

**April
2021**

Funeral and Cremation Services Council of Saskatchewan Newsletter

**Edition
#4**



Thursday, May 14th, 2021

- ❖ Clive Weighill – Chief Coroner – *“Transition within the Coroner Service”*
- ❖ James Steele – Robertson Stromberg – *“Legal Issues relating to Funeral and Cremation Services”*
- ❖ Eddie Lemoine – *“A Journey to Engagement”*
- ❖ FCSCS Annual General Meeting & Award Presentation

Friday, May 15th, 2021

- ❖ Karl Wenzel – *“Arranging for the Embalmer”*
- ❖ Glenda Stansbury – *“The Reaper Approach to Funeral Arrangements”*

For information on the presenters and times of their presentations, please visit our website.

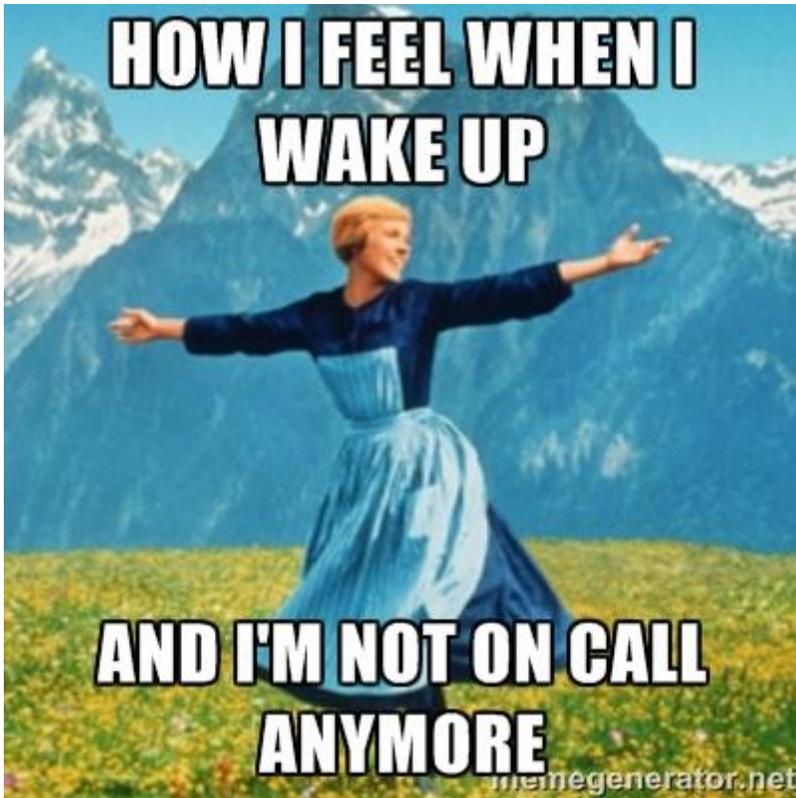
In view of the existing pandemic situation, Council is pleased to announce that in 2021 there will be **NO FEES** for Saskatchewan licensees to participate.

The 2021 Virtual Spring Symposium is being limited to only Saskatchewan Licensees, Interns and Students.

Registration will open on Monday April 19, 2021 and close on Wednesday May 12, 2021.

2020 Death Statistics

- 10,020 Deaths
 - 3145 Burials
 - 6873 Cremation
 - 2 Other
- 69% Cremation Rate
 - 2019's Cremation Rate – 67%



Compliance Update

As of January 1st, 2020, there have been 44 virtual compliance reviews conducted.



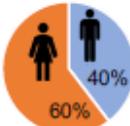
1 complaint has been received since January 1st, 2021.

**Unsure of Current
COVID-19 Restrictions?**
Call the Business Support Team @
1-844-800-8688

Thank you to the University of Alberta for completing a study on Funeral Service Workers' mental health at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funeral Service Workers' mental health and COVID-19
Main results at a glance

Thank you for your involvement!



58 Funeral Service Workers filled a questionnaire between May 15 and July 30, 2020



Top 3 participating provinces accounting for 80% of the participants

[More info: FSWstudy@ualberta.ca](mailto:FSWstudy@ualberta.ca)

Socio-demographics and job description

♀	Younger (mean age of 36.1 y.o) Less experienced in Funeral Service (mean 8.1 years) Less managerial responsibilities	No other gendered differences <small>(Province of origin, Job tasks, Licensure as an embalmer or a Funeral Service Director)</small>
♂	Older (mean age of 49.5 y.o) More experienced in Funeral Service (mean 23.1 years) More managerial responsibilities	

COVID-19 cases

58 workers

6 thought they had COVID-19

None has been medically confirmed

None has been reported to WCB

Mental health and job stress

32.2% reported moderate or severe anxiety symptoms 28.6% reported moderate to severe depressive symptoms 30.9% reported job stress (more efforts than rewards)	More anxious More over-committed in work
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Conclusions

No COVID-19 case identified with our study.
 Mental health of women in the profession should be further investigated.
 Number of participants lower than expected.

