

Legal Centre News

Making a Difference in the Community Since 1989

Volume 57

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FEDERAL INDIAN DAY SCHOOL CLASS ACTION APPLICATION EXTENSIONS

If you attended Federal Indian Day School and did not meet the July 13, 2022, application deadline - please contact Peterborough Community Legal Centre for information on how to request an extension.

Peterborough Community Legal 704-749-9355



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Spring/Summer 2022

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Member of the Association of Community Legal Clinics of Ontario and funded by Legal Aid Ontario

An Open Letter Re: Raising Social Assistance Rates in the August 2022 Budget

In July 2022, the Peterborough Community Legal Centre (PCLC) and over 230 other organizations signed on to an open letter from the Income Security and Advocacy Centre (ISAC) calling on Premier Doug Ford to Double Social Assistance Rates.

See a copy of this letter below, and the extraordinary list of signatories.

Dear Premier Doug Ford, Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy, and Minister Merrilee Fullerton,

RE: Raising social assistance rates in the August 2022 Budget

We are legal clinic workers, health care providers, service providers, settlement workers, gender equity and racial justice advocates, and other not-for-profit and non-profit organizations who advocate for poverty reduction and income security.

We are writing to urge you to raise social assistance rates in Ontario to adequate levels in the upcoming August 2022 Budget. We are encouraged by the election promise made on May 9, 2022, and affirmed on June 27, 2022, to raise the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) rates by 5%. However, there are two urgent concerns that we call on you to address so that people on social assistance can live with dignity:

- Ontario Works (OW) rates must also be raised; and
- Both ODSP and OW rates must meet the cost of living.

Background

The inadequacy of social assistance rates in Ontario was a central issue during the 2022 election. Every party recommended raising the rates. Rates have been frozen since 2018 at \$733 for a single person on OW and \$1169 for a single person on ODSP. This leaves recipients living at 40% to 60% below the poverty line.

With over 11% inflation since 2018, the real value of the rates has declined, and the depth of this poverty has increased. This historic inflation, combined with the COVID-19 pandemic, has disproportionately impacted low-income Ontarians who are Indigenous, racialized, women, single, or live with a disability. The current dire financial situation is making social assistance recipients' ability to pay for housing, food, medication, digital access, transportation, clothing, disability supports, and other basic needs impossible.

A 5% increase amounts to just over \$58 more per month for ODSP recipients. This is not enough for groceries, and certainly not enough to secure housing. An ODSP increase also offers nothing for people who rely on OW to survive. We therefore call on your government to address the following two urgent concerns in the upcoming Budget.

Include OW in the social assistance rates increase

The proposed 5% ODSP increase leaves the 458,000 beneficiaries on OW living in destitution. These are the poorest people on social assistance, the majority of whom are unattached singles and women. They cannot afford the necessities of life on \$733 per month. By maintaining the current rate, this government bears the added cost of paying for these individuals' interactions with shelters, hospitals, the criminal justice system, and other social services. **We implore you to also raise the rates for OW.**

Raise the rates for both OW and ODSP to meet the cost of living

With continued inflation, and the associated increase in cost of living, 5% is not nearly enough of a rate increase to survive. This government has saved on social assistance costs during the COVID-19 pandemic due to federal benefits and lowered caseloads. These savings must be reinvested. **We call on this government to double both OW and ODSP rates, and to index these rates to inflation.**

Ontario will not recover fully from the pandemic if people on social assistance are left behind. We look forward to action and to your commitment to Ontario's most vulnerable in the August 2022 Budget.

