



Activities at the Clinic and in the Community

Raise the Rates: Social Assistance Advocacy!

The government of Ontario is currently making changes to the Social Assistance system (Ontario Works - OW - and Ontario Disability Support Program - ODSP). Ottawa's non-partisan and multi-sector **Campaign Against Cuts to Social Assistance (CACSA)**, aims to 1) raise awareness about social assistance changes and 2) advocate for an improved social assistance system, including **raising the rates to match the cost of living!** If you are interested in getting involved, please send us an email at landryl@lao.on.ca.

Free Transit for Social Assistance Recipients!

More than 60 organizations and groups and hundreds of residents in Ottawa are **calling on City Council to make public transit free for OW and ODSP recipients**. Add your name to Free Transit Ottawa's (FTA) petition here: <https://freetransitottawa.ca/free-transit-for-ow-and-odsp-recipients/> and stay tuned for more actions on the FTA website!

Ottawa Needs Real Affordable Housing!

The grassroots organization, ACORN Ottawa, is campaigning for real affordable housing for those with low and modest incomes here in our city. Check out their Facebook page to follow their campaigns and get involved!
<https://www.facebook.com/OttawaACORN/>

About Us

We are a non-profit and independent community legal clinic. **We provide free legal services** to individuals living on a low income in Ottawa in

- Housing law for tenants (for example: evictions and subsidy issues)
- Immigration & refugee law
- Public benefits (for example: Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program, & Worker's Compensation)

We also work to find solutions to injustice and poverty through community development! We work closely with individuals, community organizations and groups in Ottawa on issues that are important to those living on a low income and that are related to the legal work we do.

Examples of such issues are affordable housing & liveable incomes.

JOIN US!

Legal Updates

How much can my rent increase in 2022?

The rent increase guideline for 2022 is **1.2%**. This is the maximum amount your landlord can increase your rent without approval from the Landlord and Tenant Board. It's possible that you *may* receive a notice to increase your rent in 2021, however the earliest it can take effect is January 1, 2022 because the rent increase guideline for 2021 is 0% - in other words, rents are **frozen** from January 1 to December 31, 2021. However, **there are some exceptions to the increase**. Certain units are not covered by the guideline, such as subsidized units and some newer units.

For more detailed information about rent increases, including whether or not your situation is covered by the guideline, check out Steps to Justice (see page 2) or get in touch with us if you need legal advice by calling one of our offices to book an intake appointment!

Did You Know?

Tenant Organizing!

Did you know that it is your legal right to organize a group of tenants in your building as a tenant association or union? Your landlord is not allowed to interfere with tenants organizing or participating in a tenants association.

The Federation of Metro Tenants' Association can help tenants start, maintain and grow their tenants association! Check out their webpage here: www.torontotenants.org as well as their **Tenant Association Toolkit** here: https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/fmta/pages/593/attachments/original/1575512476/FMTA's_Tenant_Association_Toolkit.pdf?1575512476

✕ Upcoming Elections in 2022!

Mark Your Calendars! Two levels of upcoming elections to keep on your radar for 2022:

- Ontario Provincial Election expected to take place in June
- Ottawa Municipal Election expected to take place in October

Not sure who is your city councillor or your provincial MPP? Take a look at these tools:

- [Find your ward \(Ottawa\)](#)
- [Find your electoral district \(Ontario\)](#)

  Stay up to date on **the latest issues and advocacy for affordable housing** with the Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario, here: www.acto.ca/

Need Legal Information?

Steps to Justice gives reliable and practical information on common legal problems for Ontario residents, including:

- step-by-step information to help you work through your legal problems
- practical tools, such as checklists, fillable forms, and self-help guides
- referral information for legal and social services across Ontario
- live chat and email support

Visit Steps to Justice here:

<https://stepstojustice.ca/about-steps-justice/>

How You can Get Involved and Contact Us

What does it mean to be a member of the clinic and how can I join?

Our members keep us in touch with our community and those we serve. Members receive regular communications, may volunteer with our community development projects, may attend the Annual General Meeting, may vote for the Board of Directors, and may also sit on the Board of Directors. Membership is Free and open to those 18 years of age and older who live or work in Ottawa. Membership is effective for 3 years, and must be renewed.

Find our membership form on our website here: www.clsottawa.ca/about/become-a-member-of-the-clinic/ Return your completed form by mail to: Community Legal Services of Ottawa, 406 – 1355 Bank Street, Ottawa, ON, K1H 8K7 | or by fax to: (613) 733-0401.

How can I get involved in community development and advocacy activities with the clinic?

If you would like to learn more about our current activities or to get involved, please send us an email at landryl@lao.on.ca and let us know what your areas of interest are!

How do I contact the clinic if I need legal help?

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are generally providing services by phone. Please call one of our three locations and we will get back to you as soon as we can: **(1299 Richmond Rd) 613-596-1641 • (1355 Bank St, Suite 406) 613-733-0140 • (1 Nicholas, Suite 422) 613-241-7008**

Find us online at <https://www.clsottawa.ca/>

Like or Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OttawaLegalClinic/

Appendix: Tenant Tip Sheet!