



THE HELP AND LEGAL CENTRE

OF NORTHUMBERLAND

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CHAIR'S REPORT BY BETH BELLAIRE

"A picture is worth a thousand words."

Last year, at our Annual General Meeting, we finalized a name change for our organization – we formally became The Help and Legal Centre of Northumberland.

This year, we are pleased to unveil a new logo that captures the spirit of this label: two agencies intertwined, with roots in the community, reaching out to help the community with ever-growing services and programs.

Our two agencies, The Help Centre (THC), and The Northumberland Community Legal Centre (NCLC), certainly have deep roots here: together, we have served the people of Northumberland for more than 25 years. I would hazard a guess that everyone reading this newsletter knows of at least one person who has been helped by the talents of one or the other of the two agencies.

We also continue to reach out, to grow, and to develop new services to meet the changing

needs of our community. Full details of our programs, both new and ongoing, can be found in the various reports within this newsletter, but I'd like to highlight two accomplishments here.

First, this past year has seen the expansion of THC's Partners-in-Learning program to include a significant ESL component. In fact, in May, The Help Centre was presented with the Partner-Organization-of-the-Year Award by the New Canadians' Centre to recognize the positive impact of this service for their clients.

As well, our Executive Director of the NCLC was chosen to bring her leadership skills to strengthen the reach of the legal clinics in the Eastern Region, and she now heads up that initiative overseeing several projects designed to provide more and better legal services to the region.

AGMs are certainly a time to reflect on past achievements but also an opportunity to look ahead to new challeng-

es. As a Board, we have committed to a full strategic planning process which we began in the spring and will continue throughout the next few months. I'd like to thank our departing board members for their wise guidance as we set out on this journey, and I look forward to working with our new and continuing board members who will bring fresh perspectives to the emerging plan.

I will close with a heartfelt thank you to the staff members of both agencies who work tirelessly to meet the needs of our clients, to our many volunteers who work in our offices or help on our committees and give so freely of their personal time to our causes, and, finally, to my fellow board members who continue to provide the guidance needed to keep this organization heading always to positive change and growth



LEGAL CENTRE REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LOIS CROMARTY

Last year saw the need for our services grow in an ever-expanding diversity of practice areas. Consequently our resources in staffing increased, which meant our Board room had to be transformed into 4 work stations just to have a desk for everyone!

Extra staff meant expanded collaborations with other clinics. We hired an outreach legal worker to handle Precarious Employment work at our clinic and 4 others. We had 3 articling students (and coordinated a program of 7 other articling students placed in 4 other clinics as well); our Paralegal Program saw our Review Counsel working in two other catchments beside our own, and we had a full time social worker for 4 months through the University of Windsor.

We delivered 3467 summary advice, 1054 brief services and dealt with 516 requests for referral elsewhere (5037 requests for service). We opened 370 files, including 40+ for clients who had been the victims of abuse at Schedule 1 institutions.

We closed 375 files, representing appeals where there was an opposing party who had denied entitlements. This resulted in \$1,578,299 in lump sum payments to our clients. We estimate this also generated \$531,864 yearly in ongoing benefits. This would mean that our efforts in advocacy have netted about \$2,110,163 for our clients last year.

Other successful advocacy is harder to quantify in monetary terms. What is the dollar value on a tenant being able to remain in their apartment? In getting necessary repairs done to where they live? What is the value to others of obtaining significant decisions in social assistance, housing, disability benefits, WSIB that can be used for other clients in the province?

The Legal Centre staff gave webinars to the entire clinic system on topics such as WSIB and Migrant workers. We made law reform sub-

missions to government on Employment Insurance and Changing Workplaces and for patients in hospital, among others. We worked in Community Development and Public Legal



Education with local partners, as well as creating trusted intermediary training, librarian outreach, and public flyers on things like air conditioning fees.

Thanks to the funders like Legal Aid Ontario for providing the resources necessary to allow the Legal Centre to do the work that is so necessary for the improvement of the lives of our low-income community residents. Thanks to dedicated Legal Centre staff, the torch for social justice remains brightly lit in Northumberland.

PARTNERS-IN-LEARNING & E.S.L. BY: NANCY BLACKLER-JENKINS, PARTNERS-IN-LEARNING COORDINATOR

Recognizing there was a need for an adult English-as-a-Second-Language (E.S.L.) program in Northumberland County, The Help Centre (THC), The New Canadian Centre, Northumberland County, Trinity United Church and numerous refugee sponsor groups began a collaborative E.S.L. program.

