

January 31, 2013

Professor John McCamus
Osgoode Hall Law School
Room 4050B, Ignat Kaneff Building
York University
4700 Keele Street
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3

R. Roy McMurtry, O.C., O. Ont., Q.C.
Direct 416-862-5793
roy.mcmurtry@gowlings.com

Dear Professor McCamus:

Re: Friends of the Community Clinics

I am writing on behalf of the Friends of the Community Clinics to state our very strong support for the clinics' recently-produced Provincial Strategic Plan and the important collaborative directions it sets for the clinics for the coming years.

The Friends, whose members are listed below, is an ad hoc group that came together to offer support and guidance to Ontario's internationally-admired community legal clinics. Collectively we bring substantial clinic experience to this endeavour, experience that goes back to the earliest days of the clinics and includes senior political and budgetary leadership and stewardship; governance (both under the Legal Aid Plan and under Legal Aid Ontario); clinic system management; front line clinic operations; academic analysis; and the teaching of future clinic practitioners. To this specific clinic experience our members also bring decades of experience practicing in all aspects of the justice system.

All of this experience makes us unequivocal supporters of the delivery of a full range of broadly-defined poverty law services to the poor through community-based and community-governed clinics, recognizing that some important communities are identified by issue as well as by geography. Correspondingly, we welcome and support the important commitments made by the clinics –through the process of developing their Strategic Plan and in the Plan itself – to strengthen their services and improve the efficiency with which they expend all-too-scarce public funds by actively developing and implementing mechanisms to enhance coordination, cooperation and synergies among them.

In our view, this Strategic Plan is a watershed moment in the history of the clinics and should be given a fair chance to prove its worth. It shows a clear and realizable commitment to modernize service delivery, ensure systemic leadership and maximize the impact of the available funding, while at the same time preserving the core value of responsiveness to the priorities set by the highly diverse communities that have been so ably served by this model of service delivery for some 40 years.

We would be happy to meet with you at any time to expand upon this brief statement of our very strong support for the clinics' Strategic Plan.

This letter is endorsed by the Friends of the Community Clinics, acting in their personal capacities. George Thomson has not participated because of the role he is at present playing in the community clinics' strategic planning process. The endorsing Friends are listed below:

Raj Anand

Ron Ellis

Doug Ewart

Elizabeth Goldberg

Patricia Hughes

Mary Jane Mossman

Paul Schabas

George Thomson

Fred Zemans

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Roy McMurtry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long tail at the end.

R. Roy McMurtry
Counsel

RRM:dp

cc: John McKinnon
Trudy McCormick
Gerda Kaegi

TOR_LAW\ 8080684\1