



School of Social Work, Fredericton, NB CANADA E3B 5G3

## **Policy on Social and Electronic Media and the Use of Electronic Devices in the School of Social Work**

**June 2014 (Revised January 2017)**

### **1.0 Preamble**

## 2.0 Definitions

### 2.1 Social Media

communication technologies by which information, opinions, and discussions are presented for public consumption on the internet. This includes, but is not limited to, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Texting, Email, Blogs, YouTube, Wikipedia, etc.

### 2.2 Post

-generated information shared on a social media site. This includes, but is not limited to, Facebook status updates, tweets, blog updates, etc.

### 2.3 Electronic Device

communication by e-mail, telephone, text messaging, internet browsing, or is used for recording purposes. This includes, but is not limited to, cellphones, smartphones, tablets, smart pens, laptops, etc.

## 3.0 Social and Electronic Media Policy Statement

The School of Social Work recognizes the importance of the internet and is committed to supporting the rights of students to interact respectfully and knowledgeably through social media. The School strives to provide students with an environment of free inquiry and expression, wherein freedom of expression and academic freedom in electronic format has the same latitude as in printed or oral communication. The School requires students to demonstrate professionalism in all interactions; written, electronic and oral forms. Despite disclaimers, internet interactions and postings can result in the public forming opinions about the profession of social work, the School of Social Work, and St. Thomas University.

The use of any information without permission; confidential information; or unfounded, derogatory, or misrepresentative statements about the School of Social Work or its members (including students, staff, faculty, and guests), field practice, or field agencies or their members (including staff, volunteers, service users, and participants) on t status under the *Policy Governing Deferred, Denied, or Unsuccessful Field Placements in the School of Social Work* (2014; rev. 2017) and/or the *Policy Governing Professional Suitability in the School of Social Work* (2014; rev. 2017).

## 4.0 General Guidelines for Appropriate Use of Social and Electronic Media

These guidelines are intended to provide guidance for social work students to:

- interact respectfully and knowledgeably with people on the internet

- respect copyright and intellectual property rights

- mak1N1[3o providep St of fre.#1 0 vtpq0; re2 0BT/F1 12 Tf1 0 0 1 pSpq0.0000092 0 612 79 r 19 84(r





of our working relationship. If you have questions or concerns about this, I will be happy to

**Consequences:**

Information shared on the internet is public and may be shared with unintended recipients. Such information may be used for pre-field practicum screening, pre-employment screening, evidence for disciplinary action, and grounds for legal action.

Complaints about BSW students using social media in an unsuitable, unethical, or inappropriate

*Policy on Non-Academic Misconduct*

*Policy Governing Professional Suitability in the School of Social Work*

(2014; rev. 2017).

(Adapted with permission from the Memorial University Newfoundland (MUN) School of Social Work, *Social Media Policy and Guidelines*, 2016)