASWE)

**For Immediate Release
March 3, 2008**

Human Rights in a Diverse Community

The violation of human rights occurs in epidemic proportions around the world. Despite international commitments by governments to uphold human rights, many people continue to experience atrocities such as exploitation, poverty, and violence. Canadians are no exception.

Social workers are committed to upholding human rights as enshrined in Canadian law, as well as in international conventions on human rights created or supported by the United Nations.

Guided by these commitments, the Canadian Association for Social Work Education (CASWE) and the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) jointly acknowledge the theme of this year's National Social Work Week, *Human Rights in a Diverse Community*. The National Social Work Conference in Toronto in May 2008 will also bring together social workers across the country to focus on human rights issues.

At the international level, on World Social Work Day on April 15 and during the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) Conference in Brazil in August, social workers from around the world will gather to discuss and promote human rights, to plan strategy for influencing change toward a more just society, and to acknowledge social work's contribution to promoting the rights of all.

Whether advocating the provision of adequate resources to meet the basic needs of an individual, lobbying government for more equitable social policies, or making statements on international disasters, both CASW and CASWE, along with every social worker in Canada and around the world, will continue their efforts to make a difference.

-30-

For more information contact:

Veronica Marsman, MSW, RSW
President, CASW
E-mail: casw@casw-acts.ca

Benoît van Caloen, Ph.D., t.s./RSW
President, CASWE
E-mail : cassw@cassw-access.ca