“Don't forget to pause and nourish yourself a bit along the way. When you're born to help others sometimes you forget to help yourself.” — Paula Heller Garland

“

Another definition of a hero is someone who is concerned about other people's well-being, and will go out of his or her way to help them — even if there is no chance of a reward.

STAN LEE

”



Another First for Licensees in Saskatchewan



In January of this year, a licensee wrote to council administration and requested that consideration be given to waiving license renewal fees and continuing education requirements while a licensee is on maternity leave.

The matter was referred to council and it was decided to survey other regulators across the country to see if maternity leave was recognized in any other jurisdictions and if exemptions were made. Of those that responded, none specifically recognized maternity leave in their legislation, however two provinces did allow for absences beyond a year. None of the provinces waived continuing education requirements during any absence.

The matter was referred to the Legislative and Governance Committee with a request to review the applicable bylaws and provide proactive recommendations to the question. The committee recommended revisions to bylaws 2011 and 2014 that were accepted at the meeting of council on March 11, 2020.

Accordingly, licensees who advise the council in writing they are on maternity or paternity leave are not required to renew their licenses until they conclude their maternity or paternity leave. Upon returning to work the fees for license(s) will be pro-rated in accordance with bylaw 9000.

The same exemption was extended to licensees who present a doctor's certificate that they are unable to work.

A revision to bylaw 2014 also included an exemption for licensees on maternity or paternity leave from continuing education requirements. Licensees with a doctor's certificate were already exempted from this requirement.

Once again Saskatchewan is a first in funeral service legislation – it is the first to formally adopt maternity or paternity leave in its legislation.

“Human Composting” Funeral Home Makes Long-Awaited Debut

<https://connectingdirectors.com/59971-human-composting-funeral-home-makes-long-awaited-debut>



Recompose, the groundbreaking “human composting” funeral home and the first of its kind in the United States, is now officially open to the public. The innovative business began operation on December 20, 2020.

Founder and CEO Katrina Spade has spent more than a decade working to make her concept a reality, with her efforts including making a change to Washington state law to allow her innovative method. After writing her master's thesis on the subject in 2013, Spade continued to refine her idea of “human composting” as a natural and efficient method of disposition that reduces the amount of space needed for cemeteries, a growing and urgent urban problem. Human composting, or “natural organic reduction” (NOR), uses a steel cylinder (referred to as the “vessel”) filled with wood chips, straw, alfalfa, and bacteria to speed up the natural decomposition process and transform human bodies into usable garden soil.

Recompose charges \$5,500 for their service, which includes pickup, the NOR process, administrative costs and paperwork, and an optional service. The pricing falls in the lower range of funeral costs in Washington, which can range from \$525 for the simplest cremation to tens of thousands for elaborate funerals. During the

“recomposition” process, a body spends 30 days inside the initial vessel, then several more weeks “exhaling” carbon dioxide before completely turning into soil. The vessels are equipped to monitor the soil and maintain a safe temperature to eliminate the risk of pathogens, and the process is expected to have minimal emissions.

Recompose has received a permit from the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, subject to review every three months. Once the process is complete, family members have the option of donating the soil to the 700-acre Bells Mountain Land Trust or taking it home. Family members can attend the “laying-in” process via livestream or, after pandemic restrictions are lifted, in person.

Recompose currently has ten operable vessels, eight of which are already occupied, and a waiting list of 350 clients. Since Spade’s campaign to legalize NOR in Washington State, two more companies are working on the service and are slated to open soon.

Supporters call Recompose an exciting and rewarding way to peacefully transition the body and reduce the carbon footprint of burial. With an estimated 4 million acres lost to casket production in the U.S. every year and close to a million acres dedicated to ground burial, Recompose offers a uniquely regenerative option that lets you truly return to the earth and nourish future life.

Do you have something you want to share? Contact us at administration@funeralinfo.ca

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Save the Date!
2021 Spring Symposium
May 13th & 14th
Stay Tuned for More Info