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## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

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### **For Immediate Release**

#### **Federal funding grant provided to CALC for new outreach and advice project on workplace sexual harassment**

According to a 2014 Angus Reid Institute study, 28% of Canadians reported they have been sexually harassed while at work: 43% of women and 12% of men (<http://angusreid.org/sexual-harassment/>). A 2017 online study by Employment and Social Development Canada found 30% of employees had experienced sexual harassment and women, people with disabilities and members of a visible minority were most at risk. The federal government recently responded to this concern by issuing a call for proposals for specialized legal advice services to help end the problem. Federal Justice Minister and Attorney General David Lametti announced today in Cobourg that the proposal submitted by Northumberland Community Legal Centre, on behalf of a partnership between twenty community legal clinics that includes Belleville's Community Advocacy & Legal Centre (CALC), was successful. The partnership will receive five years of funding for the “**Legal Clinics’ Coordinated Legal Advice and Services**” project for a total grant of \$3.7 million dollars.

“We are delighted to receive this \$40,000 grant annually for the next five years from the federal government to expand awareness of how to deal with legal problems in the workplace – specifically to help people who are being sexually harassed” said CALC Executive Director Michele Leering who attended the announcement with the Justice Minister in Cobourg on Tuesday, July 23. “Our efforts over the past decade to work collaboratively with neighbouring community legal clinics to expand legal help to people living on a low income on common legal problems is bearing even more fruit,” noted CALC’s Board of Directors’ Chairperson Peter Kerr. “This timely support from the federal government is especially appreciated, coming at a time when CALC’s other legal advice programs are chronically underfunded, with more provincial government funding cuts to Legal Aid Ontario still to come next year.” Leering observed that “this grant recognizes the responsive, sensitive, and proactive approaches taken by community lawyers and legal workers who work at clinics like CALC. Our ability to be trusted by, work with, and advocate for people who are experiencing traumatizing incidents in the workplace and who are vulnerable to discrimination and exploitation is respected. We are honoured to be carrying out this important work.” Northumberland Community Legal Centre Executive Director Lois Cromarty stressed “the importance of having twenty community legal clinics involved as the project expands is critically important because small urban, rural and remote

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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, ext 27.

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communities are very diverse and dispersed. It is so important that the legal information and advocacy approaches be tailored to the employees and communities who need this help. With a vibrant forty-year history in Ontario, community legal clinics have been proven to have the best tools to reach the people who need this holistic and preventative legal help the most.”

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](http://www.communitylegalcentre.ca).

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