

Ontario's Community Legal Clinics

Collaborating in Challenging Times

2025 Annual Report



Association of Community Legal Clinics of Ontario

www.aclco.org

Clinic Success Stories

Community Legal Clinic- Simcoe Haliburton Kawartha Lakes (CLC-SHKL) acted for a client whose Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefits had been terminated following a medical review. The client, who has cognitive disabilities, continued to receive benefits for four years following the medical review denial decision and an overpayment was imposed. The client appealed the medical review decision but was further denied due to a missed deadline. After clinic staff filed a judicial review application seeking to overturn the denial for a request for an extension of time, the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services opted to settle the matter. They reinstated the client's ODSP benefits as a person with a disability, and the \$50,000.00 overpayment was cancelled. Additionally, they recognized the client's permanent disability, and they will not be subject to future medical reviews. A huge victory for the client as a result of the diligence and expert advocacy by clinic staff.

Neighbourhood Legal Services (Toronto) assisted a client, who had been separated from her three daughters in Iran for 12 years. The client was able to finally establish contact with her daughters and sought assistance from the clinic to assist with having her children brought to Canada. The file involved extensive coordination with and assistance from Global Affairs Canada. The clinic was also assisted by UNICEF's office in Tehran. The primary issue was that the daughters were stuck in Iran and had to meet exit requirements, which they could not do. Eventually, they completed an irregular crossing into Iraq, and the clinic provided guidance ultimately helping them to get to Baghdad where the Canadian Embassy assisted them in getting travel documents to get to Canada. Finally, the girls arrived in Canada and were reunited with their mother after many years apart. Clinic staff accompanied the mother to the airport and were able to witness an unforgettable moment of family reunification.



Justice for Children and Youth (JFCY) assisted a 17-year-old who had been kicked out of her family home because of their queer identity - they were living in a shelter. At first, the Children's Aid Society (CAS) refused to grant them a Voluntary Youth Service Agreement (VYSA) which would enable them to receive necessary financial support and other services. With support from JFCY, the client was provided with options and legal advice. JFCY advocated with the CAS to ensure the young person had the support they needed through a VYSA. JFCY was also able to support with the legal process of getting the client enrolled in school.

Who we are

Community legal clinics serve people in communities across Ontario. Funded primarily by Legal Aid Ontario, clinics offer a broad range of legal services to address the basic legal needs of low-income Ontarians.

There are 71 community legal clinics in Ontario, each governed by their own board of directors chosen by the community. Clinics serve the most vulnerable on issues that are most critical to them, including secure and affordable housing, income security, health care, human rights, disability programs, education, workers' rights, victim assistance, environmental issues and more. The vital work that clinics do is aimed at ensuring that people with low incomes are able

to meet their most basic needs, giving them the ability to live healthy lives, in dignity, as active members of society. Most local neighbourhood clinics serve geographic communities, while specialty clinics serve specific groups including people with disabilities, injured workers, racialized communities, the elderly, children and youth.

Clinics are rooted in the communities they serve, using limited resources to provide life-saving services that are most needed by that community. Clinics work closely with other local agencies to ensure that clients are well-served and to follow a coordinated community approach that ensures long-term solutions.



Legal Services that ensure equal voices and reduce poverty

Community legal clinics work every day to protect and promote the rights of low-income Ontarians. Community legal clinics fight for justice for people who live with low-incomes - whether speaking for a client whose wages have not been paid or bringing to the Supreme Court of Canada arguments that underscore the impact of the law on disadvantaged communities. Steadfast advocacy for access to justice and respect for the rights of all, regardless of ability to pay, ensure a just and equitable society for all Ontarians.

Much of the work done by community legal clinics is aimed at ensuring people with low

incomes have access to basic measures of adequate shelter and income support. These essential supports in turn result in improved health, improved opportunities for children to succeed in school, and for adults to participate in the labour market and the economy.

The work that community legal clinics do to help low-income people secure access to our justice system is therefore not only an issue of justice. Clinic services that result in a reduction of poverty have a significant positive impact on the health, vitality and economic return of local communities.

