

# KINNA-AWEYA LEGAL CLINIC



September 2008

86 S. Cumberland St., Thunder Bay, ON P7B 2V3  
(807)344-2478 (T), (807)345-2842 (F)  
Toll Free: 1-888-373-3309  
www.kalc.ca

## Legal Aid Ontario Update

By Beth Ponka

Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic is funded by Legal Aid Ontario (LAO). Kinna-aweya is an independent, non-profit corporation overseen by a Board of Directors, but the clinic is accountable to LAO for the funds given to the clinic to provide high quality poverty law services in the District of Thunder Bay.

Legal clinics are one aspect of the range of legal services provided by Legal Aid Ontario. Other services include the issuance and administration of legal aid certificates for criminal and family law matters and duty counsel services in family and criminal court. In Thunder Bay there is also a family law office that is equipped to provide legal advice and assistance to eligible clients seeking assistance for some family law matters. Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services is also part of the legal aid family in Thunder Bay.

Until recently, the Thunder Bay legal aid office was overseen by a part-time area director, Marc Bode. The position was made full-time in 2007 with added responsibility for special projects and innovation in the north region. Earlier this year Marc Bode left his position to become a judge, and the new legal aid director for the Thunder Bay area is Jennifer Carten. Jennifer is the former part-time Executive Director of the legal clinic in Kenora, so Jennifer is familiar with clinic services.

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In the coming year Jennifer will be working with all legal aid service providers to compile a summary of the range and diversity of services provided by legal aid in our region. Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic will be participating in this project and we also hope to be involved in any new initiatives that may result from the analysis. Ultimately, LAO is hoping to make legal aid services more widely available and more accessible to people living in the province, including more remote areas of the province. Kinna-aweya can make a unique contribution because we have full-time offices throughout the District of Thunder Bay and we also have well-established, positive working relationships with small towns and First Nation communities throughout the District that we have been servicing for 30 years.

We will keep you posted!

## Thunder Bay Good Food Box

Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic is a host site for the Good Food Box program in Thunder Bay.

The Good Food Box is a non-profit program for families and individuals who want to purchase quality, fresh, local produce at a lower price than shopping at grocery stores.

You can purchase a family box for \$20 or an individual box for \$12. Boxes are ordered and paid for by the first Thursday of each month. Food is available for pick up at the legal clinic on the third Thursday of the month. This means food is accessible at a time when some have less money available for buying food.

There are many other host sites throughout the city to

make it easier for people to pickup their food. To find the host site closest to you, call (807) 628-5768.

To order and pick up a Good Food Box through the legal clinic's office at 86 S. Cumberland Street, please call (807) 344-2478 for more information.



Come on out and support your community by participating in Thunder Bay's Good Food Box Program

## Thunder Bay Economic Justice Committee

By Melissa Graham, Chair

The Thunder Bay Economic Justice Committee (TBEJC) is a local anti-poverty group sponsored by the Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic. Comprised of both community members and agency representatives, our mission is "To identify and overcome the barriers which prevent people from being able to achieve economic security and live with dignity."

To help us achieve this mission we have four objectives; to provide an opportunity for people living in poverty to have a voice and speak out to identify needs and solutions, to advocate for the elimination of the barriers to achieving economic security, to increase awareness within the community about the issues of poverty and related risk factors, as well as to encourage and sustain meaningful interaction among service providers, decision-makers and community members.

The TBEJC has had many interesting new developments. One of these was a consultation with Deb Matthews. The consultation was well attended, and the committee developed an excellent strategy to discuss our concerns.

The TBEJC has partnered with several organizations over the past few months. We had a short-lived partnership with Thunder Bay Injured Workers to develop a Speakers School for Injured Workers and TBEJC members; some of our members took part in the graduation on June 4<sup>th</sup>. We have a continuing partnership with the Income Security Advocacy Centre (ISAC), and Campaign 2000 as part of the Ending Poverty Project. As part of this project, the committee hosted a poverty strategy event May 30<sup>th</sup> 2008. The event helped us to identify common themes around poverty in Thunder Bay. There may be more events taking place as the project unfolds. One of our latest achievements is the Photovoice Project called "Poverty in Thunder Bay: This is Reality" which premiered on June 19<sup>th</sup>. We had an excellent turnout, and several of the participants are still involved with the committee. The project is now displayed in the Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic office. In the fall the TBEJC will be having a strategic planning session. I hope that with this sharing of ideas we can have more great accomplishments in the months to come.



