



## **CASW National Social Work Distinguished Service Award**

**James Walls, BA, BSW, MSW, RSW (SK)**

**- North Battleford, SK**

Jim Walls was presented with the CASW National Social Work Distinguished Service Award on April 30, 2011 at the Annual General Meeting held in Saskatoon, SK.

Jim was born and raised in the remarkable community of Montgomery Place in Saskatoon, and is a proud graduate of Mount Royal Collegiate. He attended the University of Saskatchewan and graduated with a BA. His social work career began in Weyburn, as a financial assistance worker for the province and later in long-term care. He has clinical practice in continuing care and supervises workers in acute care settings within the Prairie North Regional Health Authority.

Since 1977, Jim has concentrated his clinical practice in continuing care and geriatrics with positions in Weyburn, Melfort, London, Ontario and now the Battlefords. Like many of his colleagues, he attended the University of Regina's Faculty of Social Work as a part time student, and received a BSW in 1985. This was followed by a year at the University of Toronto, culminating in an MSW. Areas of particular interest to Jim have been group work with clients and families where dementia is the diagnosis, issues of consent to treatment and client autonomy and the development of ethics support services in health care.

Upon his return to Saskatchewan after obtaining his MSW, Jim became involved with SASW. Gradually over the years his involvement deepened; beginning as an organizer & chair of the Battlefords Branch, Battlefords Branch Representative for Advisory Board, chair of the Discipline Resource Pool, President of SASW Council, Past-President of SASW Council. Jim has now been appointed as chairperson of the Professional Conduct Committee.

Jim has been married to an extraordinary and patient partner for over 34 years and has two adult children who are devoted in their own ways to social justice and to the well-being of others. Jim has a number of interests outside of work including amateur theatre, music in many forms, repairing his car, and a little golf when he can squeeze it in.