Justice System Champions of Community Legal Clinics



“Legal Aid, and, in particular community law, is perhaps the single most important mechanism we have to make the equal rights dream a reality.”
Former Ontario Chief Justice Roy McMurtry



“The most advanced justice system in the world is a failure if it does not provide justice to the people it is meant to serve. Access to justice is therefore critical. Unfortunately, many Canadian men and women find themselves unable, mainly for financial reasons, to access the Canadian justice system.”
Former Supreme Court of Canada Chief Justice, Beverley McLachlin



“Whenever I think about access to justice, a quote from Honoré de Balzac comes to mind. He said that, ‘Laws are spider webs through which the big flies pass and the little ones get caught.’ To me, that image perfectly captures not just the inequities in our legal system, but the tangible effects those inequities have on people. While the system is meant to treat everyone equally, some people get stuck, and expend a great deal of time and energy trying to break free. Others breeze through to resolution, and move on with their lives. Giving people access to justice is like giving them the tools to free themselves from the spider’s web.”
The Right Honourable Richard Wagner, P.C., Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada



Message from ACLCO Co-Chairs

2025 was an exciting year for the clinic system and the ACLCO. Through generous funding from the Law Foundation of Ontario, the ACLCO was able to develop and implement a comprehensive clinic learning and training program for clinic staff and board members across the province. The Clinic Learning and Training Program has been a successful collaboration between ACLCO staff and clinic staff, guided by the Provincial Learning Advisory Committee, whose members are clinic staff. Learning activities included regional training conferences in each of the four regions, board training and management training. The Clinic Learning and Training Program also funded smaller training events with topics ranging from crisis intervention training to tenant duty counsel training.



Seana Moorhead
Executive Director,
Grey Bruce Community
Legal Clinic

The ACLCO and the clinic system collaborated with Legal Aid Ontario in 2025 on the development of a model to fund clinics according to a relative measure of community need. The external consultants hired to do this work met with clinics across the province to gain an understanding of the various factors that inform and define community needs. In addition to working extensively with LAO on a variety of issues, the ACLCO continued to advocate on behalf of the clinic system to a variety of the stakeholders in the Ontario justice system including:

- Ministry of the Attorney General
- The Law Commission of Ontario
- The Law Foundation of Ontario
- The Law Society of Ontario
- The Ontario Bar Association



Trudy McCormack
Board Member,
Advocacy Centre for
Tenants Ontario

As co-chairs of the Board for the ACLCO, we are extremely proud to provide our membership with this report that highlights some of the incredible work of our clinic colleagues during 2025. Clinics continue to rise to the challenge of providing high quality and responsive legal services to marginalized people in Ontario in an increasingly complex context. We thank you for your support and look forward to further collaboration in 2026.

The Most Appropriate Response

Community legal clinics are distinct among legal aid services providers offering a broad range of legal services to address the needs of our clients and the inequities confronting them. Clinics provide legal representation in courts and tribunals, brief services, legal advice and assistance, public legal education, and referrals to other sources of assistance. Clinics address a variety of client needs by choosing the right tool in their legal toolkit to address the problem most effectively and efficiently.

Punching Above Our Weight

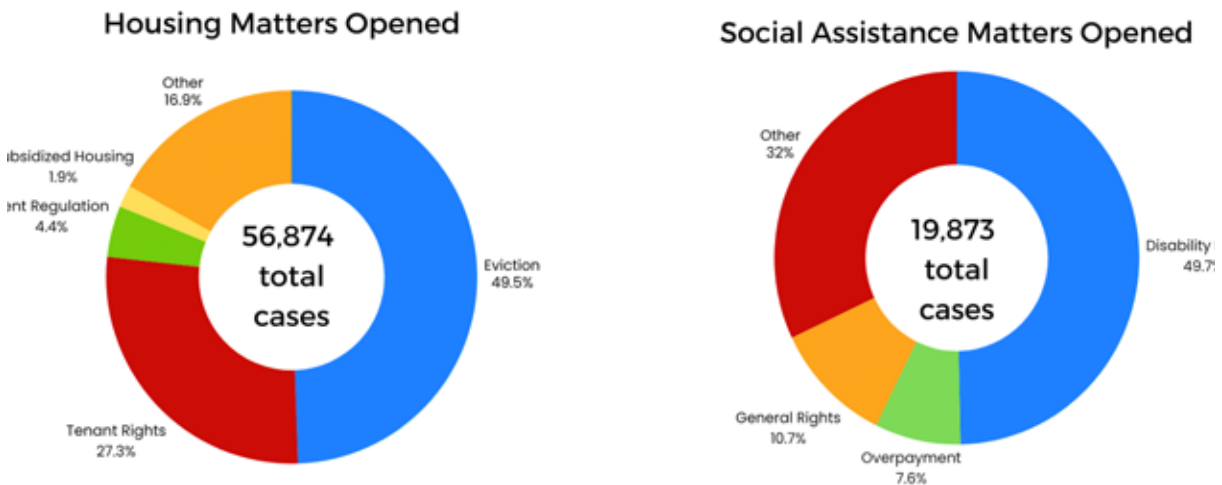
Often the best response to the inequities faced by disadvantaged people is a community response. Community legal clinics serve large numbers by undertaking community organizing, public legal education, policy advocacy, law reform projects and initiatives to address issues systemically. Clinics help build the capacity of people living on low incomes to be involved in and influence the legal and political processes that affect them. Working with the community to organize and advocate has proven to be effective in changing policies and legislation and addressing systemic issues. In this way, the clinic system contributes to the process of social change and law reform needed to ensure basic human rights and improve the lives of low-income people in Ontario.