**T.B.E.J.C.**

Thunder Bay Economic Justice Committee

Phone (807) 344-2478  
Fax (807) 345-2842

(c/o Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic)  
86 S. Cumberland Street,  
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B-2V3

## Summer Student 2008

By Maryanne Matthews

I was lucky enough to be given the opportunity to work at the Kinna-aweya legal clinic as the summer student for the Thunder Bay Economic Justice Committee. As a student interested in law and social work, this has proven to be a wonderful learning experience for me. I was able to participate in all the meetings of the TBEJC which really helped me to learn and understand about a lot of issues that I wasn't previously aware of. In addition to the meetings of the TBEJC, I was also able to attend a town hall meeting hosted by Gilles Bisson about poverty in Thunder Bay. During these last few weeks I have been working on the process of researching and writing a report on the local factors that affect the poverty situation in Thunder Bay, which has also taught me a great deal.

In addition to working with the Thunder Bay Economic Justice Committee, I have also had the benefit of working and learning from the legal workers at Kinna-aweya. Some of the lawyers were kind enough to bring me along on hearings so that I could observe them. Having the opportunity to witness legal proceedings first hand was fascinating for me and I am so grateful to have had this opportunity. I found it inspiring to work with such an amazing group of people who are so dedicated to what they do, and so committed to creating the positive changes that deservedly need to take place in our community. Overall this work experience has taught me so much and I hope to remain involved with the clinic and the Thunder Bay Economic Justice Committee in the future.

## Thunder Bay Urban Aboriginal Strategy

By Beth Ponka

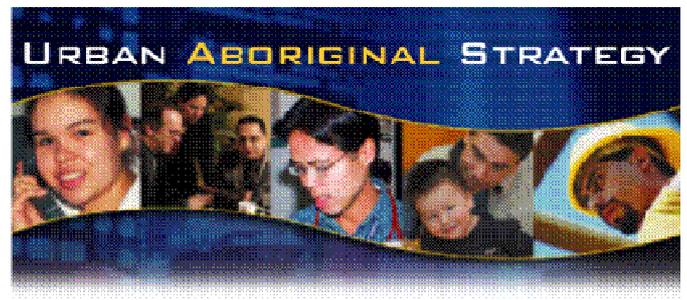
The Urban Aboriginal Strategy was announced by the Government of Canada in 1998 through the Gathering Strength: Canada's Aboriginal Action Plan, in response to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples to better address the serious socio-economic needs of urban Aboriginal peoples. The Strategy is designed to improve policy development and program coordination among all levels of government.

The Neighbourhood Capacity Building Project (NCBP) is an initiative of the Thunder Bay Urban Aboriginal Strategy. This project is under the sponsorship of Shkoday Abinojiiwak Obimiwedoan (Thunder Bay Aboriginal Head Start Day Nursery).

The NCBP strives to empower the Aboriginal community by responding more effectively to the needs of Aboriginal families and their children. One of the most successful programs is the after-school program that is delivered in schools where there is a high concentration of Aboriginal families. Activities include homework clubs, cultural teachings, sports and recreation, and a nutrition break. During summer months, limited programming is provided in the Academy and Windsor neighbourhoods.

As the Co-Chair of the community-based advisory committee, I provide input and advice on the delivery of the Urban Aboriginal Strategy in Thunder Bay. Thunder Bay is one of 12 sites across Canada working in urban centres to address the needs of Aboriginal people living in cities.

For more information about the Urban Aboriginal Strategy in Thunder Bay, contact Frances Wesley at 768-2610.



