

The Graduate Diploma in **Critical Leadership in Social Services and Communities** at McMaster University's School of Social Work offers:



Knowledge and Ideas

- Critical analyses and conceptual frameworks about changing conditions in social services and communities



Models and Perspectives

- A range of models for progressive and transformative leadership
- A range of perspectives (including feminist, Indigenous, and post-heroic) on the complexities and possibilities of ethical leading in the contemporary context



Professional Development and Skills-Building

- Opportunities to share knowledge, stories and strategies, and to reflect on leadership practice, with respected local leaders



Community

- A chance to build community with people committed to the daily work of leading and sustaining progressive public services

Graduate Diploma in Critical Leadership in Social Services and Communities



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Our instructors have years of practice, research and advocacy experience, and are **deeply connected with their communities.**



TARA LA ROSE has many years of practice experience in community organizing, asset mapping in low income communities, child protection, homelessness, mobile mental health crisis counseling, sexual assault and domestic violence care, and individual and couples' counseling. Her research explores changing conditions of social work labour and implications for social workers' identities, professional status, work design and scope of practice. Her work highlights a growing tension between definitions of professional leadership and the goals and values of social work, the labour required to bridge the gap between ideals and realities of practice, and the strategies social workers use to preserve social justice in practice. Tara teaches 741 & 742.



STEPHANIE BAKER COLLINS has worked in social policy analysis, research, public education and advocacy at community and national levels. Stephanie examines the impact of public policy on the lives of marginalized groups, conducting research in partnership with community organizations and advocating for justice in public policy. Her policy research on socio-economic issues has included writing and presenting briefs before Standing Committees of Parliament. Her current projects focus on the intersection of disability and homelessness for youth, and policy impacts of the social assistance system in Ontario. Stephanie teaches 743.



SAARA GREENE has worked in a range of social work positions and settings including as Director of Research and Evaluation at Fife House, an agency providing supportive housing for people living with HIV/ AIDS. Saara is committed to community based research and to developing models of CBR that address methodological and ethical challenges. Her research focuses on the needs and experiences of women living with HIV in relation to housing instability, pregnancy, birth and motherhood, and the criminalization of HIV non-disclosure, paying attention to the ways that racism, colonization and sexism intersect in women's lives. Saara teaches 721.



LISA WATT has over 10 years of practice experience in community settings, including addiction rehabilitation, homelessness, and violence against women. She has coordinated organizational change initiatives for diversity and inclusion, and provided counseling to individuals, groups and families. Her research centres on understanding how institutional policies and practices affect people's lives, and how they can be changed. Lisa's doctoral study examined diabetes care in school settings, and showed how standardized institutional texts and information technology routinely subsume parents' knowledge and discredit their concerns for the safety of their children. Lisa teaches 740.

Justice-focused **LEADERSHIP**

DO YOU HAVE AN MSW* OR AN MA*, AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE IN SOCIAL SERVICES OR COMMUNITIES?

The Graduate Diploma in Critical Leadership in Social Services and Communities at McMaster's School of Social Work offers the **opportunity to strengthen your capacity for leading in justice-focused ways, and to connect with people with similar commitments and goals.**

Major changes in funding and governance have strained and constrained social and community services. Requirements for efficiency, competition, and narrow accountability are reshaping conditions for workers and service users and changing how social agencies operate.

In response to these challenges, and at the urging of community partners, McMaster University is excited to offer a Graduate Diploma in Critical Leadership in Social Services and Communities. The program is structured around the recognition of conditions in contemporary social services and communities work, with a focus on expansive and critical definitions of leadership. It will support leaders as they reflect on changing conditions and consider their own approaches to progressive leadership.

THIS GRADUATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM WELCOMES PEOPLE WHO ARE:

- in or aspiring to formally recognized leadership roles in social and community services
- in direct or front-line service positions who are sustaining justice-orientated approaches in their agencies
- active in community organizing, and leading social movements

**In exceptional circumstances, applicants with a BSW or BA and an A- average on senior level undergraduate courses who have extensive leadership experience may be eligible.*

COURSES:

741: Changing Social Services, Changing Communities: Focus on Leadership
742: Organizational and Social Change: Theories, Practices and Possibilities for Leadership
743: Critical Approaches to Evidence and Evaluation in Social Services & Communities

AND ONE OF:

740: Changing Social Service Organizations: Implications for Workers and Service Users
721: Changing Communities: Tensions and Possibilities for Citizenship and Social Justice



FOCUSED ON A
**BRIGHTER
WORLD**