The People We Serve

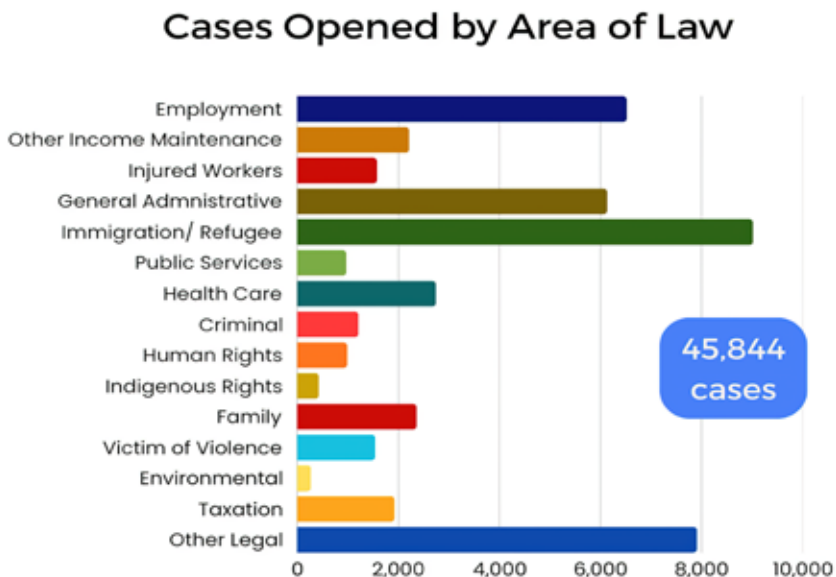
Community legal clinics serve the most disadvantaged who have been pushed to society’s margins— people living with disabilities, racialized people, victims of abuse and torture, migrant workers, the elderly, newcomers and refugees, among many others. The legal issues that are handled by clinics for their clients address those issues that arise for the clients because they are living with low incomes.

In 2025, Ontario’s community legal clinics opened 122,592 cases. 76,747 cases were in the areas of **housing** and **social assistance** – helping to keep a roof overhead and food on the table.



In addition to opening cases in their communities, clinics provide Tenant Duty Counsel services at the Landlord and Tenant Board, in locations throughout the province. In 2025, over 97,700 services were provided by Tenant Duty Counsel to 15,878 clients.

Approximately 45,844 cases were in a broad range of other areas of law:



Highlights of Clinic Work in 2025

Clinics collaborate in numerous ways to increase the impact of the work they do. In 2025, clinics worked together on outreach projects, law reform, casework and learning and training events. Working together as a system means we help our communities and clients in innumerable ways. This reports highlights some of that work from 2025.



Your Way Forward (YWF) is in its fifth year of services. YWF provides dedicated, trauma-informed legal services to survivors of sexual and intimate partner violence, based on each partner clinic’s population and community need.

This collaborative project is funded by the Department of Justice Canada (DOJ) and delivered through nine community legal clinics: Legal Assistance of Windsor (LAW), Justice for Children and Youth (JFCY), Elgin-Oxford Legal Clinic (EOLC), Community Legal Assistance Sarnia (CLAS), Community Advocacy & Legal Centre (CALC), Northumberland Community Legal Centre (NCLC), Peterborough Community Legal Centre (PCLC), and Durham Community Legal Clinic (DCLC).

YWF operates through a deeply collaborative model that focuses on client outcomes and system capacity. Partner clinics support one another through cross-referrals, shared legal strategies, and ongoing knowledge exchange. This collaboration is reinforced through a staff community of practice and a management-level steering committee, which together provide space for mutual support, problem-solving, and coordinated responses to emerging issues. This model has allowed clinics to respond more effectively to the complex, intersecting legal needs faced by survivors.

While each clinic’s model is unique and community-responsive, we all seek to provide the same thing: increased access to just outcomes for survivors. Over the past year, YWF has demonstrated the tangible impact of this approach.