## Ontario's New Human Rights System

By Sally Colquhoun

The *Ontario Human Rights Code* is a law in Ontario that says everyone in Ontario has the right to equal treatment, free from discrimination and harassment, in employment, housing, and services and facilities. The *Code* prohibits discrimination on a number of grounds, including race, ancestry, colour, ethnic origin, sex, and disability.

Historically there have been very few formal complaints about discrimination by aboriginal people. One of the problems with the system in the past was that it took a very long time for complaints to be resolved.

There is a new system in Ontario for making complaints about discrimination under the *Ontario Human Rights Code*. Previously all complaints had to be investigated by the Ontario Human Rights Commission, who decided whether a complaint should go to the Tribunal for a hearing.

Now you make your application directly to the Human Rights Tribunal. The Tribunal resolves applications through mediation or adjudication. The Tribunal is going to try to ensure that applications are dealt with fairly, but more quickly than they have been in the past. Under the new system you will have one year to file an application with

the Tribunal. The Tribunal's phone number is 1-866-598-0322. Their website is [www.hрто.ca](http://www.hрто.ca).

If you need legal assistance with your application there is a new Human Rights Legal Support Centre. They will give you advice about what to do and may help you with your application. Their phone number is 1-866-625-5179. Their website is [www.hrlsc.on.ca](http://www.hrlsc.on.ca).

The Ontario Human Rights Commission will now be working to promote, protect and advance human rights through education, research and outreach.



## Maintenance and Repairs

By Sally Colquhoun

Every tenant has the right to a home that is well maintained, in a building that is clean and safe. Landlords are primarily responsible for maintenance and repairs. This includes things that came with your place, like appliances. Your landlord must fix or replace anything that is in bad condition or does not work properly, even if you knew about the problem when you agreed to rent the place.

Tenants are responsible for ordinary cleanliness and repairing damage caused by the tenant or a guest on purpose or by being careless.

## What You Can do to Get Things Fixed

By Sally Colquhoun

Tenants who have maintenance problems should talk to the landlord and let them know what is wrong. Ask to have it fixed. If the landlord doesn't fix the problem, write a letter asking your landlord to do the repair. Be sure to keep a copy of your letter.

Contact the Licensing and Enforcement Division of the City of Thunder Bay to have a by-law officer do a property standards inspection. Ask for a copy of any letters they send to your landlord. Follow up with the City if your landlord has not completed the necessary repairs. Contact the Fire Department if you are worried about fire safety. Keep a record of your contact.

If the problem involves insufficient heat, mould, water quality, insects or rodents, ask the Thunder Bay District Health Unit to inspect your unit. Ask for a copy of any letters that they send to your landlord. Follow up with the Health Unit if your landlord has not fixed the problem.

You can apply to the Landlord Tenant Board. They could order your landlord to do repairs, or to give you back some of the rent you paid for the time the repairs weren't done. Try to file your application with the Landlord and Tenant Board within one year of when the problem started. Before you start the application collect evidence of the problem such as photographs, water quality reports, statements from people who have seen and verified the problem, and estimates from repair people about the cost of repair. You can apply to the Board even if the problem is fixed or you have moved out. You can call the Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic for advice about your situation.

## Where to Get Help

Landlord and Tenant Board  
1-888-332-3234

City of Thunder Bay Licensing and Enforcement Division  
625-3977  
625-3978

Thunder Bay District Health Unit  
625-5930

Thunder Bay Fire Service  
625-2103

Ministry of Housing Investigation Unit  
1-888-772-9277

Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic  
344-2478



*“Every tenant has the right to a home that is well maintained.”*

## Tenant Duty Counsel

By Beth Ponka

Since 2006, Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic has been receiving additional funding to retain a lawyer to attend sittings of the Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB). The LTB is an administrative tribunal where decisions are made about disputes between tenants and landlords. In Thunder Bay, the LTB sits approximately twice per month.

Often tenants cannot afford to hire a lawyer to help them protect their rights as tenants. The TDC program provides a lawyer who is knowledgeable about the Residential Tenancies Act, which is the law that governs landlord and tenant matters. The Tenant Duty Counsel lawyer is not able to represent clients at the LTB hearings but is available to provide advice and mediation services to assist tenants, as well as obtain adjournments for tenants who are then able to obtain further assistance in the additional time granted by the adjudicator.

