

SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS
AND OUR COMMUNITY BY
PROVIDING QUALITY LEGAL
SERVICES.

Northwest Community Legal Clinic

MAY 2021

We are working during Covid-19, providing advice by telephone during office hours.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Eviction Order Enforcement to Resume	2
ACLCO Annual Report	2
Did You Know? During the Covid Pandemic	3
Legal Aid Online	3
Paid Sick Days for Covid-19	4

Introducing NCLC Summer Student-at-Law



Aurora FitzGerald grew up in Northwestern Ontario, returning to the area in 2017 after residing in London ON for school. She completed her undergraduate degree at Western University with Honours Specialization in Social Justice and Peace Studies and a minor in Political Science. Aurora has just completed her first year of law school at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. She is interested in all kinds of law pertaining to social justice issues, and is looking forward to her experience at NCLC!

Kenora District Tiny House Project

Kenora Online /Erinne Wreggitt, CLW, Fort Frances

Wabaseemoong Independent Nations is receiving funding for their Youth Green Initiative. The Ontario Government is providing this funding, working with Indigenous organizations and communities to create cleaner, reliable and affordable energy options. This Youth Green Initiative leads to paid employment, skills and training program for at-risk youth to develop and build off-grid solar-powered tiny homes. Many other programs were funded through this initiative in various communities. For more information see the full local article <https://kenoraonline.com/articles/solar-powered-tiny-home-program-coming-to-wabaseemoong>.

Eviction Order Enforcement to Resume

Erinne Wreggitt, CLW, Fort Frances

As of June 2, 2021 an eviction order can once again be enforced by the Sheriff provided there is no extension of the ban on enforcement of evictions by the Government of Ontario at that time. The government of Ontario made this regulation on April 8, 2021 that a Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB) eviction order could not be enforced during the stay at home order. There were exceptions to this if the LTB order specified that the Sheriff expedite the eviction for reasons such as:

- willful damage to the rental unit
- use of the unit in a way which is inconsistent with residential use and caused, or is likely to cause, significant damage
- committing an illegal act in the unit involving the production or trafficking of illegal drugs
- seriously impairing someone's safety
- or substantially interfering with the landlord's reasonable enjoyment - in cases where the landlord and tenant live in the same building and the building has 3 or fewer residential units

All other eviction orders were issued however not enforceable by the Sheriff meaning that until June 2nd a person who has been evicted and issued an LTB order did not have to leave their residence. As of June 2nd, if you have a new or previous eviction order issued it will be enforceable and you could be required to leave.

ACLCO 2020 Annual Report

Ivana Petricone, ACLCO, Erinne Wreggitt, CLW, Fort Frances

Each year the Association of Community Legal Clinics of Ontario produces a report through gathering information from member Legal Clinics across the province. This year was an extraordinarily challenging year for communities and our clinics.

The report is intended to showcase the work done in our community legal clinics for audiences such as local communities, community partners, funders, government, MPPs and the broader justice sector.

You can access the report on the ACLCO website by following this link <https://aclco.org/?wpdmdl=3132> or typing it into your browser.



Landlord
and Tenant
Board

Ontario



ACLCO

Did You Know? During the Covid Pandemic

Fay Moore, CLW, Kenora - Erinne Wreggitt, CLW, Fort Frances - Erin O'Hara, Staff Lawyer, Kenora

- tenants can still be evicted during Covid, but, only a Sherriff can enforce an eviction once there is an order by the Landlord and Tenant Board
- landlords cannot raise existing rent costs in 2021. The 2021 rent increase guideline has been set at 0%
- utility companies offer support to those who cannot afford to pay their bills
- filing income tax returns on time helps ensure that you receive all benefits/credits owing to you
- changes in financial situations (including CERB and CRB) must be reported to most benefit assistance providers (ODSP, OW, WSIB, subsidized housing)
- you have the right to refuse unsafe work
- a previous Covid related benefit had been granted to those with a Disability Tax Credit Certificate, if you qualify, apply for the Canada Disability Tax Credit
- all tribunals and courts are operating, most by video or telephone (although there have been delays)
- some government issued identification (driver's licence, passport etc.) providers have allowed extensions for renewals
- many temporary changes in government services and laws have come into effect in response to the pandemic, if you are unsure, call the legal clinic for guidance

Legal Aid Online

Yvonne Treffers, CLW, Atikokan

As of May 17, 2021, Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) began accepting online applications for clients meeting certain criteria as well as providing all clients the ability to securely update personal information.

Online applications are available to people with specific immigration/refugee, criminal and family issues who have no income, or receive Ontario Works (OW) or Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) payments, and do not own any property. Even if you are unsure if you would qualify or not, working through the step-by-step online application will give you that information and will tell you if you need to follow-up with a call to LAO (toll free at 1-800-668-8258).

All users will now be able to get updates on a legal aid application or certificate status, upload any requested documents, and update personal information (such as address changes) instead of having to go through the LAO client services phone number.

To find out more, visit www.legalaid.on.ca/services/how-do-I-apply-for-legal-aid/.



Supporting individuals and our community
by providing quality legal services.

Fort Frances

206 Scott Street
Fort Frances, ON
P9A 1G7

(807) 274-5327 Phone
1-800-799-2485 Toll Free
(807) 274-3141 Fax

Kenora

Ste. 6 - 308 Second St. S
Kenora, ON
P9N 1G4

(807) 468-8888 Phone
1-800-403-4757 Toll Free
(807) 468-4928 Fax

Atikokan

101 Main St. W
PO BOX 1676
Atikokan, ON
P0T 1C0

(807) 597-2811 Phone
(807) 597-6697 Fax

www.NorthwestCommunityLegalClinic.ca

Sponsored & funded
by Legal Aid Ontario



Check us
out on
Facebook!



Office Closures

Thursday July 1, 2021 - Canada Day
Monday August 2, 2021 - Civic Holiday

Sub-Offices

We are not travelling to Red Lake and Ear Falls at this time. If you have any questions, please call our toll free number 1-800-403-4757.

Paid Sick Days For COVID-19?

Erinne Wreggitt, CLW Fort Frances/CLEO

Employees in Ontario can take up to 3 paid days off if they're sick with COVID-19. These sick days are NOT for those who are self-employed and if you already have paid sick days you do not qualify for this program. The maximum benefit is \$200 a day and applies from now until September 25, 2021.

You can take these sick days if you have to miss work or care for a family member because: you or your family member have COVID-19, you or your family member is being monitored for COVID-19, you or your family member have to isolate or quarantine, or your employer or your family members' employer sent you/ them home because one of you might have COVID-19.

In order to receive this benefit you must only notify your employer. Any employer can ask for "reasonable" evidence, like a copy of COVID test results or a quarantine order. They cannot force you to provide a doctors' note. Your employer pays you for these sick days and can then apply for a refund from the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB). If you require more time off for the reasons above you can also use the Infectious Disease Emergency Leave. This lets you take time off work that's unpaid after using the 3 days paid leave.

If your employer refuses to pay, they're breaking the law. The Employment Standards Act now says that your employer **must** pay you for these sick days. You can file a complaint with the Ministry of Labour. If you want help filing a claim or advice about your rights, talk to the Workers' Action Centre or your local community legal clinic.

DISCLAIMER: These articles provide information only and are not to be considered as legal advice. Content reflects the laws that were current at the time of publication and the law may have since changed. Consult your community legal clinic or legal representative for legal advice on your specific situation.



Consider the environment...
Please recycle this newsletter!