From April to October 2016, Northumberland County and The Help Centre co-coordinated the E.S.L. program, and in that time they supported 20 learners from many different countries. In October of 2016, Northumberland County asked THC to take the lead as the county's funding had come to an end. After receiving continued funding from Homelessness Partnering Strategy (H.P.S.) and a new one-time

funding grant from The Retired Teachers of Ontario, E.S.L. joined Adult Literacy in THC's Partners in Learning program in November 2016. Nancy Blackler-Jenkins, Partners-in-Learning Program Coordinator, facilitated both programs with the aid of many dedicated volunteers until January 2017. At that time, The Help Centre was able to expand the E.S.L program by hiring E.S.L facilitator Sarah Forrest. From January to March 2017, 19 learners participated in this community-based E.S.L program. Working with the same guiding principles as our Adult Literacy program, the E.S.L. program bridges opportunities for each learner to gain confidence in their English to get a job, to support their family, and to participate in the community.

Over the year, 39 E.S.L. learners

and 16 adult literacy learners were assisted with improving their language and literacy skills. Several learners have gained or improved employment; enrolled in a college course; while others have met short term goals such as earning their driver's license; improving their math skills in order to acquire high school credits or equivalency or complete a course. We have observed with each goal met, their self-reliance grows. This encouragement aids them to function confidently in their everyday experience from food shopping, to attending doctor appointments, to talking on the phone, even to reading informational materials sent home from their children's school.

Since the impetus of numerous community organizations to create these programs and now witnessing their actuality, it is our learners who remind us of the necessity when they tell us, "I was so nervous and scared when I first came but now I feel more confident and happy", and that, that is everything.

IMPROVING LIVES BY: PATRICIA ORANTES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HELP CENTRE

Low-income residents are more vulnerable and more likely to face problems restricting their access to better health, better paying jobs and therefore better standards of living. Living in a distressed neighborhood intensifies the effects of family poverty, lower education levels, financial instability, and lack of health and well-being. Stable housing and secure income are a foundation for well-being, as well as a platform for connecting people to services and resources. When housing is affordable and income secure, families can spend more time and resources on medical care, nutritious food, transportation to and from work and quality daycare services.

Along the years, The Help Centre, through its services and programs such as Partners in Learning & E.S.L., Financial Literacy, Support-for-Seniors, Affordable Housing, and Utility-Disconnection Prevention, has been educating and training our clients on how to take care of their finances, to manage challenges they face and to make better financial and personal decisions. By building their skills in these areas, we are improving their capacity to become self-sufficient. Many of our interventions mean clients can now access long-term income and housing supports, versus temporary, short-term solutions; our programs and services focus on sustainable solutions to improve housing and income security.

THC continues to deliver in Northumberland County a wide variety of services and programs that are not addressed by other government or social service agencies.

With fewstaff and limited staff time we are not able to serve as many people as we wish to do. However, thanks to

extra funds received from Service Canada for the Rural and Remote program, we were able to increase staff time for the last 3 months of the fiscal year 2016/2017 and this allowed us to provide more units of service and support to more residents in the community. This fiscal year (2016/2017) we provided over 20,000 units of service compared to 18,679 in 2015/2016. Our staff is always busy working to make a difference and improving the lives of our most vulnerable residents. Our Community Volunteer Income Tax program continues to be a successful program. With a temporary coordinator and a group of 8 volunteers, through in-house and outreach clinics in the community, in 2016 we assisted 2,200 residents with their tax returns and brought \$5.1 million back to the community through Federal and Provincial credits.

Thanks to funds from Northumberland County this year (2017), we were able to hire once again our seasonal Tax Coordinator. The year hasn't ended yet, but we expect to have a similar amount as in 2016 coming back into the community.

THC is aware that some communities within Northumberland County have limited services and limited transportation options to allow low-income residents to access our services. Therefore, THC through its outreach program offers all services throughout the county at the community hub offices. If a client is not able to visit our main office in Cobourg, it is possible to schedule an appointment with our out-

reach program coordinator in any of the community hub offices located in Campbellford, Warkworth, Alderville, Brighton, Colborne and Port Hope. If the client is not able to come to the hub offices, the program coordinator visits them in their homes.

