



Community Advocacy & Legal Centre

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

**Improving patient health through free legal help:
Public forum on local collaboration between justice and health**

“Justice and health partnerships have the potential to reshape how we practice law and medicine. By working collaboratively with local healthcare providers we can improve access to our free legal services, stop legal problems from escalating to a crisis point, and improve the health and well-being of low income individuals who need legal care,” says Community Advocacy & Legal Centre (CALC) lawyer, Lisa Turik. “We are excited to share what we’ve learned with our community members, and we look forward to their input as we enter into the second phase of the project”.

CALC is highlighting the success of their new and innovative Justice & Health Partnerships project at a public forum on November 17, 2016. Sparked by recent research which shows that unresolved legal issues are linked to poor health outcomes, CALC has been working closely with health care providers in Hastings, Prince Edward and Lennox & Addington counties. The project focusses on building legal awareness and literacy, increasing access to legal services, reducing health disparities and improving health outcomes.

On November 17, CALC will be joined by speakers to talk about the potential for justice and health collaborations to create real changes in the lives of low income clients. The speakers will include Carol Kolga of the World Health Innovation Network (Odette School of Business, University of Windsor) and Johanna Macdonald of ARCH Disability Law Centre, St. Michael’s Hospital Health Justice Partnership.

“Our experiences have shown us that our idea is working,” says Turik. “Many people can’t spot legal issues in their own lives, or don’t know how to take action. But when things get rough, they often end up at the doctor’s office. By working with doctors and nurse practitioners, we are able to get to these people early and offer the legal care they need to be healthy.”

The forum, “Prescribing Legal Health: Support Early Intervention to Improve Health Outcomes” will be held in Belleville on Thursday, November 17 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

For further information about the contents of this press release, please call Michele Leering, Executive Director, at 613-966-8686, ext 0 or Toll Free at 1-877-966-8686, ext 0.

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Belleville, ON K8N 3H2
www.communitylegalcentre.ca

For more information about the November 17 Forum:
<http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca/calendar/UpcomingEvents.htm>

To register, please contact CALC at 1-877-966-8686.

The Community Advocacy & Legal Centre (CALC) is a non-profit community legal clinic principally funded by Legal Aid Ontario. The clinic was founded in 1980 and provides poverty law services to low income residents of Hastings, Prince Edward and Lennox & Addington counties. The clinic's main office is in Belleville, with satellite locations in Trenton, Picton, Napanee, Amherstview, Bancroft and Madoc. For more information, visit CALC's website at www.communitylegalcentre.ca.

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