



FACT SHEET

PROMISING PRACTICES

Synopsis

This Praxis Report on Promising and Wise practices in field education study identifies innovative, promising, and wise practices throughout the Prairie Regions of Canada. Participants were invited to share their experiences in field education to identify innovative, promising, and wise practices. This report summarizes the promising practices identified in the Prairie region interview findings and is a starting point to begin to identify how those promising practices may inform the development of sustainable models of social work field education in the future.

INTRODUCTION

Promising practices, as defined in this study, are approaches, interventions, programs, services, or strategies that show potential for enhancing field education. They may address specific challenges experienced in social work field education. Promising practices may be undergoing evaluation for effectiveness and replicability and have demonstrated the ability to achieve their stated aims.

OBJECTIVE

To identify innovative, promising and wise practices throughout the Prairie region, which include the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

METHODOLOGY

Between July and December 2020, virtual semi-structured interviews were conducted with 30 participants, consisting of field coordinators, field educators, field instructors and supervisors, and representatives of field agency partners. Interviews were conducted online via Zoom or Microsoft Teams platforms and consisted of 20 open-ended questions in three thematic areas. All interviews were first recorded and transcribed and subsequently a codebook was developed. Three documents were created for each interview participant: a verbatim coded transcript, a three-column code book document, and a summary interview sheet.

FINDINGS

Promising practices may address specific challenges experienced in social work field education and are currently being evaluated for effectiveness and replicability and have demonstrated the ability to achieve their stated aims.

The study identified five themes on promising practices:

- community needs
- non-traditional practicum opportunities
- supervision strategies
- open-mindedness
- group processing

ANALYSIS

Community Needs

Defined as field education considering the needs of the community and how field education may support those needs. This was discussed in relation to the role of supervisors and field educators with multiple stakeholders and creating a community of practice that brings together diverse groups and organizations.



"Field's always been interesting to me. I really see the social work profession as something that's collective and something that's part of community. And I think monitoring emerging professionals is really part of that."

