

# Welcoming NSCR's New Caregiver Support Coordinator: Vic Gailiunas



*NSCR is happy to welcome Vic Gailiunas to our team. Vic has gotten to know local caregivers this summer while working on his Social Work practicum. Welcome, Vic! Learn more about him and what brought him to this role, in his own words.*

Hi everyone,

My name is Vic Gailiunas, and I am happy to be taking over for Melissa Wade as the new Caregiver Support Program Coordinator for North Shore Community Resources (NSCR). I have lived in North Vancouver for 25 years and am a proud husband and dad to two wonderful sons. I enjoy tennis and badminton, watching hockey (I'm in a fun, highly competitive hockey pool), and soccer (my kids were both high-level players) and curling up with my wife to watch a good Netflix show. I am also a singer/songwriter/musician and have released albums, videos, and toured throughout Canada, the U.S & Europe.

I previously worked in copyright law licensing doing business development and industry relations for a quite a few years.

Before that, I received my Bachelor of Arts from the University of Alberta in English and Sociology. As a 'second career', I became interested in social work during a personally life-altering experience that took me from BC to Alberta, where I started my Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) at the University of Calgary, and back to BC again.

My second practicum to finish my degree was with NSCR, who do wonderful work. I had volunteered with them in the past, picking up and delivering groceries during the pandemic; and collecting tax forms to pass along to accountants who do taxes for seniors, free of charge. In my practicum, I was involved directly with a men's group for spousal caregivers, and other caregiving groups via Zoom following Melissa's wonderful lead. I also worked with Kathy in the Senior's OneStop program helping research, organize, and explain resources to people. My activities were overseen by Sue at NSCR, Leya from Hollyburn Family Services Society as my field instructor/registered social worker, and a faculty advisor from U of C. I just completed this practicum and will receive my degree in November. What a journey!

In the social work field, I'd always been interested in the areas of group and family work, and mental health, so the Caregiver Support program fits perfectly. Though I expect to be learning a fair bit myself as I begin this new position, I hope the skills I've learned doing my degree and my own lived experience will be helpful to the North Shore caregiver community as we move forward together.

I look forward to meeting many of you in October!

Vic Gailiunas