Sincerely,

*The Income Security
Advocacy Centre
(ISAC)*

and

*ACCES Employment
Access Alliance Multicultural
Health & Community Services
Access County Community
Support Services
Accessible Housing Network
Advocacy Centre for Tenants
Ontario
Advocacy Centre for the Elderly
Age of Majority Singers
Alzheimer Society Waterloo
Wellington
Anthony Frisina
ARCH Disability Law Centre
Asian Community AIDS Services
(ACAS)
Autistic Bridge Inc.
Autistics for Autistics: Canadian
Self Advocacy
Bangladeshi-Canadian Com-
munity Services (BCS)
Barrie Food Bank
Basic Income Speaker School
Basic Income Waterloo Region
BGC Peel
Black Coalition for AIDS Preven-
tion
Black Legal Action Centre*

*Brain Injury Services of Northern
Ontario (BISNO)
Bridges to Belonging
Bruce Villa Manor
Caldwell Family Centre Inc.
Cambridge Council on Aging
CAMH
Campaign for Adequate Wel-
fare and Disability Benefits
Canadian Center for Policy
Alternatives, Ontario Office
Canadian Centre for Victims of
Torture
Canadian Mental Health Asso-
ciation- Niagara Branch
Caribbean African Canadian
Social Services
CARLINGTON COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTRE
Carranza LLP
Carrefour communautaire fran-
cophone de London
Centre d'éducation financière
EBO
Centre des services commu-
nautaires Vanier
Centre espoir Sophie
Centre for Spiritual Living On
the Lake
Centretown Community Health
Centre
CERA - Centre for Equality
Rights in Accommodation
Chatham-Kent Legal Clinic
Chinese and Southeast Asian
Legal Clinic*

*City for All Women Initiative
(CAWI) / Initiative: une Ville
pour Toutes les Femmes (IVTF)
Claire Littleton, Provincial Co-
Chair, Steering Committee on
Social Assistance
Clinique Juridique Bilingue
Windsor-Essex Bilingual Legal
Clinic
Clinique juridique Grand-Nord
Legal Clinic
Club GAIN
CMHA Peel Dufferin
Colour of Poverty - Colour of
Change
Community Advocacy & Legal
Centre
Community Development
Council Durham
Community Family Services of
Ontario
Community Legal Assistance
Sarnia
Community Legal Clinic - Brant,
Haldimand, Norfolk
Community Legal Clinic of York
Region
Community Legal Services of
Ottawa/Services juridiques
communautaires d'Ottawa
Community Living Essex County
Community Living Ontario
CONTACT Community Services
Cornerstone Housing for Wom-
en
Council of Agencies Serving*

*South Asians
Council of Canadians - Ontario
-Quebec Regional Office
Council of Elizabeth Fry Socie-
ties of Ontario
Country Lane Co-op
CUIAS Immigrant Services
Davenport Perth Neighbour-
hood and Community Health
Centre
Deaf Literacy Initiative
Debra Dynes Family House
Decent Work and Health Net-
work
Defend Disability
Delta Family Resource Centre
Down Syndrome Association of
Simcoe County
Downsview CLS
Durham Association for Family
Resources and Support
Durham Community Legal Clin-
ic
Durham Deaf Services
Ecohesian
Elgin-Oxford Legal Clinic
Elizabeth Fry Society Simcoe
Muskoka
Elizabeth Fry Toronto
Embrave Agency to End Vio-
lence (Formerly Interim Place)
Empowered Kids Ontario
Epilepsy Toronto
Family and Children's Services
of Guelph and Wellington
County*

Family Service Ontario
 Family Service Toronto
 Family Services Windsor-Essex
 Federation of Metro Tenants
 Associations
 Feed Ontario
 Fred Victor Centre
 Fusion Global Education
 Giishkaandago'lkwe Health
 Services
 Gloucester Emergency Food
 Cupboard
 Good Jobs for All Coalition
 Green Haven Shelter for Women
 GTA Disability Coalition
 Guelph Community Health
 Centre
 Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource
 Centre
 Hamilton Community Legal
 Clinic
 Hamilton Social Work Action
 Committee
 Health Providers Against Poverty
 HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario
 HMC Connections
 Homeless Health Peel
 Hong Fook Mental Health Association
 House of Lazarus Matilda Resource
 Centre Inc.
 Industrial Accident Victims
 Group of Ontario (IAVGO)
 Injured Workers Action for Justice
 Injured Workers Community
 Legal Clinic
 Injured Workers of Wellington &
 Dufferin Counties
 Institute for Advancements in
 Mental Health
 Interval House of Ottawa
 Interval d'Ottawa
 IRIS Residential Inns and Services
 ISARC Interfaith Social Assistance
 Reform Coalition
 IWC - Hamilton
 Jane Finch Community Legal
 Services
 Jewish Family Services of Ottawa
 John Howard Society of
 Simcoe and Muskoka
 Keewaytinok Native Legal Services
 Kensington-Bellwoods Community
 Legal Services
 KidsAbility Centre for Child
 Development
 Kingston Community Legal
 Clinic

Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic
 Kitchener Waterloo Chapter,
 Council of Canadians
 Kitchener-Waterloo Multicultural
 Centre
 Legal Clinic of Guelph and
 Wellington County
 Listening Post Barrie
 London InterCommunity Health
 Centre
 Low-Income Family Empowerment
 Sole-Support Parents Information
 Network
 (LIFE*SPIN)
 Madison Community Services
 Mississauga Community Legal
 Services
 Mount Forest Family Health
 Team
 Moyo Health and Community
 Services
 Neighbourhood Legal Services
 Neighbourhood Legal Services
 London-Middlesex
 Network for the Advancement
 of Black Communities
 New Canadians Centre Peterborough
 Newcomer Centre of Peel
 Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural
 Centre
 North York Community House
 North York Harvest Food Bank
 North York Women's Centre
 Northern Human Association
 Northumberland Community
 Legal Centre
 OCASI - Ontario Council of
 Agencies Serving Immigrants
 ODSP Action Coalition
 Ontario ACORN
 Ontario Alliance to End Homelessness
 Ontario Association of the Deaf
 Ontario Campaign 2000: End
 Child and Family Poverty
 Ontario Coalition for Better
 Child Care
 Ontario Disability Coalition
 Ontario Federation of Labour
 Ontario Network Of Injured
 Workers Groups
 MCCSS MERC Chair, OPSEU/
 SEFPO
 Orillia Christian Centre - The
 Lighthouse
 Orillia Community Church
 Ottawa & District Labour Council
 Ottawa Coalition of Community
 Houses
 Ottawa Day Program Coalition
 Ottawa Food Bank
 Parkdale Food Centre

Partners in Mission Food Bank
 PASAN (Prisoners with HIV/AIDS
 Support Action Network)
 Peel Alliance to End Homelessness
 Peel Injured Workers
 Peterborough Community Legal
 Centre
 Poverty Free Halton
 Poverty Free Thunder Bay
 Pozitive Pathways Community
 Service
 Project READ Literacy Network
 Waterloo-Wellington
 PSC
 PTP Adult Learning and Employment
 Programs
 Punjabi Community Health
 Services
 Quinte Immigration Services
 Race and Disability Canada
 Reception House Region of
 Waterloo
 Redwood Park Communities
 Regeneration Outreach Community
 Renfrew County Legal Clinic
 Rexdale Community Legal
 Clinic
 RISE Norfolk
 S.H.I.F.T.
 Scarborough Community Legal
 Services
 Shelter Now Transitional Support
 Program
 Silent Voice Canada Inc.
 Skills for Change
 Social Assistance Coalition of
 Scarborough (SACS)
 Social Development Centre
 Waterloo Region
 Social Planning and Research
 Council of Hamilton
 Social Planning Network of
 Ontario
 Social Planning Toronto
 Somerset West Community
 Health Centre
 South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario
 South Asian Women's Rights
 Organization
 South Etobicoke Community
 Legal Services
 Steering Committee on Social
 Assistance
 Sudbury Workers Education
 and Advocacy Centre
 The 519 Community Centre
 The Centre for Active Transportation
 The Dam - Develop Assist Mentor
 The Guesthouse Shelter

