



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

Thursday, November 22, 2007 (Belleville, Ontario)

### **"Legal clinic to host forum on Employment Issues Facing Low Wage Earners"**

It is commonly thought that finding a job is the key to escaping poverty, but that is often not the case for many low income workers. "It's not hard to find a job, but it's hard to find a good job - one that is safe, pays a living wage, and is not part-time or casual" notes David Little, a lawyer at the Community Advocacy & Legal Centre who often represents workers against their employers. The Centre will host a panel discussion called "**Reality Cheque: A Forum on Employment Issues Facing Low Income Workers**" on Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. What are the challenges finding decent work? What are the challenges in remaining at work? What resources are available in the community for low income workers? What can workers do if their employment rights are not respected?

Our panel will consist of: Scott Lawson, Executive Director of the Eastern Ontario Training Board, who has analyzed the local labour market to understand the barriers and challenges that local people face in trying to find decent employment; Tony James, Consultant, who specializes in assisting workers laid off in plant closures in their attempts to re-enter the work force; Walter Burt, Manager of Ontario Works in Hastings County, who will report on the barriers facing low income workers as they make the transition from social assistance to paid employment; and David Little, Staff Lawyer at the Community Advocacy & Legal Centre, who represents low income workers in legal actions against employers.

The forum will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor meeting room of the Belleville Public Library at 254 Pinnacle Street. Refreshments will be available at 6:30 p.m. For more information, or to book an ASL interpreter or childcare, call Lynda Morgan, 966-8686, ext 25, prior to November 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Annual General Meeting for the clinic will follow at 8:15 p.m.

The clinic has been helping people living on a low income since 1980 with their legal problems in the areas of housing law (tenants' rights), income assistance, criminal injuries compensation, employment law including worker's compensation, and human rights. Funded mainly by Legal Aid Ontario, the clinic has also received funding to provide Tenant Duty Counsel services at the Landlord & Tenant Board, and from the Provincial Homelessness Initiative for eviction prevention.

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For further information about the contents of the press release, please call Michele Leering or Lynda Morgan at the Community Advocacy & Legal Centre at 613-966-8686, ext. 27 or ext. 25, respectively, or toll free at 1-877-966-8686.

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