Since 1986 Northumberland United Way has core funded The Help Centre. Yes, for 31 years, United Way has contributed through their core funding to keep this Agency assisting and supporting lower-income residents in Northumberland County. THANK YOU NORTHUMBERLAND UNITED WAY— without you we would not be able to keep the doors of our agency open and offer our programs that are so needed in our community. Thanks for supporting us to build a stronger community.

Program funding is also important for our Agency, as it allows us to increase staff time and develop new programs in our Agency. We also want to use this opportunity to thank our programming funders: United Way Simcoe County & Service Canada for the Rural and Remote program, New Horizons for Seniors, Retired Teachers of Ontario, Utility Companies and Northumberland County. Also, special thanks for the generous donations coming from the JIGGS Dinner; the Labour Council and from individuals in our community.

A special thank you to the Board, Staff and volunteers, who are so committed and who work tirelessly to address the needs of our low-income residents in Northumberland County.

See you at our
AGM 2017
Annual General Meeting
September 26th, 2017

SAVE THE DATE - MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN TO ATTEND

THLCN will hold its 2017 Annual General Meeting at St's Peter's Church at 5:00pm
Free BBQ & Free Draw for Bicycle

Invitation with more details to follow

THE HELP and LEGAL CENTRE OF NORTHUMBERLAND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HOMELESSNESS IN NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY BY: MARY BETH McNULTY, INTENSIVE HOUSING WORKER

For the average Northumberland citizen, homelessness may not seem like a problem in the community. When you take a drive or walk down our quiet streets, you may not think you see any homeless people; maybe you just didn't catch them. The young man you see riding his bike downtown: he sleeps in a tent at night. The woman and two young children in line ahead of you at the grocery store: they are all sleeping on a pull-out couch in a friend's living room. Whether we see it or not, homelessness is a major issue in Northumberland County.

This was proven true during the 20,000 Homes Campaign that took place November 2016. With the help of 23 community-based agencies Northumberland County joined a campaign that is taking place across Canada to house 20,000 of Canada's most vulnerable people. A point-in-time count was conducted to create by-name data

about the families and individuals at risk of and experiencing homelessness during one week in November 2016. In that week, over 300 surveys were completed, and we identified 179 individuals and 48 families who were at risk of homelessness. This includes those who are facing eviction and living in precarious housing, among others. Also identified were 59 individuals and 17 families currently homeless. Of that group identified as homeless, 34% of people were living in temporary accommodations, 32% were

couch surfing, 22% were staying at one of the shelters, and 12% were currently staying outdoors.

After the results of the survey week came back, we were determined to make a difference. The Help Centre is now a participating member of the Homelessness Coordinated Response Team (HCRT). Together, HCRT has



helped house 24 of Northumberland County's homeless population. The Homelessness Coordinated Response Team continues to use a collaborative approach to house the most vulnerable people.

In addition to the work being accomplished with other community partners, The Help Centre's Intensive Housing Program continues to support all clients in need of housing. Through weekly rental listings, individual housing searches, connecting with landlords, and attending rental viewings, The Help Centre has helped house 45 individuals and families in the last fiscal year. Noting Northumberland County's rental vacancy rate at 0.4%, The Help Centre strives to use a creative and collaborative approach to address the housing crisis.

THE RENTAL FAIRNESS ACT, 2017 BY SARAH COOLING

The Ontario Government has introduced changes to the laws governing Tenants. The **Rental Fairness Act, 2017** has received Royal Assent, meaning that the following changes to the **Residential Tenancies Act** are now in force:

- Enabling a standard lease to help both tenants and landlords know their rights and responsibilities, while reducing the number of disputes
- Protecting tenants from eviction due to abuse of the

"landlord's own use" provision



maintenance orders have not been addressed

- Ensuring landlords can't pursue former tenants for unauthorized charges
- Prohibiting above-guideline rent increases in buildings where elevator

- Removing above-guideline rent increases for utilities, to protect tenants from carbon costs and encourage landlords to make their buildings more energy efficient.

The Northumberland Community Legal Centre offers free legal advice to Tenants and we provide free Tenant Duty Counsel services at the Landlord and Tenant Board. If you have any questions about your rights and responsibilities as a Tenant please call the Legal Centre for legal help and information.

THE HELP AND LEGAL CENTRE OF NORTHUMBERLAND SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD FOR 2017 BY BETH BELLAIRE

At our last AGM, we launched this award to recognize a youth or youth group who has dedicated time and energy to the cause of social justice and has demonstrated a commitment to improving the lives of low-income residents of Northumberland.

