



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: January 14, 2011

Free Drop-In Legal Advice Clinic in Bancroft Starts Tuesday, January 25th

New Service Promotes Free Access to Justice for Rural Communities

In its 30th anniversary year the Community Advocacy & Legal Centre (CALC) continues to demonstrate its commitment to increasing access to justice for rural clients by opening a trial legal drop-in advice clinic in the Bancroft area.

Local service agencies that took part in the 'Connecting Region Legal Literacy Project' consultation and other community partners told CALC staff that there is a need for more in-person legal help for people living in North Hastings.

In response to this feedback, CALC will provide a drop-in legal clinic starting Tuesday, January 25, 2011. Michele Leering, CALC's Executive Director noted "we are able to provide this service because of a special funding grant from the Law Foundation of Ontario to increase access to legal services for people who live in rural areas. This grant allowed us to hire Gillian Fahy as an articling student."

The drop-in clinic is in addition to CALC's regular scheduled appointments at the Bancroft office. The clinic will run on a six-month trial basis, beginning in January and ending in June 2011. It will be held on the last Tuesday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at CALC's satellite office location: 113 Hastings Street North (across from Subway). A staff lawyer will help clients with legal information, assistance and advice in the following areas of law: Tenant Rights, Social Assistance (Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Plan), Workplace Safety and Insurance Board, Human Rights, Criminal Injuries Compensation, Employment Law, Canada Pension Plan Disability, Employment Insurance, Special Education Issues, and Consumer Law. Clinic staff cannot give legal information or advice in criminal, family or real estate matters.

The Community Advocacy & Legal Centre is a non-profit community legal clinic funded by Legal Aid Ontario. The clinic was founded in 1980 and is currently staffed by lawyers, community legal workers, law clerks and support staff. Services are provided 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, Bancroft and Madoc.

For further information about the contents of this press release, please call Michele Leering, Executive Director at 613-966-8686, ext 27 or Toll Free at 1-877-966-8686.

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