# Professional Summary

I am registered as a Social Worker with the Alberta College of Social Workers. My goal is to become employed to showcase my knowledge and skills as a Social Worker within an international setting. I will provide an environment that puts clients at ease while structuring treatment plans around each client’s strengths as well as providing and implementing strategic ideas that promote better community living. I am passionate about social work and committed to providing the highest level of care to individuals, families and communities to achieve positive outcomes.

# Experience

## Wood’s Homes – School Counselor February 2016 – Current

* I have mainly worked at the William Taylor Learning Centre Campus however I have worked at all the treatment schools in this organization.
* My responsibilities include maintaining consistency with students allowing me to build trusting relationships.
* I create and implement strategic plans to develop skills required to be successful in and out of the school environment.
* Our plans are based on individual need and we are flexible to the changes required by each individual student.
* Developed innovative programs and activities based on an analysis of individual needs and interests.
* Attending to challenging and sometimes aggressive behaviours.
* Demonstrate understanding and empathy towards individual situations.
* Collaborate with guidance from other professionals such as psychiatrists, therapists and school administration.
* Break down barriers for individuals that are prohibiting their social skills to create positive relationships with others.
* Maintain case management with accurate assessments and follow through with IPP’s and BSP’s.
* Collaboration with several outside agencies to ensure the client receives proper resources to meet the goals of the client.
* Understanding and implementing strategic plans that address moderate to severe mental health issues.

## PalFish (English Teaching Application) February 2016 – Current

* I achieved TEFL and TESOL certification several years ago and have recently built a business through this company.
* My primary responsibility includes teaching English lessons to youth and adults.
* I have taught over 500 students since beginning this journey.
* Developing innovative lessons and activities based individual needs, interests and goals.
* Marketing myself to be one of the top professional teachers on this teaching platform.
* Building relationships with students and their parents all around the world.
* Recently was promoted to an official teacher of the application of PalFish.
* Helping students overcome their fears of learning a new language.
* Encourage, empower and build confidence through a positive teaching experience.
* Organizing and maintaining a schedule that is flexible to the time differences across the globe.

## Foothills School Division – Learning Coach Assistant November 2009 – September 2014

* My responsibilities included assisting students that struggled to achieve success within their academics.
* I was a part of a team that created a strategic plan to develop skills required to be successful in and out of the school environment.
* Our plans were based on individual need and we were flexible to the changes required by each individual student.
* Developed innovative programs and activities based on analysis of individual needs and interests.
* Interviewed clients individually and with families to determine what services would best address their needs.
* Evaluated and addressed individual client needs and concerns.
* Set up family meetings with guidance from other professionals such as psychiatrists, therapists and school administration.
* Consulted with other professionals regarding the treatment of specific students.

## Calgary Catholic School Board – Educational Assistant September 2008 – November 2009

* I was responsible for the learning challenges of a diverse group of students.
* These students had mental and physical disabilities that required me to implement strategies that would focus on basic skills such as social behaviours, life skills and job placements.
* Guided youth through the future planning process.
* Counseled and prepared residents for their transition into the community and adult life.
* Developed workable solutions for recurring problems for individuals and families.
* Set up family meetings with guidance from other professionals such as psychiatrists, therapists and school administration.

## Boys and Girls Club of Calgary April 2015 – June 2015

Practicum Placement – Youth Shelter (Safe House)

* Gathered and analyzed cultural, educational, social and demographic data about the individuals entering the program.
* Developed innovative programs and activities based on analysis of community needs and interests.
* Attended community service project-related professional conferences and meetings within the agency.
* Communicated with individuals of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds on a daily basis.
* Prepared daily written and oral case notes about individuals within the program.
* Maintained relationships with community members such as caseworkers, medical professionals and other community resources available for our clients.
* Dealt with individual barriers such as drug addictions, pregnancies, inadequate housing, and diverse family situations.

## Boys and Girls Club of Calgary August 2015 – December 2015

Practicum Placement – All In For Youth Program

* Developed innovative programs and activities based on analysis of individual needs and interests.
* Attended triage meetings, administrative meetings and other related professionals to ensure the client’s needs were met.
* Addressed cultural barriers that individuals faced in our westernized culture.
* Assisted families that experienced food insecurities.
* Relationship building with community resources to maintain positive public relations with community members.
* Focused on a strength-based practice

# Education

## University of Manitoba - BSW Graduation Date: April 2016

I achieved a Bachelor Degree in Social Work with a GPA of 3.7.

## First Aid and CPR Training September 2015

Received certification for standard first aid and CPR.

## ASIST Training June 2015

I was able to attend suicide prevention and crisis training through the Boys and Girls Club of Calgary during my first practicum placement.

## High Fidelity Wraparound Training January 2015

I attended a four-day training through Hull’s Home to be certified as part of a team that works to break down barriers by placing natural supports to create positive changes for individuals and their families.

## CDI College (Teacher’s Assistant Diploma) May 2008

## TEFL (Teach English Foreign Language) October 2007

**High School Diploma June 1990**

# Skills

* Dedication Flexibility
* Empathetic Compassionate
* Strong communicator Sensitive
* Detail-oriented Understanding
* Excellent interpersonal skills Integrity
* Team player Commitment
* Client-centered care Computer Skills (word, excel, powerpoint)

**SHERRY THAXTER**

208 Queen Alexandra Road SE, Calgary, Alberta T2J 3P6 | C: 403-804-4479 | sethaxter@hotmail.com

April 23rd, 2017

Dear Human Resources Manager,

I am writing today in response to the position advertised as being open with your school at this time. I am a talented and experienced Counselor and Social Worker with a background in youth, adolescents, groups and family therapy and counseling. Now I am interested in working abroad where I can continue to provide the highest quality of care for students and their families, as I have throughout my career.

After reading the job description, and seeing the duties and responsibilities required, I believe I have what it takes to not only meet your needs, but also make a real difference for children, their families and communities. I firmly believe that my competencies will allow me to influence people’s lives for the better.

My training, education and experience in Counseling and Social Work has provided me with a strong background in both the importance of further education and family inclusion throughout the process. I am adept at assessment, intervention, counseling of youth and adolescents as well as post secondary educational opportunities. I have extensive experience with mentally, emotionally and academically challenged children as well.

I have worked in a school environment since 2008. I enjoyed my employment so much so, that it is this particular position that I am currently applying for that provided me the drive to go back to school and achieve a Bachelor Degree in Social Work. As a proven professional combined with my recent educational background, I possess all of those key skills that make a good Counselor. Amongst these skills is my ability to provide community-based services to identified vulnerable groups, individuals and families. With a passion for social service care, I have the commitment and dedication to support people in crisis, carrying out investigations and encouraging them to find their strengths and to improve on their weaknesses in order to help them achieve their goal.

My background has included counseling in cases of social crisis such as, family issues, emotional distress and abuse. I have worked in a variety of settings that has provided me a well-rounded understanding of family dynamics, learning disabilities, child development, anxiety, stress and culture. I have the passion to encourage and empower individuals to take advantage of opportunities to create the changes necessary to achieve success.

Right now I am looking to enhance my career with an international experience and this is an excellent opportunity to fulfill my goal. I am excited to join an established and successful organization like yours that will give me an opportunity to build on my career while providing individuals and families the support they need to create positive change.

I would like to thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to talking with you to discuss a future opportunity.

Sincerely,

Sherry Thaxter