

Curriculum Vitae
ROBERT SEYMOUR WRIGHT, MSW, RSW
20201015

Office
200-5435 Portland Place
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3K 6R7

phone: 902-832-1593
fax: 902-832-0061

robertseymourwright@gmail.com
www.robertswright.ca

PROFILE:

A Registered Social Worker (RSW) and Sociologist with experience and education in areas of Child Welfare, Education, Mediation, Mental Health, Direct Practice, Forensics, Administration and Cultural Competence. Master's Degree and Post Graduate Training in Social Work and Post Graduate Study in Sociology, Certificate in Divorce Mediation Theory, Completed Nova Scotia Public Service Commission Executive Development Program, Registered Private Practitioner with Endorsements in Direct Practice and Forensics, Clinical Member of Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers and the Canadian Professional Association for Transgender Health.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

REGISTERED PRIVATE PRACTICE IN SOCIAL WORK

Private Practitioner 1989 - Present

I have maintained a registered private practice in social work and over the past 30 years. I describe myself as a clinician/academic/administrator. I have always integrated my work delivering direct practice clinical service to clients with teaching and supervising interns, and promoting lasting systemic change through social policy advocacy. The Nova Scotia Association of Social Workers recognizes my specializations in the areas of Direct Practice and Forensics. I have been qualified as an expert witness in courts in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Ontario in areas including mental health, child protection, parenting capacity, domestic violence, sex offender assessment and treatment, the impact on parenting of a range of medical conditions and the impact of race and culture on patterns of criminal behaviour and family matters. I have conducted scores of parenting capacity, custody access, voice of the child, risk of violence and sex offender assessments over the past 21 years and have testified in court in support of these on many occasions.

I consider my practice a “teaching practice”, and I regularly supervise student interns from a range of human service, social work and counselling programmes. Since 2011 I have conducted ManTalk, a professionally supported, educational and emotionally supportive group for male victims of sexual abuse.

THE PEOPLES’ COUNSELLING CLINIC

800-1701 Hollis Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 3M8

Executive Director November 2017 – Present

In the Fall of 2017 when the pro-bono activities of my private practice became extensive and was supported by several grants from government and foundation sources, I formed this non-profit. The Peoples’ Counselling Clinic provides free and low-cost counselling to individuals, families, and groups. Services are provided by counselling professionals and students in a professional, supervised environment.

SAINT MARY’S UNIVERSITY

Winter 2020

Sessional Instructor
Department of Criminology

I taught a fourth year seminar course in Criminology: Race and the Criminal Justice System.

ACADIA UNIVERSITY

Summer 2017

Sessional Instructor
Department of Education

I taught a course in the graduate programme in Counselling in the Department of Education: Trauma Informed Approaches to Mental Health - An Africentric Perspective.

MOUNT SAINT VINCENT UNIVERSITY

166 Bedford Highway

Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3M 2J6

Sessional and Term Instructor

Summer 2008 – Spring 2013

Departments of Education and Child and Youth Study

I taught in the undergraduate programme in Child and Youth Study and in the graduate programme in Education

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

Nelson Place, 5675 Spring Garden Road

PO Box 696

Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2T7

Executive Director of the Child and Youth Strategy

May 2007 - July 2010

In this role I was responsible for the coordination of efforts involving five (5) key government departments as they work together to improve services to and outcomes of children and youth.

IWK HEALTH CENTRE
5850 - 5980 University Ave.
Halifax, NS
B3H 1V7

Social Worker - Child Protection Team

August 2006 - May 2007

I job shared the social work intake position on this team for 10 months.

CENTRAL REGION CHILD AND YOUTH ACTION COMMITTEE (CAYAC)

2131 Gottingen St., Suite 501
Halifax, NS
B3J 3P7

Social Worker/Principal Investigator

July 2005 - June 2006

While on leave from my permanent position (see below), I was employed by CAYAC to develop a profile of students described as “youth-not-in-school” and to develop an inter-agency method of practice to better serve them. Major accomplishments: Introduced weekly group therapy as a core element of the programme; successfully established resilience theory as a model for shaping the programme’s interventions.

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE

P.O. Box 1000
South Lancaster Mass. 01561

Visiting Instructor of Social Work

January 2002

Instructed Fundamentals of Social Research II. I was specifically requested to return to my alma mater to infuse greater emphasis on the application of statistical tools of analysis. Major accomplishment: Integrating statistics and quantitative research in this largely arts based curriculum programme which enhanced students’ success when pursuing graduate training.

WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Social Work
75 University Avenue
Waterloo, Ontario
N2L 3C5

Teaching Assistant

September 2000 - December 2000

Was part of a team of four instructors responsible for delivering weekly lectures (a shared responsibility) and seminars (we each led separate seminars) in the course SK500 Human Growth and Development.

