

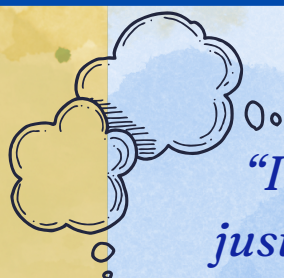
# You Have to be Strategic!

## Maintaining Structural Social Work

Structural social workers in Atlantic Canada, with over 494 combined hours of practice experience, shared that passion alone isn't enough and that you need to be strategic to successfully embody structural social work in practice.

### 1. Remain Curious

Ask strategic questions, engage in active listening, & observe office/system dynamics.



*"It just doesn't feel right. It just doesn't feel right. Is there another way I could do that? Or is there something I can do differently? And often times there is."*

### 2. Plant Seeds of Change

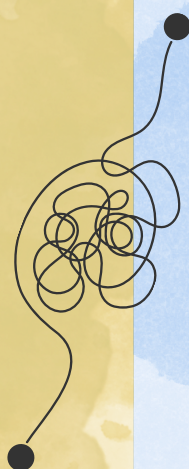
Structural approach is incremental, but you don't just sit back! Change takes time and planning; focus on what you can control.



*"Building slowly and building on who you are as a professional, who you are as a person, building your supports, building your knowledge, and just moving forward that way."*

### 3. Safely Push Boundaries

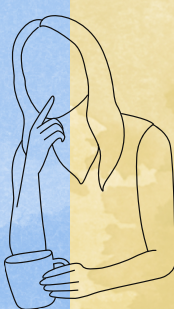
Get inventive! Work in the grey (within ethics & policies)



*"Staying in line with your ethics and not doing anything wrong, but pushing things to the limits was one of the ways that I did feel I was kinda fighting the system from within the system in that sense."*

### 4. It's all in the Presentation!

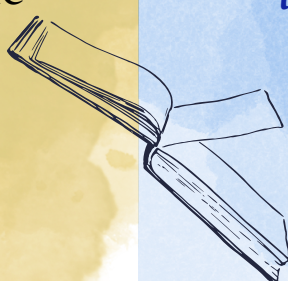
Know how to deliver ideas, propose solutions instead of complaints, join committees.



*"Calling attention to problems without having systemic solutions isn't helpful to anyone, especially in terms of the work that you hopefully intend to do."*

### 5. Critically Understand Policies

knowing policies, procedures, and the Code of Ethics inside and out are crucial to justify/support work that might be flexible when working in the "grey" areas.



*"And you have to understand the black and white before you can forge and create the grey"*