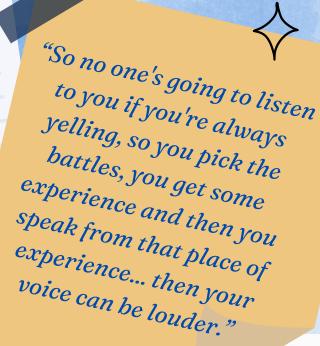
Pick your Battles Navigating Risk in Structural Social Work

Structural social workers in Atlantic Canada, with over 494 combined hours of practice experience, shared that passion alone isn't enough. You need to learn how to navigate risk to successfully embody structural social work in practice.

There are sometimes risks to going against the mainstream or "status quo" social work approaches. Sometimes there is the risk of feeling lonely in the workplace. Not everyone will like your structural approach. But you will find allies and like-minded individuals. You are never alone.



Trust others are planting seeds

of change and resistance too.

"I mean picking your battles for sure. People get fed up with you if everything is a cause. It's just learning when to speak up and when to maintain those relationships...it's a bit of a compromise that way."

To successfully navigate risk, you have to pick your battles. This means, you can't champion every issue alone. Sometimes there might be concerns you need to let slide to be able to push other issues. Things to consider in choosing which battles to pick:

- The seriousness of the issue
 - Who and how someone is being impacted by the issue Worker and client well-being

Figuring out, where do Iwanna fight the Fight? What do I wanna let 90? What feels important to

So to a new social worker, how do you decide, what is it for you that makes the difference between, I'm gonna speak up, I'm gonna take that risk. This is the it."

to learn more: QR

Sometimes structural social workers will encounter a "Hill to die on" = an issue that they cannot justify ignoring. This is usually due to a hill to say something not direct conflict between personal or social work values and will workplace is asking for, or serious ethical concerns or injustices.



St. Thomas University