In 2007, Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic retained Stella Vallelunga as a Tenant Duty Counsel lawyer. Stella worked in private practice since her call to the bar in 1995 until 2005, at which time she became a sole practitioner. Stella also does duty counsel work for Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation.

The TDC lawyer is a valuable resource to the tenants who find themselves at the LTB without representation.




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## Change to CPP Disability Eligibility

In March 2008, a change was announced to the Canada Pension Plan Disability (CPP-D) eligibility criteria.

CPP-D benefits provide a monthly taxable benefit to those who have made sufficient contributions and who meet the test of "disabled" defined in the CPP Act. Under the current requirements, applicants must have made valid contributions in four (4) of the six (6) years prior to applying.

With the change, applicants with 25 years or more of CPP contributions only need valid contributions in three of the last six years, instead of four of the last six.

Medical eligibility requirements for CPP-D benefits will remain the same. The disability

must be both "severe" and "prolonged".

Also, the disability must prevent the applicant from regularly pursuing a gainful occupation.

If someone is denied CPP-D benefits, they should contact their local legal clinic.



Human Resources and  
Social Development Canada

Ressources humaines et  
Développement social Canada

## New Ontario Child Benefit

By Mary Veltri

The Ontario Government has recently introduced the new Ontario Child Benefit "OCB" for all eligible low income families with children under 18 years of age, whether working or receiving assistance from Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program.

In order to receive the OCB, families must have immigration status in Canada, must be registered for the Canada Child Tax Benefit, must file their annual income tax returns and must meet the low income eligibility criteria.

A onetime payment of up to \$250 for each dependent child was paid to families in July 2007. The first monthly OCB payments were paid in July 2008. The amount a family receives depends on the number of children in the family and the family's net income. The maximum monthly OCB payment is currently \$50 per child which is scheduled to increase to \$92 per child by 2011. The OCB is added to the Child Tax Benefit which is paid on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

### OCB and Social Assistance

The implementation of the OCB has resulted in significant changes to assistance from Ontario Works and ODSP. The basic needs allowance for children in the benefit unit has been removed from the monthly assistance cheque. The amount paid for shelter, which is based on the number of people in the benefit unit, has not changed. As of July 2008, the National Child Benefit supplement "NCBS" is no longer deducted from the OW and ODSP monthly cheque. Families who receive assistance from OW and ODSP will benefit from the OCB but the net income increase will be much less than the \$50 per month payment from the OCB. For example, a single parent on ODSP with a ten year old child will only receive an additional \$25 per month which is scheduled to increase annually. In addition, families will no longer receive the August Back-to-School Allowance and the November Winter Clothing Allowance. (See below) The government has stated that no family on social assistance should receive less money in total after the changes.

Families who receive OW or ODSP benefits, and who are not eligible for the Ontario Child Benefit may be eligible for the new Transition Child Benefit. The Transition Child Benefit is being paid to parents receiving OW or ODSP benefits who are not getting the maximum Ontario Child Benefit and the maximum National Child Benefit Supplement to ensure their income does not drop. This would include parents who:

- have not filed an income tax return for the previous year;
- have a newborn child
- are in the process of applying for the Canada Child Tax benefit and the National Child Benefit Supplement;
- are not citizens of Canada, permanent residents, protected persons or temporary residents;
- have income from the previous year that is too high to qualify for OCB, but have a decrease in the present year; and/or
- have recently moved to Ontario.

It is not clear how the changes will affect families with joint custody. It is important to talk to your worker or call the Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic if you have joint custody of your children and have had your income reduced after the implementation of the OCB.