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY

26-28 Prince Arthur Street

PO Box 399

Amherst, Nova Scotia

B4H 3Z5

Executive Director

December 1998 - December 2007

Casework Supervisor/Clinical Assessor

August 1997 - November 1998

At this agency I oversaw all human resource, finance, casework and clinical services offered by the Agency. In addition to these administrative functions I continued to provide direct clinical supervision of social work practitioners and provided direct clinical services to a small caseload of forensic clients (largely sex offenders). Major accomplishments: Leveraged the powerful role of a child welfare agency to establish partnerships with a range of community based agencies establishing an enduring collaborative community practice; significantly reduced volume and risk level of referrals to child welfare by investing and partnering with community agencies; established a model of joint case management of extremely complex cases that has served as a model of practice in other jurisdictions.

WASHINGTON STATE PENITENTIARY

1313 13th Street

Walla Walla, WA 99362

Correctional Mental Health Counsellor

August 1996 - March 1997

Provided clinical assessment, treatment and casework management to incarcerated men presenting with severe and persistent mental illness, personality disorders, addictions and a wide range of criminogenic problems (including homicide and sex offences) in this 2600 bed State Penitentiary. Major accomplishments: Studied and wrote about trauma among protective custody inmates; established the effectiveness of trauma informed practice with this population.

DARTMOUTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

95 Victoria Road

Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Race Relations Co-ordinator

March 1994 - May 1996

Provided in-service training, supervision and consultation to all levels of administration and staff regarding issues of cultural competence and race relations. Contributed to provincial educational initiatives including curriculum and policy development. I left this post to complete my graduate studies on a full time basis.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF HALIFAX

5244 South Street

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Family Care Worker

June 1992 - February 1994

Summer, 1991

Under contract to cover a leave of absence, and later as a permanent employee, I managed a family care (protection) case load, and participated in developing a program for contracting and training paraprofessional service providers in this well respected child welfare agency.

HALIFAX DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Highland Park School

3479 Robie Street

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Student Support Worker

April 1991 - June 1992

In consultation with the school principal and administration, provided and co-ordinated services to "at risk students" and their families as well as community organizing activities in the field of education.

PARKER ST. FOOD & FURNITURE BANK

2063 Parker Street

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Community Worker

December 1989 - January 1991

Was responsible for volunteer staffing and supervision, program and community development, fund-raising, and direct services including family visitation and crisis intervention in this private, charitable organization.

Y.O.U. Inc.

Worcester, Mass

01605

Assistant Co-ordinator Mediation Program

February - December 1989

Was responsible for intake and case assessment, co-ordination of volunteer mediators, assisted in mediation training, and mediated various types of family conflict.

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE

South Lancaster, Mass.

01561

Assistant Dean of Men

September 1988 - December 1989

Supervised Dons, clerical, reception, housekeeping staff; directed training of residence dons, implemented in house education programs, provided orientation and ongoing adjustment counselling and support to residents.

Residence Hall Counsellor

September 1987 - August 1988

Assisted in scheduling in house education and recreation programs, provided counselling and support, co-ordinated clerical staff, provided computer training to office staff.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES

(Precursor of the Parker Street Food & Furniture Bank)

2063 Parker Street

Halifax, N.S.

B3P 1X7

Co-ordinator

Summer 1985, 1986

Co-ordinated all aspects of the food bank operation of this service under the direction of the director

Research worker

Summer, 1984

Assisted in the establishment of the Metro Food Bank Society and the Seventh-Day Adventist Community Service Center, co-ordinated and supervised grant.

VOLUNTEER/CIVIC EXPERIENCE

iMOVE

2439 Gottingen St.

Halifax, N.S.

B3K 3C3

Member – Board of Directors

January 2014 – Present

iMOVE delivers community & prison-based programs for marginalized youth. Drawing on the expertise and support of many service providers and community volunteers, iMOVE's ensures that youth voices are important and heard as they gain tremendous leadership experience – being interviewed, standing on both sides of a video camera, hosting radio shows, witnessing the other side of the law without fear of reprisal, conferring with government officials, and cultural change activists.

SERIOUS INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM

Suite 203, 1256 Barrington St.

Halifax, N.S. B3J 1Y6

Member – Community Liaison Committee

January 2012 - Present

Support and assist the SiRT administration and investigators with navigating within communities and families particularly when matters involve persons from marginalized communities or who suffer from physical or mental disabilities

AFRIKAN CANADIAN PRISONER ADVOCACY COALITION

A new national coalition of individuals and agencies organizing to highlight the unique needs of Afrikan Canadians under correctional supervision. From October 2011 – 2014 as a member of this group I was involved with consultations on the mental health needs of incarcerated African Canadians. I also led a project to conduct a literature review for the Office of the Correctional Investigator on the experience and needs of incarcerated African Canadians.