The Legal Clinic
 The Literacy Group of Waterloo
 Region
 The Mississauga Food Bank
 The Neighbourhood Group
 Community Services
 The Ontario Network of People
 Who Use Drugs
 The Salvation Army - Ontario
 Division
 The Salvation Army Harbourlight
 Ministries
 The Salvation Army Scarborough
 Citadel
 Thrive Northumberland: Coalition
 to End Violence Against
 Women
 Thunder Bay & District Injured
 Worker Support Group
 Thunder Bay Health Coalition
 Toronto Neighbourhood Centres
 Toronto People With AIDS Foundation
 Toronto Region Immigrant
 Employment Council
 Toronto South Local Immigration
 Partnership
 Turning Point Counselling
 United Way/Centraide Windsor
 -Essex County
 Vibrant Communities - Our
 Safety and Well-being Plan -
 Cornwall, SDG and Akwesasne
 Victorian Order of Nurses for
 Canada - Ontario Branch
 West Scarborough Community
 Legal Services
 West Toronto Community Legal
 Services
 Willowdale Community Legal
 Services
 Women & HIV/AIDS Initiative
 (WHAi)
 Women's Support Network of
 York Region
 WoodGreen Community Services
 Workers' Action Centre
 Workers' Health and Safety
 Legal Clinic
 Working for Change
 Working Women Community
 Centre
 Youth Diversion
 YWCA Cambridge
 YWCA St. Thomas-Elgin
 YWCA Toronto

Housing *Un*-Affordable

Access to affordable housing has been declining at a greater pace over the last decade, forcing tenants, especially those with low incomes, out of their homes and communities.

Lack of Supply

One reason for the scarcity of affordable housing is a lack of supply. **According to the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), Peterborough's vacancy rate in 2021 was 1% - the lowest in Ontario.** This was due to increased demand for rental units as a result of immigration; people moving to smaller cities like Peterborough to work from home; and students returning to the city's educational institutions to receive in-person instruction. Rising home ownership costs have also increased demand for rental units.

Financialization

The rental housing crisis is caused by more than just a lack of supply and increased demand. The current housing crisis is also rooted in financialization. Financialization refers to the practice of purchasing homes as an investment for profit, treating houses as a vehicle for amassing wealth. It ignores the fact that housing is a major social determinant of an individual's health and well-being and should instead be treated as a social need. This trend is even more concerning as research shows that this drives corporate landlords to purchase small family homes, putting them out of reach for those who are low-income.

Once such houses are purchased by these corporate landlords, their sole goal is to max-



imize profit by charging market rates, which are out of reach for the majority of those who are low-income.

According to the United Way-Peterborough and District's "Housing is Fundamental" 2021 report, 34% of Peterborough households would be unable to afford an average monthly rent of about \$1124. Capital-driven corporations and landlords with a focus on profits see little incentive to create or preserve affordable rental housing stock. Instead, they are incentivized to reduce the number of such units in the market because they can rent them out at much higher rents.

Rent control work-arounds

Landlords in Ontario can only raise rents annually in accordance with the guideline amount set by the province. Any other rent increases must be approved by the LTB. Landlords frequently use an Above Guideline Increase (AGI) to raise the rents of existing tenants and avoid the rent control provisions. Landlords can file AGI applications with the LTB for major capital expenditures and seek rent increases. Landlords often use this as a tool to increase rents based on major capital expenditures to repair the buildings when such repairs may just be cosmetic renovations. Tenants shouldn't be required to pay for such cosmetic costs; such expenses should be viewed as investments that allow landlords to profit in the long run.

Vacancy decontrol is the absence of any limitations on the amount of rent that landlords may charge for vacant units. In Ontario, vacancy decontrol is legal, and it has proven to be a boon for landlords looking to maximize their profits. Landlords are thus motivated to evict tenants, especially those who have occupied the units for an extended period of time and are paying rent that is far less than the market rate and whose rents cannot otherwise be lawfully increased. Once the unit is vacant, they can then re-rent it to other tenants at market rent, which would undoubtedly be

more expensive than what the previous long-term tenants would have been paying.

Renovictions (N13) or own-use/purchaser's use (N12) notices are commonly used to evict tenants, despite the fact that these notices have specific requirements and cannot be used to evict tenants in order to re-rent the units at higher rates.