## Back-to-School and Winter Clothing Allowances

By Mary Veltri

The Back-to-School Allowance and Winter Clothing Allowance will no longer be paid to families with dependent children. Starting in July 2008, these allowances are to be part of the new monthly OCB payment. In order to alleviate the hardship families will experience this year as a result of the removal of the Winter Clothing Allowance and Back to School Allowance, the Thunder Bay District Social Services Board (TBDSSAB) is providing a one time *Special Transitional Payment* for recipients with dependent children between the ages of four and seventeen to assist with health related needs and services. It is necessary to complete an application for this payment. Children between the ages of four to twelve will receive up to \$73 and children between the ages of thirteen to seventeen will receive up to \$264. Applications for the Special Transitional Payment were due on August 20<sup>th</sup> for OW recipients and on August 29<sup>th</sup> for ODSP recipients. The application forms are available at the Ontario Works office and Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic.

## Speakers' School

By Mary Veltri

Kinna-aweya Legal clinic is proud to be a supporting partner of the Speakers' School which will start up again in September at Lakehead University. The school is an initiative of the Thunder Bay and District Injured Workers' Group in collaboration with other community partners. The Speakers' School is a twelve week course in public speaking and leadership skills with a focus on social justice issues. A light meal is provided to the participants as well as a transportation allowance and child care subsidy.

Each class includes a guest speaker, leadership exercises, and public speaking practice in an atmosphere of peer support and mutual aid. Classes are very participatory and adapted to the interests of the participants. The final class is also a graduation ceremony, with participants publicly addressing a panel of community leaders and receiving feedback.

The Speakers' School can help you:

- feel more comfortable speaking in public
- gain experience and build confidence
- communicate more effectively
- develop analysis to support your experience

Application forms and an information brochure are mailed or emailed on request. Please call 627-9136 for information. Email : [robin@tbayinjuredworkers.ca](mailto:robin@tbayinjuredworkers.ca). The deadline to receive applications is Friday, September 12, 2008.

## PhotoVoice Premiere

By Karli Brotchie

On Thursday, June 19, 2008, the Thunder Bay Economic Justice Committee (TBEJC) premiered its latest undertaking, a Photovoice project entitled "Poverty in Thunder Bay: This is Reality".

Fourty-four people attended the event. They were greeted at the door by volunteers Liisa Lynch, and Helen Young-Brizard. The event began with two songs from a local drummer. He sang songs of thanks, and offered a prayer. Many in attendance said the drumming was amongst their favourite part of the presentation.

I briefly spoke about the photovoice presentation, and thanked all the artists for their hard work and dedication to the project.

The nearly thirty-minute powerpoint presentation was then shown. The room remained silent during the duration of the presentation as the audience was captivated by the images and text on the screen.

After the presentation the artists were given an opportunity to speak about the process, and everyone who took the opportunity to speak reflected on how positive the process was, and the impact the project had on their lives.

Food and drinks were available during the entire event. Crock-n-Dial catered the event, as well as one of the photovoice artists. Joy Asham graciously made a delicious carrot cake which was large enough to feed everyone in attendance.

Many in the audience stayed long after the event to eat and chat with fellow audience members, as well as to admire the framed photos which were displayed on the walls. The photos were successful in stimulating conversations. As well, having the artists present was fantastic as those in the audience had the opportunity to directly ask the artists any questions or comments they had about their photographs. In a similar vein, it was a rewarding experience for the artists to be able to witness the impact their photographs were having on the public.



## Trillium Drug Program

Material courtesy of Kenora Community Legal Clinic

What is the Trillium Drug Program (TDP)?

- The Trillium Drug Program (TDP) help people pay for their prescription drugs.
- It does not replace private insurance plans or other Ontario Drug Benefit programs.
- Not all drugs are covered. Over-the-counter drugs (if you don't need a prescription) are not covered.
- TDP can also help pay for certain nutrition products and diabetic test strips if they are covered by the *formulary*.
- The *formulary* is a book which lists all drugs and products covered by the TDP. Not all prescription drugs are covered. Have your doctor check that your prescription is in the *formulary*.
- If you need something not listed in the *formulary*, you can apply to Trillium to cover it, but it must be approved before you pay for it.

Is it for me?

- Do you spend a large part of your income on prescription drugs?
- Do you have no private insurance plan?
- Do you have a private insurance plan, but it does not cover all the costs of your prescription drugs?
- Do you have a valid Ontario Health Card?
- Are you not eligible for the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program?
- If you answer "YES" to all of the questions, you may qualify for TDP and you should apply.