December 2011 – Present

NORTH END COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

North End Community Health Centre

2165 Gottingen Street

Halifax, NS B3K 3B5

Member, Board of Directors

March 2010 – November 2011

NOVA SCOTIA BARISTER'S SOCIETY

1101-1645 Granville Street

Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 1X3

Member, Race Relations Committee

Fall 2009 – Fall 2014

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION OF CANADA

Suite 600, 100 Sparks Street

Ottawa, ON

K1P 5B7

Member, Diversity Task Group 2008-2009
This group, a Task Group of the Mental Health Commission of Canada worked to produce the document: Improving mental health services for immigrant, refugee, ethno-cultural and racialized groups: Issues and options for service improvement.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

P. O. Box 696

Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2T7

Member, CFSA Advisory Committee Mar 2006 - May 2007

NOVA SCOTIA CRIMINAL JUSTICE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 31191

Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 5Y1

Vice-President & Chair, Policy & Public Education Committee Feb 2006 - Apr. 2010

President April 2010 - December 2010

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN CANADA

1148 King Street

EastOshawa, Ontario L1H 1H8

Member of the Sexual Ethics Pool January 2002 - c. January 2009

Appointed to this national pool of recognized experts in the area of sexual misconduct.

The organization maintains this pool of experts to serve as investigators in matters related to sexual misconduct of its clergy, lay employees and volunteers.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

P.O. Box 7

Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2L6

Member, Advisory Committee on Judicial Appointments Jan 2002 - Dec 2006

CORRECTIONAL SERVICE OF CANADA

Brunswick Hotel

Moncton, NB

Celebrating the Volunteer International Year of Volunteers September 15, 2001

Received recognition for my volunteer efforts with CSC in the area of prison chaplaincy

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

12501 Old Columbia Pike

Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600

Member of the Division Operating Committee 1996 – 2001

Having served on a number of administrative committees within my church on a local, regional and national level, I was elected in 1996 to serve on the North American operating committee. This committee meets annually.

WALLA WALLA COLLEGE

204 S. College Ave.

College Place, WA 99324

Organizer and Chair, Graduate Student Organization August 1996 - June 1997

Prior to August of 1996 there was no formal democratic organization of graduate students at Walla Walla College. I undertook to change that. The organization was inaugurated in December of 1996 and I became its first Chairperson.

HENSON COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS & CONTINUING EDUCATION
(DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY)

6100 University Avenue
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Co-chair of Board of Directors, Transition Year Program 1994 - 1996

The Transition Year Program is an affirmative action/access academic program which targets indigenous Blacks and Mi'q maks of Eastern Canada. The Board promotes culturally specific curriculum, advocates for continued funding, contributes to staffing selection and review, and serves as liaison to the targeted communities and the wider University Community.

DRUG DEPENDENCY SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA

PO Box 896
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B2Y 3Z6

Member, Central Region Advisory Council 1994 - 1996

This citizen council serves to advise the regional director on issues of program priority, participates in public education initiatives, and supports program development and partnerships with community based agencies with similar mandates.

CITY OF HALIFAX

PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5

Member, Organizing Committee, Uptown Community Futures 1992 - 1997

An informal group which has worked to design, acquire funds for, and implement an Afrocentric drug prevention program to serve the pre-treatment and prevention needs of members of the North End Community of Halifax (the Nia Center). This project's funding has recently come to an end, leaving behind a legacy of better equipped community volunteers (2 registered non-profit groups) and improved understanding of cultural components of substance use and treatment issues.

Member, Mayor's Task Force on Drug Awareness 1992 - 1994

As member of this Task Force, I participated in developing programs, continuing research, and promoting awareness of the problems related to the use and trafficking of illicit drugs.

Member, Board of Directors Harbor City Homes 1991 - 1994

As member of the Board, oversaw all construction, maintenance, tenant landlord relations, hiring of staff, contracting etc. Appointed by city council to this post.

SANDY LAKE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST ACADEMY

35 Killarney Drive
Bedford, Nova Scotia
Instructor, Sociology

1996

Taught a 12th grade sociology course in seminar fashion to a small group of well-motivated students.

Member, School Board 1992 - 1995

Served on the school board providing consultation on issues of student housing, curriculum and personnel

Member, Dormitory Management Committee 1990 - 1994

Provided professional support to deans and assisted in program planning and implementation.