With DOJ funding concluding in March 2026, the participating clinics are committed to sustaining YWF’s critical work, leveraging the collaborative partnerships and shared expertise that have made successes like those above possible.

ODSP Application Project

Although many legal clinics have assisted with review of Ontario Disability Support (ODSP) applications for some time, at the end of 2023, Trudy McCormick, the former Executive Director of the Northwest Community Legal Clinic was at a conference where she learned from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS), that clients in northern and rural areas take an average of 9 years to transition from Ontario Works to ODSP benefits. As a result of this informal meeting, a group of 6 clinics came together, including Income Security Advocacy Centre (ISAC), with MCCSS and launched a rural ODSP Pilot Project in the summer of 2024.

This Pilot Project allows the client to sit down with a lawyer or community legal worker before meeting with their primary healthcare professional. During this appointment, the legal worker discusses why the client is applying for ODSP benefits and what medical records will help support the application.

Since the summer of 2024, the 6 legal clinics have received over 600 referrals from Ontario Works, Mental Health Services, Family Health Teams and various other community partners for this Pilot Project, far exceeding any of the clinic's expectations. Although the standard ODSP grant rate is around 55%, the success rate of the Pilot Project is over 70%, many with no review dates.

Each legal clinic engaged with the Pilot Project clients and their community partners in different ways. The Renfrew County Legal Clinic (RCLC) began the process of embedding a local Nurse Practitioner (NP), who volunteered her own time, in their office and working closely with a Psychological Associate. The Grey-Bruce Community Legal Clinic (GBCLC) began meeting weekly with clients at a local Recovery Center and welcoming a Registered Nurse (RN) to their office, while working very closely with a NP.

A client from GBCLC said it best when he said, "Thank you for all your help in getting me onto ODSP. This is the first good thing that has happened in my life."

With the MCCSS agreeing to extend this Pilot Project, originally set to end in June 2025, to June 2026, the work can continue. All 6 legal clinics, along with all the community partners who have come together to support this project, will be able to keep making a positive difference. This extension ensures continued support for northern and rural clients who otherwise would not have been able to apply for ODSP benefits.



Protecting Tenants from Extreme Heat

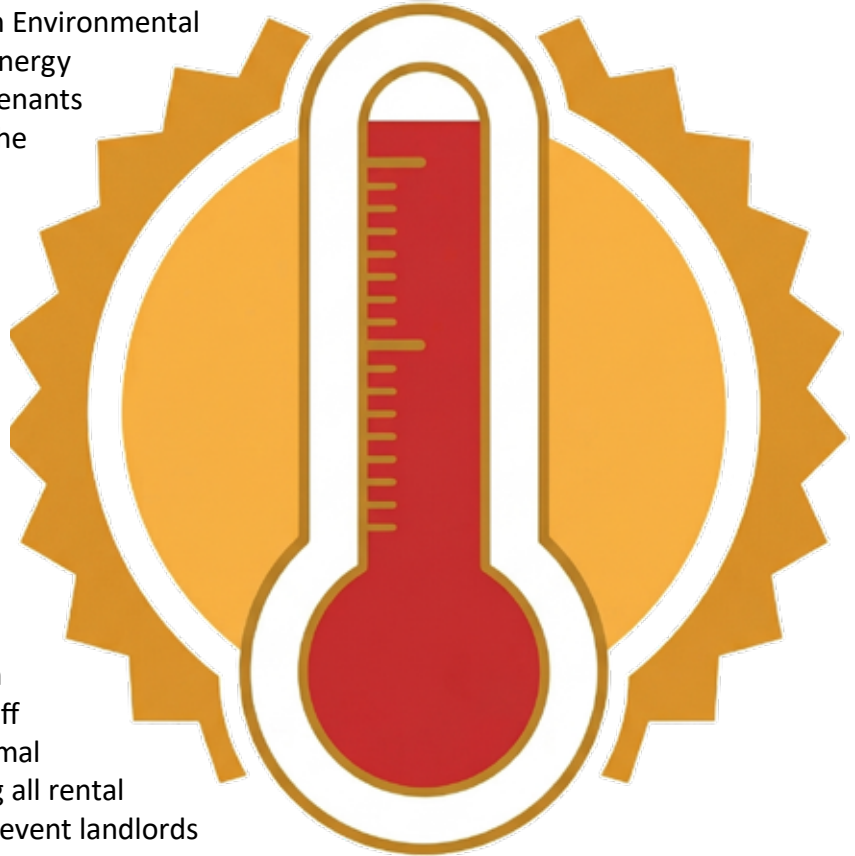
In 2025, Toronto City Council took a major step toward protecting renters from extreme heat, passing a motion to introduce a draft maximum temperature bylaw by May 2026. If adopted, the bylaw would require landlords to keep indoor temperatures at or below 26°C, addressing a growing and life-threatening risk for tenants during heat waves.