This year, we have chosen Emerrie Geddes as our recipient of the \$500 award. Emerrie, a recent graduate of St. Mary's Catholic Secondary School, was a member of that school's Social Justice club for all her years there. During that time, she provided leadership in homelessness initiatives, organized poverty lunches to raise awareness, and worked with STOP – Students Together Opposing Poverty. Emerrie is presently attending the Royal Canadian Military College, and we know she plans to follow her passion and commitment to social justice wherever this path might take her.

This year's presenter will be Doug Lloyd. Doug, a founding member of our organization, is still active with us

as a fund-raiser extraordinaire. Those of you who have attended our annual golf tournament have experienced his expertise first-hand in putting on a successful event. Both during his working career and now in retirement, Doug continues to support the cause of social justice, and we are honoured to recognize him in this small way.

Finally, thank you, once again, to John Foley, owner of Foodland in Cobourg, who has generously donated the funds to cover this award.

We'd also like to make honorary mention of another applicant for this year's award: the "Talent of Many" youth group from the Brookside Youth Centre. Having been given a grant for a previous achievement, this

group decided to use their award to support disadvantaged women worldwide through KIVA, an international non-profit organization which "connects people through lending to alleviate poverty." We'd like to recognize this by providing a further \$250

towards their loan fund so that the group's members can continue to have a positive influence on others' lives.



FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT BY BRUCE WALKER

The Help and Legal Centre of Northumberland Fundraising Committee is a group of individuals who care about their community and try to do a little to help anyone who needs it. They are backed up by a vast number of people who work in the shadows to make every fundraising event a success. As the Fundraising Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all for your creativity and hard work.



Our biggest event is Empty Bowls which is a massive undertaking. This year, we changed it up a bit and had Don Owen play for us which from all

responses was a great success. I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the generosity and hospitality we received from Rosewood Estates and Northumberland Potters. With the help of all involved we raised \$7881.25.

Our Golf tournament again was held at Shelter Valley Pines with great success. Even with it being rained out, golfers still

showed up and made their donations. With the help of lots of fantastic donations from businesses, unions, individuals and groups we raised \$5347.71.

Our Yard Sale was again enjoyed by all with some great low cost items and over \$800.00 raised.

I believe it is evident in our community the good The Help and Legal Centre of Northumberland does and the importance of the Board Members, Volunteers, Members and funders like Northumberland United Way and Legal Aid Ontario and we always welcome new members from the community. These ingredients make The Help and Legal Centre of Northumberland a success and on behalf of The Fundraising Committee I would like to say THANK YOU!

EXPANSION OF EMPLOYMENT LAW SERVICES BY ARAVINTH JEGATHEESAN

NCLC has always provided services in some areas of employment law but is now implementing an expansion of these services. Such expansion includes the Employment Standards Act, Employment Insurance, Occupational Health and Safety Act, human rights, and wrongful dismissal issues. The aim is to provide these services across the eastern region clinics.

Since this has not historically been a core area of clinic practice, the goal is to develop capacity in all clinics to be able to provide summary advice and representation, recognize issues, make appropriate referrals and do intake for cases being referred to a shared eastern region clinic caseworker. For example, a partnership between NCLC and the Durham Community Legal Clinic (DCLC) has established a weekly employment law drop-in service (Tuesday's) at the Durham clinic which begins operating this September.

Also, the eastern region clinics have established an employment law study group that engages all eastern region clinics. This group utilizes access to existing employment law knowledge already available at clinics. It is developing a standard knowledgebase through reviewing

and studying modules in specific areas of employment law. In developing a comprehensive knowledge base through the study group, other clinics in the region can be supported in future funding applications for employment law positions. With a developed knowledge base and resources, such positions will be able to start up rapidly, and a more robust employment law representation system will be available throughout the region with potential employment law specialists available within reasonable distance from any clinic or client.

Advocates have been hard at work pushing for changes to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board. As always, we try to remind the WSIB that they are there to compensate workplace injuries. This year has seen some changes.

After years of pressure, the WSIB has released their drug formulary. If doctors prescribe drugs that are not on this formulary, injured workers do not receive reimbursement. Having the drug formulary become available to

the public means that doctors can now prescribe medications that are a part of the formulary. For example, doctors can prescribe medications for pain that are on the formulary. There is no guessing as to whether the worker will have coverage or not.