The Legal Centre has recently received a large number of calls from tenants who have received eviction "packages" from their landlords' representatives. These "packages" include some information and services that their landlords are willing to provide if the tenants move out, such as references and new housing searches.

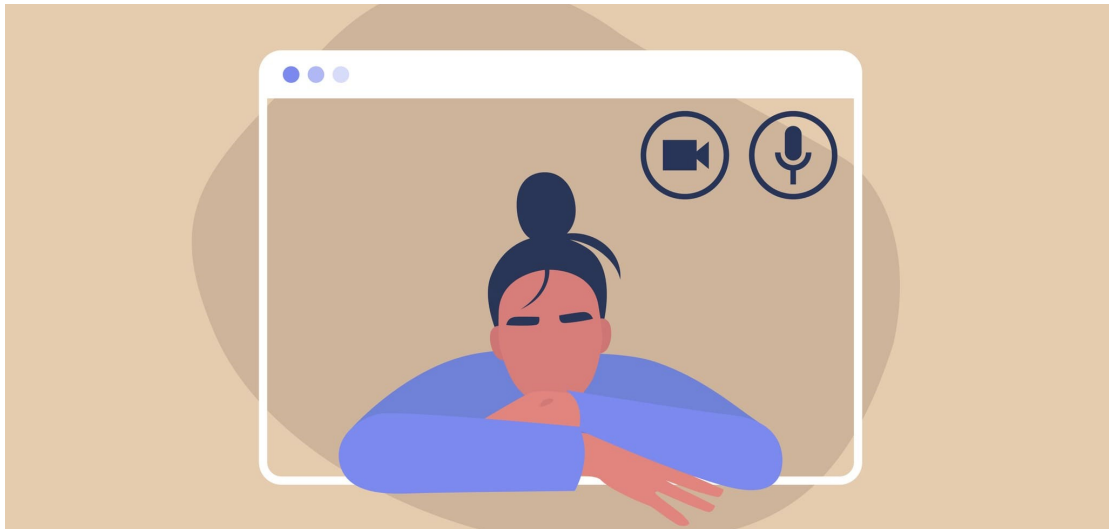
The aim is to get the long-term tenants out of the unit and re-rent the unit at a higher rental rate to new tenants. They also sometimes include an offer to pay money if the tenants agree to move out by a certain date (a "buy-out") and give up their right to move back in after repairs are completed (Right of First Refusal).

While the offer of a few thousand dollars may be appealing to some renters at first, in the long run, it will not cover the rent they would have to pay elsewhere.

What can be done?

In order to address the current housing crisis, there is a need to focus on: removing barriers to housing development processes, preserving the affordable housing stock through community-based acquisition, and strengthening rent control measures, including the elimination of vacancy decontrol.

Virtual Hearings — Access to Justice?



In March 2020, as a response to the unprecedented challenges posed by COVID-19, the Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB) moved to virtual hearings to resolve landlord and tenant disputes. While this was an innovative response to deal with unusual circumstances caused by the pandemic, virtual hearings were never expected to become the standard format for all hearings. Virtual hearings are now the standard procedure for all LTB hearings. This is especially concerning for people who are low-income, people with disabilities, and marginalised and racialized communities who face language barriers.

The majority of people who are low-income, particularly those living in remote and rural areas, lack access to phones, call minutes, computers, or an affordable and reliable internet connection in order to participate in such hearings. This is worsened by a lack of technological savvy, especially among the elderly and people with disabilities, who find it extremely difficult to navigate the entire online login and hearing process.

Even if tenants are able to access the online hearings, they must navigate through issues

such as dropped calls, glitchy software, confusion, and mistaken identities. For those who are already vulnerable and on the verge of becoming homeless, the entire process is demoralising and inefficient. People calling into the LTB hearings from their phones cannot see who they are speaking with. They are sometimes transferred to incorrect breakout rooms, where they end up discussing their issues with opposing parties or their representatives, believing that they are Duty Counsel or Mediators who can assist them with their problems. This raises serious privacy concerns.

