

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, October 24, 2006 (Belleville, Ontario)

"Legal clinic to host forum about legal rights of Deaf people"

The Community Advocacy & Legal Centre (CALC) is pleased to present Jennifer Jackson Theriault, lawyer and Executive Director of the Ontario Association of the Deaf (OAD), as their featured speaker prior to the legal clinic's Annual General Meeting on November 15 at the Belleville Public Library.

Ms. Theriault, a former student of Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf, is one of only four deaf lawyers in Canada. She will be speaking about the legal rights of people who are Deaf. She will also discuss the OAD's proposal for a legal aid clinic and access to legal help for people who are d/Deaf.

"We are thrilled Jennifer is able to join us at this year's AGM. Belleville has a large Deaf community and we are hoping for a substantial turnout to this event" explains Michele Leering, Executive Director (CALC). "Access to legal help needs to be available to everyone and Ms. Theriault has worked hard to address this issue within the Deaf community."

The community is invited for this special event at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 15, in the 3rd floor meeting room of the Belleville Public Library at 254 Pinnacle Street. Interpretation Services will be provided. Free childcare is available upon request. (Please contact Lynda Morgan, 966-8686, ext 25, prior to November 10th to book childcare.)

The Annual General Meeting for the clinic will follow at 8:30 p.m. Anyone interested in running for the clinic's Board of Directors should contact the clinic at 613-966-8686 or toll free at 1-877-966-8686 as soon as possible.

The clinic has been helping people living on a low income since 1980 with their legal problems in the areas of housing law (tenants' rights), income assistance, criminal injuries compensation, employment law including worker's compensation, and human rights. Funded mainly by Legal Aid Ontario, the clinic has also received funding to provide Tenant Duty Counsel services at the Ontario Rental Housing Tribunal, and from the Provincial Homelessness Initiative for eviction prevention.

For further information about the contents of the press release, please call Michele Leering or Lynda Morgan at the Community Advocacy & Legal Centre at 613-966-8686, ext. 27 or ext. 25, respectively, or toll free at 1-877-966-8686.

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