There has also been a big change with Bill 127. Earlier this year, the government increased the powers of the WSIB, without consultations. The Board itself can make policies about how evidence can be weighed and about how decisions can be made. This does not only affect the Board itself, but it may tie the hands of the

Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal who is bound by the Board's policies.

While the WSIB's policies on mental stress have not been updated yet, the Supreme Court of Canada has said that these policies are discriminatory and need to be updated. Advocates will be watching closely for inclusive new policies.

What action will be taken remains to be determined, but rest assured, action will be taken. We cannot lie in wait.

WSIB CHANGES BY TERESA WILLIAMS

CHANGES TO SOCIAL ASSISTANCE BY KEITH TSO

As of August 1, 2017, any amount of compensation an ODSP recipient receives for pain and suffering is exempt. For example, if an ODSP recipient suffered a personal injury and is granted an award, the award will be exempt. OW recipients can now receive compensation up to \$50,000 for pain and suffering.

In addition, starting September 2017 the income exemption for cash gifts for OW and ODSP re-

ipients will increase to \$10,000 per year. Further, OW and ODSP recipients will be able to accept any cash gift as long as the cash is used to: 1) pay for first and last month's rent, 2) to purchase a principal residence, or 3) buy a vehicle they need.

OW and ODSP recipients will also see a 2% increase in their benefits (starting October 2017 for OW and September 2017 for ODSP). For example, single people on ODSP will get an extra \$23 per month, and single people on OW will get an extra \$15 per month.

Starting January 2018, OW and ODSP

recipients will be allowed to have a greater amount of liquid assets. Liquid assets are cash or any asset that can easily be converted into cash. For example, it includes money in bank accounts or stocks.

This means that single individuals on OW will be allowed to have \$10,000, and couples on OW will be allowed to have \$15,000. Single individuals on ODSP will be allowed to have \$40,000, and couples on ODSP will be allowed to have \$50,000.



UTILITY ARREARS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS BY: KARIN CUMMINGS, SR. PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The Help Centre continues to be the intake agency for many provincial utility programs offered in Northumberland County. The ever increasing cost of maintaining our natural gas and electricity accounts has created a huge demand for change to the way we view our everyday lives. Off-peak pricing, which applies to electricity used between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m., has increased the most over the past decade. Since 2006, the price Ontarians pay for off-peak electricity has gone from 3.5 to 8.7 cents per kilowatt-hour – an increase of nearly 150 per cent. That means anyone who follows the government's advice and stays up late to do laundry and wash dishes is paying more than double what they did for electricity only a decade ago. According to the Ontario Energy Board, off-peak consumption accounts for roughly 65 per cent of a residential customer's usage. It seems we are doing everything we can to keep our usage down but the costs keep going up.

Natural Gas on the other hand has seen a 54% drop in price for the same period. That seems pretty positive for urban areas where natural gas heating is readily available but for rural areas like much of Northumberland, many have to rely

on electric heat sources. Knowing the associated costs of keeping your family warm makes the winter something to dread.

Through advocacy work by groups like the Ontario Energy Board – Financial Assistance Working Group and LIEN – Low Income Energy Network, both of which The Help Centre is an active participant; two new changes were introduced. The Ontario Electricity Support Program applies a monthly credit to electricity bills for those approved. Eligibility is based on the total household income and the number of people in the family. This program launched at the end of 2015 with credits to resident bills starting in January 2016. The Help Centre assists low income customers to apply to the program and in 2016/17 a total of 308 applications were processed. Even with these credits applied, Ontarians still felt the struggle to keep up. With further advocacy work, the province agreed to increase the eligibility and credit structure of the OESP program and effective July this year, those who were not eligible now may be able to take advantage of support from the pro-

gram. Secondly, along with the increases to the OESP credits and eligibility, the province agreed that we continued to pay too much for electricity and offered further reductions to our electricity bills in areas of usage rates, delivery charges and the GST, accounting for an additional 25% reduction in costs. Although still a large part of the household budget, these reductions may make a big difference to a family's monthly expenses.

The Help Centre continues to offer assistance with a utility bill if there is a threat of disconnection. Every day, a resident reaches out for help when they just can't keep their account up to date. As the intake agency for LEAP – Low Income Energy Assistance Program, we assist with completing LEAP grant applications, advocate with the utility to waive deposits, receive holds on any pending action, help to arrange longer term payment arrangements and facilitate the cancellation of third party contracts. In 2016/17 utility advocacy was provided to 380 households and 263 applications for financial assistance were processed.