Due to the volume of applications and hearings, the Tenant Duty Counsel (TDC) are sometimes busy advising other tenants. Landlords or their representatives use this opportunity to approach tenants in the absence of a Board mediator or TDC. Landlords or their representatives are often well-versed in the law and familiar with LTB process which is intimidating for many tenants. In the absence of mediators and with inadequate legal advice, tenants are likely to be coerced into accepting unfavourable terms.

The online hearing format can strain the patience of anyone attending the LTB. They may have to spend the entire day in front of their computers waiting for their case to be heard, only to be told that it will not be heard and must be rescheduled for another day. The process's uncertainty and apparent indifference to what is at stake for tenants is stressful and dehumanising.

The expectation that a person with a mental health issue and/or a physical, mental, and/or learning disability wait at a computer all day for their matter to be addressed is unfair. This waiting aggravates physical pain, mental and emotional stress, and may outlast the composure appropriate to a legal context. This makes it difficult for tenants to present their case in an appropriate way, thus facing adverse consequences like evictions and homelessness. Additionally, the large number of matters to be heard requires the LTB to proceed at a frenzied pace which is also stressful and disadvantageous to tenants.

In recent months, the LTB has introduced the Tribunals Ontario Portal to facilitate filing of certain applications and exchange of documents between parties and the Board. While it is a step forward in terms of modernization, it has proven to be a barrier for many people who find it difficult to create an online account and navigate the portal. There have been instances where parties have been advised to send documents only through the online portal, even when the LTB Rules allow sending documents through email.

The LTB appears to expect all individuals to have access to, capability with, and understanding of digital resources, regardless of their personal circumstances, resources, or capabilities.

In response to some concerns, the LTB has stated that parties can request accommodation and seek in-person hearings, but this option is

underutilised and difficult to find on the LTB website. Many tenants are unaware of this option and are unsure how to go about requesting it. It is unclear how many in-person hearings have been scheduled since the start of the pandemic, but it is clear that the majority of such requests have been denied.

Online hearings aren't always suitable for everyone. Evidently, digital-first and modernization efforts, especially online hearings and mandatory use of the online portal, are detrimental to low-income, vulnerable people as they are unable to submit evidence or participate appropriately in the hearings, putting them at a higher risk of eviction or becoming homeless.

These major roadblocks to a fair hearing make justice inaccessible, especially for those who are already marginalised by the court system: the elderly, those living on fixed low incomes, those who have mental illnesses, and people with disabilities.

If they are not addressed in a timely manner, they may lead to appeals and an increased financial burden on all parties. This requires meaningful consultation with all the stakeholders, including tenants and legal clinics.

Additionally, it's hard not to recognize a connection between LTB modernization, the turnover of rental housing through eviction hearings that tenants do not attend, the dramatic increase in the cost of rent, and the staggering increase in homelessness in Peterborough and beyond.

*If you are a low-income tenant, you can contact the Legal Centre for free legal advice. The Legal Centre has a limited number of computers (**Virtual Justice Terminals**) which tenants can use to attend video hearings. Please call us in advance if you have an upcoming hearing and you wish to use these terminals to attend your hearing.*

Prosper Canada Introduces: The Benefits Wayfinder



An organization called **Prosper Canada** has recently launched a virtual program to help Canadians navigate the various income assistance programs offered by the federal, provincial, and territorial governments.

The Benefits Wayfinder is a directory of support programs and benefits that is intended to make this process easier. This new tool is extremely user-friendly and is constantly reviewed to ensure that all information provided is up-to-date. Individuals are encouraged to use the Benefits Wayfinder independently or with the assistance of a support worker.

While the Legal Centre recognizes that there are complex, structural causes of income insecurity and lack of access to basic needs such as food and shelter, a tool such as the Benefits Wayfinder is useful for maximizing access to supports within that system. Check out some of the highlights on the next page!

