



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Fully Consumed: Public forum on consumer law and debt issues

“The top legal issues faced by Canadians are consumer and debt problems, and a concerted community effort is required to tackle them,” says Community Advocacy & Legal Centre (CALC) lawyer, Danielle Holbrough. “We want to share what we’ve learned from our advocacy for low-income consumers, so that we can help people identify consumer and debt problems and explore the resources we can use to solve them.”

CALC is highlighting the success of their new and innovative consumer and debt law project at a public forum on November 23, 2017. Staff offer responsive legal help to local people who are struggling with financial difficulties. CALC also wants to work with service providers and other people who help people experiencing consumer or debt problems.

The interactive and problem-solving forum will use Community Legal Education Ontario’s new online initiative, Steps to Justice, as a primary resource to help people solve consumer and debt problems. Steps to Justice is an easy-to-navigate website that offers legal information on topics like consumer and debt law in easy-to-understand language. Website users can use the site to learn more about how to deal with their legal problems. Steps to Justice also links them to other credible resources and helps build confidence in dealing with common legal problems.

“By working collaboratively with local service providers and others who help others faced with these type of problems, or by helping people directly who are suffering, we can prevent these issues from escalating to a crisis point which could lead to other difficulties, like not being able to pay the rent” says Holbrough. “Many Canadians don’t see consumer & debt problems as legal issues, don’t know how to solve these problems, or are intimidated by high pressure tactics by sellers or collection agencies. We want to empower people to take steps to solve these problems and assert their rights.”

The free public forum, “Fully Consumed: Learn about Your Consumer Rights” will be held in Belleville on Thursday, November 23 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Travelodge. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Participants will be eligible to win a free door prize – a tablet to help them access free legal information over the internet.

For further information about the contents of this press release, please call Gina Cockburn, Co-Director of Legal Services, at 613-966-8686 ext. 34, or Toll-Free at 1-877-966-8686 ext. 34.

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For more information about the November 23 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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