



Professionalization of Social Work: A Unified Voice

ASWB SPRING EDUCATION MEETING
MAY 2-3, 2025
PORTLAND OREGON

THANK YOU!



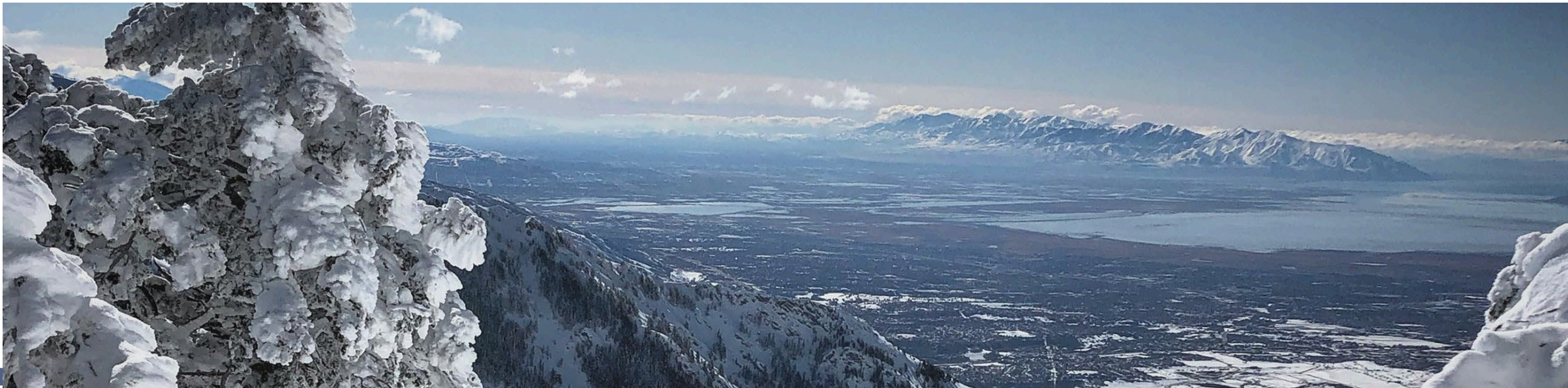
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THE ATKINSON FIRM

LEGAL & CONSULTING SERVICES

Minds Shared



Session Summary



This session explores the professionalization of social work through a comparative lens of Canadian and U.S. perspectives. Barb Whitenect will discuss the evolution of the Canadian Code of Ethics (COE), its role in regulation, and how it serves as a tool to strengthen social work identity and retain professionals in the workforce. Dale Atkinson will examine how regulation supports professional accountability and drives the recognition of social work as a trusted profession. Attendees will engage in conversations on the shared values between countries, the importance of ethical practice, and strategies to enhance workforce retention through a unified professional voice.





What is a profession?





Is social work a profession?





What is regulation?





Can there be regulation
without government?





Is social work self-regulated?



Professionalization



Who professionalizes?

How?



Professionalization



Regulation/Trade



Why is this topic important/relevant?



To consumers

To clients/recipients of SW services

To regulators

To social workers

To academics

To trade

To other professions

To insurance carriers/payors





Dialogue



THANK YOU !!