This progress reflects advocacy efforts by legal aid clinics and community groups, including Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA), Low-Income Energy Network (LIEN), Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO), Advocacy Centre for the Elderly (ACE), and ARCH Disability Law Centre. Together, these organizations have led province-wide efforts to strengthen municipal property standards so they respond to the realities of extreme heat in low-income housing.

In December 2025, clinic staff presented deputations to the Toronto City Council’s Executive Committee, calling for urgent action. In response to sustained public pressure about significant delays with implementation of the by-law, Council directed City staff to report back by May 2026 with a formal maximum temperature bylaw covering all rental units, and to examine safeguards to prevent landlords from passing heat-related compliance costs on to tenants through above-guideline rent increases.

At the same time, CELA, LIEN, ACTO, ACE, ARCH, and allied organizations successfully pushed for a major expansion of Toronto’s free air conditioner assistance program. Building on the 2025 pilot—which delivered and installed nearly 500 free air-conditioning units for low-income seniors—the expanded program reflects direct input from legal aid clinics and responds to extreme heat as a public-health emergency.

If Toronto becomes the first municipality to adopt a maximum indoor temperature standard for rental housing, it will set a powerful precedent—demonstrating how local governments can protect low-income tenants from the escalating impacts of climate change and paving the way for similar reforms across the province and beyond.



MCLS Serving Homeless Asylum Claimants at the Peel Reception Centre Shelter

Mississauga Community Legal Services (MCLS) provides wrap-around service to the asylum claimants at the Peel Reception Centre, which opened in February 2025. The Peel Reception Centre is the largest shelter of its kind in Canada, with capacity to serve up to 680 homeless asylum claimants. In the spring of 2025, MCLS established a partnership with the Region of Peel to provide on-site legal services as well as public legal education sessions to homeless asylum claimants residing at the Centre, as well as to staff working on site.



Precedent-Setting Decision on Accessible Air Travel

ARCH Disability Law Centre (ARCH) successfully defended a Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) decision at the Federal Court of Appeal in the case of *Air Canada v Rose*. The Federal Court of Appeal upheld the CTA's order requiring Air Canada to accommodate passengers with disabilities who use power wheelchairs. This case began in 2018, when ARCH represented Mr. Rose after he was denied access to multiple flights because his mobility device could not fit through the aircraft cargo door. The CTA ruled that Air Canada had not demonstrated undue hardship and ordered the airline to provide either an accessible aircraft or alternate route.

In December 2019, Air Canada appealed the decision. ARCH, together with Legal Aid Ontario's Clinic Resource Office, represented Mr. Rose and successfully defended the CTA's ruling. The Federal Court of Appeal released its decision in March 2025, confirming the CTA's analysis.

Elder Law Project Empowers Older Adults in Grey-Bruce

Grey-Bruce Community Legal Clinic (“GBCLC”) received a grant from the Law Foundation of Ontario (“LFO”) to conduct an elder law project in 2024 and 2025. The LFO funding allowed GBCLC to dedicate a full-time lawyer to public education about elder law in GBCLC’s catchment area. Elder law includes legal issues that only impact older adults (such as old age pensions) and legal issues that disproportionately impact older adults (such as legal rights in congregate living settings).



GBCLC provided 239 elder law presentations through the two-year project, reaching 3619 members of the public and 985 professionals who work with older adults. GBCLC also developed expertise with Indigenous estates issues to meet the needs of local First Nations.

The impact of the project on older adults was captured by a senior living in a retirement home who spoke at GBCLC’s annual meeting about their experience with the project.

Angela & the Elder Law Project, thank you from each and every one of us. You have treated us all with dignity and respect. You spoke in a manner that all could understand. You answered each and every question and never once treated us as anything less than thinking Adults. You gave us Information and tools to help us help ourselves. Every presentation made us aware and question things we did not know or fully understand.

Families do not understand that our aging bodies that now need care and help are not the same as our brains that need and want this information to make informed decisions for ourselves and them, You Gave us that.