E A S T E R N R E G I O N T R A N S F O R M A T I O N B Y P E T E R V A N C E

The Eastern Region Transformation project is one in which 8 clinics in Eastern Ontario have reached a new way of delivering service across legal clinic catchment areas. Recognizing that we can work together to address gaps in legal needs that arise in our areas, the 8 clinics agreed to a Joint Clinic Planning model. As a result, our Legal Centre is now able to get services for our clients in areas of practice beyond what we usually can offer. Using a "roving" model of service, other legal clinics now come to our clinic to give services to our clients in French Language Services, Consumer Law, Wills and Estates,

Seniors Law, Social Work Services, and Employment Law. We have access to Education Law and Aboriginal Law expertise. Likewise, our clinic gives the others services in Precarious Employment Outreach. All of this came about as a way to improve access to justice and service delivery to low-income residents.

Along with the direct client service changes, the Eastern Region Transformation project is also working together on ways to improve how legal services are delivered in general to low income clients in the East by tackling topics such as Holistic

Service, Rural and Remote issues, Administrative Collaboration, Using Technology, Knowledge and Resource Sharing, and Medical Legal Partnerships. These topics are ones that have great potential to improve access to justice, particularly for clients who do not live in large urban centres. These may be more "behind the scenes", but if we can achieve our goals on these topics, our clients will benefit from having services that address the realities that come with living in a rural setting where transportation and geography create such huge barriers to accessing services.

SENIOR SERVICES HELP PROGRAM (SSH) BY: MAUREEN FORBES, SENIOR SERVICE COORDINATOR

The Help Centre launched a new county-wide initiative in Jan 2015 to help connect low-income people over 50 years of age to the services they need including budgeting, meal/grocery planning, transportation with support to client appointments, referrals, sourcing information, downsizing, benefits navigation, general advocacy, forms completion and basic training on cell phones and tablets.

In the first two years of service, we observed that the biggest issues facing the people we worked with were isolation and lack of information about what help was out there. These remain true as well as other realities such as lack of affordable housing.

This year, we supported more seniors living with diminished cognitive abilities, sometimes because of a brain injury or a stroke or for unknown and undiagnosed reasons. It has made offering assistance more complex. Many clients cannot recall anything discussed after a meeting and finding infor-

mation to advocate for them takes considerable time. We have had to investigate, consult with community partner agencies and even develop a few little tools to help, such as an identity sheet with the picture of our senior coordinator and lines on it to make notes about what they worked on and what is needed to follow through. We have concerns about clients like this because most of them do not have family or supports and they are still living independently.

Building on the knowledge that access to information and affirmative connection to others is vital to the lives of seniors. The Help Centre

will continue with a Tablet Talk practice group in the communities of Alder-ville, Campbellford, Roseneath, Warkworth, Hastings and Codrington to have FUN together and increase skills to improve access to information, community, family and friends through the use of technology!

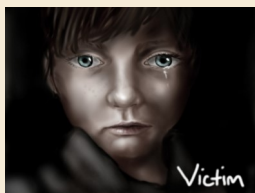
The Help Centre is pleased to offer assistance to improve the lives of seniors living on lower incomes. The Senior Help Program is possible with federal funding through the Homelessness Partnership Strategy Rural & Remote. We also have been able to provide assistance to older adults through the SSH Program because of the positive reception and collaboration from community partners in Northumberland County. Thank you!



CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION BOARD CHANGES BY MARISA CONLIN

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB) has made changes to its Rules of Procedure, effective August 1, 2017.

One of the important changes is that youth under the age of 18 can now do their own CICB claims. If a youth is making an application without a legal representative or a litigation guardian, he/she must provide information about:



- a. whether he/she has left the care and control of his/her parents or guardian;

- b. whether he/she is living independently; and
- c. whether he/she has an adult support person willing and available to assist him/her if needed.

The Board will review the application and decide whether to:

- a. proceed with the application;
- b. hold a pre-hearing conference and/or require additional information; or

- c. refer the youth to a legal clinic or to the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth.

Another important change is that in situations of sexual crimes or crimes that took place in a relationship of intimacy or dependence, there is no longer a two year deadline to make a CICB claim from when the crime took place. If you have been a victim of a violent crime in Ontario, please contact the Legal Centre for advice about your specific situation.