How do I apply?

- Pick up an application kit at any pharmacy or call the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care at 1-800-268-1154, Option 3.
- Complete the application form; make sure that all information is filled in and all signatures are provided.
- You will need to provide all of your drug receipts and Income Tax returns for the whole household. If you don't have your receipts, get a Patient Profile from your pharmacist and have him/her sign it.
- The TDP program year is from August 1 to July 31<sup>st</sup>. You can apply at any time to start the program, but if you want to apply for the last year, (before July 31<sup>st</sup>), your application must be received by **September 30, 2008**.

How does it work?

- The Trillium Drug Program (TDP) helps pay for drug costs when they are more than a certain percentage of the household income.
- Before TDP will help pay, you must spend a certain amount on your drugs, that is called the *deductible*.
- Trillium will calculate and tell you what your *deductible* is.
- You pay one-quarter of your *deductible* every three months. After the deductible is paid, you will receive benefits for that three-month period.
- If you do not pay your full *deductible* for the period, it is carried over to the next three-month period.
- Once your *deductible* has been paid, when you show your Ontario Health Card, you will pay no more than \$2 for every prescription during that 3-month period.

For more Information:

Trillium Drug Program  
Ministry of Health and  
Long-Term Care  
5700 Yonge Street., 15<sup>th</sup> floor  
North York, ON M2M 4K5

Toll free: 1-800-575-5386

Website: <http://www.gov.on.ca/health>

THE ONTARIO  
TRILLIUM  
FOUNDATION



LA FONDATION  
TRILLIUM  
DE L'ONTARIO

## Geraldton Branch Office

By Chantal Walterson

The Geraldton Branch office of the Kinna-Aweya Legal Clinic provides services to the Municipality of Greenstone which includes; Geraldton, Nakina, Longlac, Caramat, Jellicoe, Beardmore. We also provide service to the surrounding first nation communities which include; Aroland, Long Lake #58 & Ginoogaming. The clinic has intake hours for legal matters from 9am-12pm Monday to Friday. Our office is staffed with 1 Community Legal Worker and 1 legal receptionist.

July 18th, 2008 marked my 10<sup>th</sup> year of employment with the Geraldton Kinna-Aweya Legal Clinic. What an amazing 10 years it has been. The work we do at the KALC is so important. We work as a team in a very fast pace environment where we are faced with daily challenges. Assisting those who are less fortunate and making a difference in their lives is very rewarding, and that is why we do what we do.

2008 started out as a very busy year and has gone non stop since then. In January 2008 I wrote the Paralegal licensing exam and am proud to say that I passed the exam and received my full Paralegal licence in May 2008. In April 2008 my co-worker, Guylaine, and I participated in the Geraldton Annual Trade Show. This was an opportunity for us to get involved in the community and to provide those who may not be aware of the clinic's services what we are all about. The Trade Show was held at the local arena with hundreds of other attendants from local business to guests from Thunder Bay and surrounding communities. We displayed an information board, had numerous legal information available for the public. We held question/answer periods and had surveys completed to obtain feedback on the clinic's services. In March 2008 my co-worker and I also participated in the PACT (Police and