Thanks to the LFO, this request for ongoing elder law education sessions will be fulfilled. The LFO has provided another responsive grant to GBCLC so that elder law education can continue in Grey-Bruce and expand to Huron, Perth, Brant, Haldimand, and Norfolk Counties in 2026 and 2027.

Supreme Court Intervention

Black Legal Action Centre (BLAC) **intervened in *Dorsey v Canada (Attorney General)*, 2025 SCC 38**, appearing before the Supreme Court of Canada. In this case, the interveners successfully challenged the prevailing jurisprudence by arguing that decisions denying an inmate’s transfer to a lower security classification should be reviewable through habeas corpus, contrary to the conclusions reached by both the trial judge and the Court of Appeal. For BLAC and fellow intervenor Aboriginal Legal Services, the availability of external judicial review together represents the only meaningful mechanism to address the systemic disadvantage faced by racialized inmates, who are disproportionately assessed as higher risk and consequently subjected to more restrictive conditions of confinement.

The Supreme Court accepted the interveners’ submissions regarding the disproportionate over-classification of marginalized inmates, noting that Black and Indigenous individuals are more likely to be assigned higher security classifications than their non-marginalized counterparts. In its holding, the Court determined that a decision to deny a lower security reclassification is reviewable by way of habeas corpus, as it has the qualitative effect of restricting an inmate’s residual liberty. The Court emphasized that broad and effective access to habeas corpus is essential for individuals experiencing an unlawful or continued deprivation of liberty, clarifying that a deprivation of liberty may arise from the continuation of a more restrictive form of confinement, regardless of whether there is a formal change in the status quo or a proven entitlement to less restrictive conditions.

Preserving a Tenant’s Rights Win at the LTB

Willowdale Community Legal Services asked The Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO) to assist four tenants responding to an appeal by their landlord. The tenants were illegally locked out in 2023 by their landlord. When the initial Landlord and Tenant Board hearing was completed last year, the tenants were awarded damages and the Tribunal fined the landlord \$10,000.00. The landlord appealed the decision. The appeal was heard on November 10th with the tenants represented by ACTO. The result was a victory for the tenants when the court dismissed the landlord’s appeal.



Refugee Rights Day Rally against Bill C-2

On July 20, 2025, **Community Legal Services of Ottawa** staff organized a rally with other concerned agencies to raise concerns about Bill C-2, the “Stronger Borders Act”. Speakers included representatives from the Canadian Council for Refugees, CUPE, the tenant organizing group Tenants of Sandy Hill, Migrante Ottawa, and the Ten Oaks Project. There were about 60 people in attendance. It was one of the first local calls to action, leading to many people signing onto campaigns, inspiring CPJ to write an article, and prompting the NDP Youth Caucus to begin door-knocking on the issue.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY • FRIDAY, JUNE 20

RALLY AGAINST BILL C-2

GAURI SREENIVASAN
Co-Executive Director, Canadian Council for Refugees

KYMANI MONTGOMERY
Director at Ten Oaks Project, LGBTQ Immigrant and activist

MARK HANCOCK
President of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)

MARINA GOMÁ
International student, migrant rights and harm reduction advocate

DEBORAH OWUSU-AKYEAAH
Policy Director at Action Canada and first-generation queer activist

ALEXIS
Tenant Organizer - Tenants of Sandy Hill

TRISHA
Migrante Ottawa

HOSTED BY
LILI-ANNE KONDO - Community Legal Services of Ottawa
SINDA GARZIZ - Centertown Community Health Centre
ADITYA RAO - Canadian Union of Public Employees

Clinic Publications

The **Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO)** published “[*The Journey to Housing Stability for Survivors of Gender-Based Violence*](#)”, a groundbreaking research report capturing survivors’ real experiences navigating the housing legal system in Ontario. The report identifies key barriers survivors face along their journey to finding safe housing and calls for urgently needed specialized services and policy changes to increase their access to justice and housing stability. Building on this important research, ACTO launched a series of issue briefs that dive deeper into the report’s key themes.

Health-Harming Legal Needs: A Guide for Canadian Primary Health Care Clinicians was published September 23, 2025 by [University of Toronto Press](#). This book was edited by Dr. Rami Shoucri and Jennie Stone, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Legal Services. The contributors included other clinic staff- Benjamin Ries, Nabila Qureshi, Anu Bakshi, Ryan Peck, and Robin Nobleman.