Guidance Consultant 1990 - 1994

Provided career and personal growth guidance/counseling etc. to senior high students, consult with teachers, administration, provided some testing services, etc.

MARITIME CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

121 Salisbury Road

Moncton, New Brunswick

E1E 1A6

Member, Board of Directors 1991 - 1996

This committee is the legal operating board for the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in the Maritimes. It has responsibility for financial management, staffing, and overall administration of the regional work.

ATLANTIC UNION COLLEGE

South Lancaster, Massachusetts

Visiting Lecturer January 2002

Research Methods.

Member of the Human Relations Committee 1989

Nominated to this committee to monitor human relations and mediate disputes on this multi-cultural campus.

Member of the Student Services Committee 1988 - 1989

Nominated to this committee to direct activities of the student services department: Counseling center, student residences, chaplain service, etc. While on this committee I contributed to the development of a new student handbook and was a chief contributor to the College's policy on AIDS/HIV.

Student Representative to the Board of Trustees 1988 - 1989

Represented student concerns to the college's highest governing body.

EDUCATION

Dalhousie University September 2010 – Summer 2015
Pursued PhD studies in Sociology - Recipient of the James Robinson Johnston
Scholarship. Degree not completed

Wilfrid Laurier University September 2000-April 2001
Began studies towards the PhD in Social Work. Degree not completed

Walla Walla College June 1996-June 1997
Master of Social Work (MSW) with recognition of high academic standing. Emphasis in
mental health/children and families

Saint Mary's University September-December 1992
Advanced Assessment: A graduate course in the principles and skills of psychological
assessment using tests and other procedures. This course has allowed me to qualify to
gain access to and administer certain psychometric tools for clinical and research
application.

Atlantic Union College January 1987-December 1989
Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree with Departmental Honors

Dalhousie University September 1985-December 1986
Certificate in Divorce Mediation Theory

CONTINUING EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Continuous, Informal Perpetual
Various Email Fora, Professional Reading and Writing

- I participate in a number of professional email discussion groups, maintain a log of my professional reading and engage in professional correspondence
- Between the Fall of 1998 until the Spring of 2005 I maintained an occasional correspondence with the Center for Organizational Development at Acadia University. I read articles and books written by faculty and associates of the Center including *The Truth About Burnout*. I did this to increase my knowledge and understanding of institutional dynamics and the impact on workers.
- I maintain a comprehensive list of my Professional Writing, Presentations, Poster Sessions on my website: www.robertswright.ca

Conferences and Training Recently Attended (incomplete list):

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 21 st Annual MASOC/MATSA Joint Conference
Preventing Sexual Violence Through Assessment, Treatment and
Safe Management
Marlborough, Massachusetts | April 2019 |
| 20 th Annual MASOC/MATSA Joint Conference
Preventing Sexual Violence Through Assessment, Treatment and
Safe Management
Marlborough, Massachusetts | April 2018 |
| 19 th Annual MASOC/MATSA Joint Conference
Preventing Sexual Violence Through Assessment, Treatment and
Safe Management
Marlborough, Massachusetts | April 2017 |
| 18 th Annual MASOC/MATSA Joint Conference
Preventing Sexual Violence Through Assessment, Treatment and
Safe Management
Marlborough, Massachusetts | April 2016 |
| 17 th Annual MASOC/MATSA Joint Conference
Preventing Sexual Violence Through Assessment, Treatment and
Safe Management
Marlborough, Massachusetts | April 2015 |

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Canadian Professional Association for Transgender Health	February 2015-Present
Prince Edward Island Association of Social Workers	2014-2016
Health Association of African Canadians	November 2011-Present
New Brunswick Association of Social Workers	April 2011-2016
Canadian Sociology Association	2010-2016
Registered Health Care Provider with Atlantic Blue Cross	Aug. 2005-Present
Nova Scotia/Canadian Association of Social Workers	1989-Present
Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (Clinical Member)	1998-Present
Psychological Assessment Resources, Inc. (Deemed qualified by this psychometrics publishing company to administer all of the assessment tools that they currently publish)	1997-Present
Canadian Criminal Justice Association	1998-2013
Nova Scotia Criminal Justice Association	2006-2013
International Personnel Management Association Canada	2000-2006
Canadian Guidance and Counseling Association	1990-1997
American Correctional Association	1996-1997
National Association of Social Workers	1988-1992 and 1996-1998
National Organization on Male Sexual Victimization	1996-1998
Adventist Student Personnel Association (ASPA)	1989-1994
N.S. Association of Divorce & Family Mediators	1987-1990
Family Mediation Canada	1987-1990
ASPA Excellence in Student Personnel Service Award	1989
Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges	1988, 1989