Highlights

Homepage

- ⇒ The benefits questionnaire, which consists of eight questions, is a useful first stop on the site for quickly determining what benefits you are eligible for.
- ⇒ The "Not sure where to start?" section organizes benefits into starting points related to specific challenges that someone may be facing (e.g., "I have lost my job," "I am looking for medical support," "I am looking for housing support," etc.).

Browse all Benefits Page

- ⇒ Lists all of the benefits available in Canada.
- ⇒ Benefits can be filtered by the level of government that provides them (provincial, federal, or territorial), whether a tax filing is required, the application difficulty, and more.
- ⇒ There is a button that says "Add to benefits I'm already receiving," which filters out benefits for which you are no longer eligible because you are already receiving that specific benefit.

Individual Benefit Pages

- ⇒ Each benefit page has tags at the top of the page that indicate the complexity of the application, whether identification is required, and whether a tax filing is required.
- ⇒ Each page contains sections on eligibility, how to apply, and, if applicable, identification required for application. There are also direct links to the online application.
- ⇒ Every benefit page includes an "I am Indigenous" button. If clicked, Prosper Canada notes that social supports may work differently if you identify as Indigenous and who you should speak to in your community. According to the website, Prosper Canada is also seeking funding to create a tool specifically for Indigenous people in Canada.

Help Page

- ⇒ Provides a list of federal, provincial, and local organizations that can help you with your benefit applications and tax filings for free or for a fee based on your income.

To try out the Benefits Wayfinder, visit <https://benefitswayfinder.org/>

For guidance on how to use the tool, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3L3y4d35auo>

About Prosper Canada

Prosper Canada is a national charity founded in 1986 that collaborates with community organizations, businesses, and governments to improve the financial well-being of Canadians.

To learn more about Prosper Canada, visit <https://prospercanada.org/> .

Your Way Forward – Supporting Survivors of Sexual Violence



In March 2022, the Government of Canada announced that it had provided funding to nine community legal centres across Ontario to help increase access to justice and supports for survivors of sexual assault and intimate partner violence.

PCLC is happy to announce that we are one of the nine partner projects. Your Way Forward, is a multi-year project designed to understand current services available to survivors, identify potential gaps in service, and provide support and legal assistance to survivors.

The first stage of the project is a community needs assessment. We are currently reaching out to local community organizations and services providers to hear about their experience in supporting and guiding survivors of sexual violence through the justice system. We will also be asking survivors to participate in a survey or one-on-one meetings to discuss their personal experience navigating the justice system or other avenues of resource.

Updates on the progress of the project will be provided on our website and in our biannual newsletter. For any questions about the Your Way Forward, please contact the Legal Centre.

Peterborough Community Legal Centre

The Objects of the Legal Centre

The objects of the Legal Centre are:

- To provide legal services or paralegal services or both including activities reasonably designed to encourage access to such services or to further such services and services designed to promote the legal welfare of the low income residents of the County of Peterborough, on a basis other than fee-for-service;
- To provide legal information and education and to encourage access to knowledge of legal rights;
- To provide legal representation to low-income residents of the County of Peterborough;
- To identify areas of law affecting low-income members of our society and to advocate reform.

Membership

The Centre is directed by its members. If you live in the City or County, and are 16 years of age or older, you can become a member. If you are a member, you can:

- Vote at the Annual General Meeting
- Stand for election to the Board of Directors if you are over 18.
- Get the Legal Centre's newsletter twice a year.

There is no fee to become a member. You do not need to be a member to get help from us.

Membership is for three years and takes effect 30 days after approval by the Board of Directors. A letter will be sent to you confirming your membership.

Membership Application – Three Years

To become a member of the Legal Centre:

1. Call the Legal Centre at 705-749-9355 and leave a voicemail with your Name, Telephone number and address.
2. We will mail you a Membership application with a stamped envelope addressed to the Legal Centre.
3. Complete the Membership application, insert it in the stamped envelope addressed to the Legal Centre.
4. Mail the sealed, stamped envelope addressed to the Legal Centre by dropping it in a Mailbox or bring it to the Post Office. You will not need to buy postage.