What our clients say

“There(sic) service was very satisfactory and they really helped me during a difficult time when I did not know what to do.” **Nipissing Community Legal Clinic**

“I have recommended about four people to these services. Never had such a smooth encounter with a lawyer until I came across Neighbourhood Legal Services. Lawyers here are so helpful and made my experience feel welcomed, I didn’t feel judged or like I wasn’t good enough to have their help. 10/10 recommended for me. Thank you.”
Neighbourhood Legal Services

“MCLS has been a great source of peace of mind and help as and when needed over last almost 8 years & I have no words to describe what a great job you all are doing for community and people on ODSP/OW and in other situations in life and health.”
Mississauga Community Legal Services



Clinic Events



On November 18, 2025, Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic hosted a visit from three Supreme Court of Canada justices as well as the Chief Justice of Ontario: The Honourable Suzanne Côté, the Honourable Malcolm Rowe, and the Honourable Michelle O’Bonsawin of the Supreme Court of Canada and the honourable Michael Tulloch, Chief Justice of Ontario.

Clinic staff had an opportunity to present about clinic areas of law and services. The Justices were very interested to hear about the work done by the clinic and had encouraging comments regarding the value of the role of clinics in access to justice. It was an amazing event for the invited guests and clinic staff.

50 Years of CLEO

CLEO (Community Legal Education Ontario / Éducation juridique communautaire Ontario) celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2024-2025. Reaching half a century is no small achievement!

CLEO was founded as the Toronto Community Law School, inspired by law students who believed that everyone should be able to access and understand legal information. Over the years, CLEO grew from a small initiative into a trusted leader in public legal education and information (PLEI). From pioneering plain-language legal resources to embracing digital innovation, CLEO has adapted to meet the changing needs of people and communities in Ontario.



Landlord's Self Help Centre Celebrates 50 Years

Landlord's Self-Help Centre (LSHC) is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Since its founding, the Centre has grown into a vital resource for small-scale landlords across the province.



LSHC was founded in 1975 by Lita and Archie Wisman as Landlord Aid or Landl'Aid, initially serving small landlords in Toronto's Parkdale and High Park neighbourhoods. Incorporated in 1977, the Centre became part of Ontario's legal clinic system and now serves and supports small landlords throughout Ontario.

With a dedicated team of four Community Legal Workers and an Executive Director, LSHC provides general legal information, summary advice, and referrals, helping thousands of small landlords navigate the complexities of landlord and tenant law. Through educational initiatives such as the Landlord Learning Modules, the Landlord Lunch and Learn series, fact sheets on the *Residential Tenancies Act*, the quarterly newsletter, and other public legal education resources, LSHC continues to empower small landlords with the knowledge and tools they need to manage their rental properties effectively and responsibly.

Awards, Recognitions and News



Jane Meadus, Institutional Advocate and Staff Lawyer at the Advocacy Centre for the Elderly, was awarded the 2025 Ontario Bar Association Award for Excellence in Elder Law. This award is presented annually to exceptional members of the legal profession for their outstanding achievement and contributions to the lives of elderly Ontarians. Jane has worked for over 30 years in the area of elder law. She has been a tireless advocate for the rights of seniors and has shaped the field of elder law through landmark advocacy, public education and law reform.



Veronica Jimenez Munoz, a Senior Housing Paralegal at Waterloo Region Community Legal Services, was awarded the Christine Wilson Whitehouse Outstanding Housing Community Worker Award at the National housing Day ceremony in Waterloo Region. Veronica was recognized for her many years of outstanding work on behalf of low-income tenants in Waterloo Region including public legal education and client service.

Several clinic staff received the prestigious King Charles III [Coronation Medal](#) in 2025. This award recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to their community in Canada or to a particular province, territory or region. The clinic system recipients were:



Marjorie Hiley, Executive Director of Don Valley Community Legal Services Grand Toronto Clinic



Aissa Nauthoo, Vice-President, Legal Aid, Employment and Settlement Services at the Centre Francophone du Grand Toronto



Shannon Down, Policy Counsel, ACLCO (former Executive Director, Waterloo Region Community Legal Services)



Yodit Edemariam, Executive Director, Rexdale Community Legal Clinic

Iffat Farooqui, Intake Worker, Elgin Oxford Legal Clinic



Who we are

The **Association of Community Legal Clinics of Ontario (ACLCO)** is the representative body of Ontario’s community legal clinics. We are governed by a 13-person board of directors comprised of staff and board members from clinics from all regions of the province. We have developed expertise in poverty law services delivered through the community legal clinic model. We act in a leadership role to advocate for sustainable legal aid services and, we are recognized throughout Canada and internationally as a champion of community based legal services.



What we do

The **ACLCO** communicates and collaborates regularly with government, funders, community and justice organizations regarding legal aid and community legal clinics. The ACLCO helps coordinate the clinic system’s interactions with a variety of external justice partners.

A primary focus of the ACLCO is to work with other legal aid service provider groups, primarily through the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid, to pursue increased government funding for legal aid. These efforts have concentrated on working with the provincial government to educate it about the importance of access to justice and legal aid investment. Significant work was also done with the federal government surrounding its role in funding legal aid services in Ontario.

Collaboration with the primary funder of clinics, Legal Aid Ontario (LAO), remains an important focus for the ACLCO. We work with LAO to ensure robust and thriving poverty law services in Ontario. In addition, the ACLCO works with LAO on a wide range of issues affecting the clinic system through the ACLCO Board and a number of standing and ad hoc advisory committees.

The ACLCO also supports community legal clinics through the KnowledgeNow program, promoting knowledge creation and sharing throughout the clinic system. The ACLCO Policy Counsel plays an important role in clinic support and leadership. For several years before LAO withdrew funding in September 2019, the ACLCO managed the clinic learning and training program for the clinic system.

The ACLCO will continue to work on behalf of Ontario’s community legal clinics by ensuring the ongoing flow of new funding into legal aid and the clinic system, by strengthening the clinic–LAO relationship, by fostering strong relations between the clinic system and our justice sector partners, and by expanding the supports we provide to clinics throughout the province.

Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario • Advocacy Centre for the Elderly • Algoma Community Legal Clinic
 ARCH Disability Law Centre • Black Legal Action Centre • Canadian Environmental Law Association
 Centre for Spanish-Speaking Peoples • Chatham-Kent Legal Clinic • Chinese & Southeast Asian Legal Clinic
 Clinique juridique francophone d'Ottawa/Centre des services communautaires Vanier
 Clinique juridique Grand-Nord/Grand-Nord Legal Clinic • Clinique juridique populaire de Prescott et Russell Inc
 Clinique juridique Roy McMurtry (SDG) Legal Clinic • Community Advocacy & Legal Centre
 Community Legal Assistance Sarnia • Community Legal Clinic - Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk
 Community Legal Clinic - Simcoe, Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes • Community Legal Clinic of York Region
 Community Legal Education Ontario/Éducation juridique communautaire Ontario (CLEO)
 Community Legal Services of Ottawa/Services juridiques communautaires d'Ottawa
 Don Valley Community Legal Services • Downsview Community Legal Services • Durham Community Legal Clinic
 Elgin-Oxford Legal Clinic • Elliot Lake & North Shore Community Legal Clinic • Grey Bruce Community Legal Clinic
 Hamilton Community Legal Clinic/Clinique juridique communautaire de Hamilton • HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario
 Huron Perth Community Legal Clinic • Income Security Advocacy Centre • Industrial Accident Victims' Group of Ontario (IAVGO)
 Injured Workers Community Legal Clinic • Jane Finch Community Legal Services
 Justice for Children and Youth • Keewaytinok Native Legal Services
 Kensington-Bellwoods Community Legal Services • Kingston Community Legal Clinic
 Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic • Lake Country Community Legal Clinic • Landlord's Self-Help Centre
 Legal Assistance of Windsor • Manitoulin Legal Clinic • Mississauga Community Legal Services • Neighbourhood Legal Services
 Neighbourhood Legal Services (London & Middlesex) • Niagara Community Legal Clinic/Clinique juridique communautaire de Niagara
 Nipissing Community Legal Clinic • North Peel & Dufferin Community Legal Services
 Northumberland Community Legal Centre • Northwest Community Legal Clinic
 Parkdale Community Legal Services • Peterborough Community Legal Centre • Queen's Prison Law Clinic
 Renfrew County Legal Clinic • Rexdale Community Legal Clinic • Scarborough Community Legal Services
 Services d'aide juridique du Centre francophone de Toronto • South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario
 South Etobicoke Community Legal Services • Sudbury Community Legal Clinic • The Legal Clinic
 Timmins-Temiskaming Community Legal Clinic/Clinique juridique communautaire Timmins-Témiskamingue
 Unison Health and Community Services • Waterloo Region Community Legal Services
 West Scarborough Community Legal Services • West Toronto Community Legal Services
 Willowdale Community Legal Services • Windsor-Essex Bilingual Legal Clinic/Clinique juridique bilingue Windsor-Essex
 Workers' Health & Safety Legal Clinic

ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY



LEGAL CLINICS OF ONTARIO

ACLCO Member Clinics

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www.aclco.org