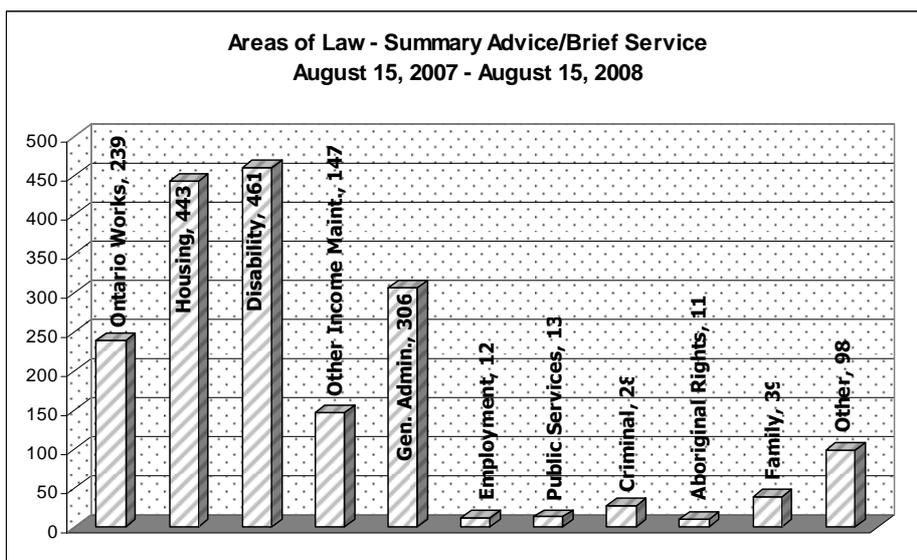
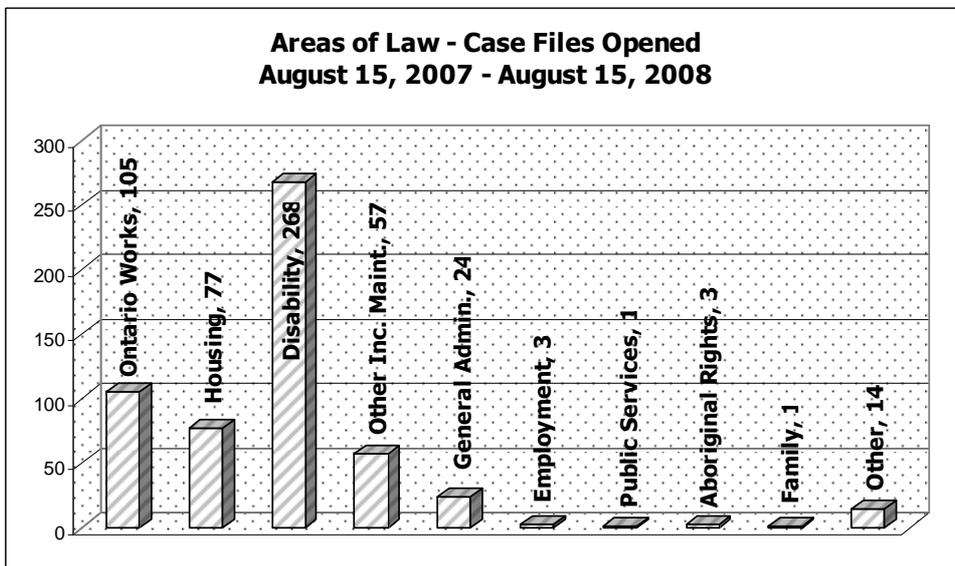
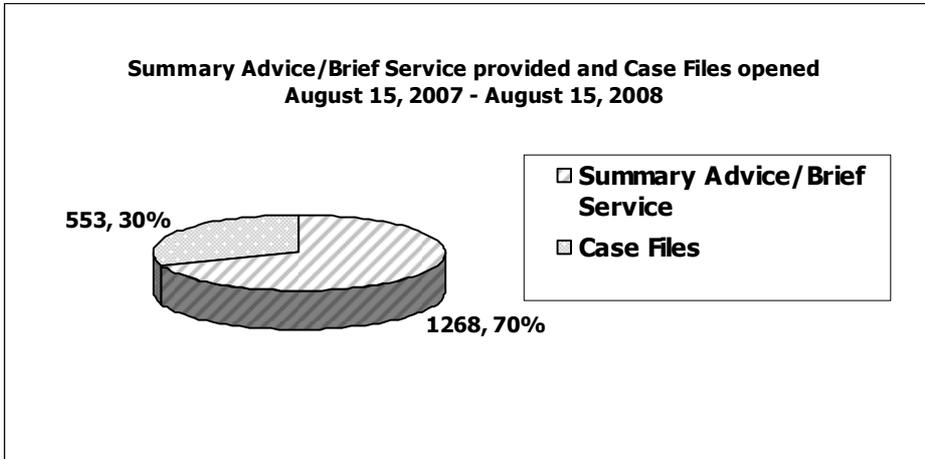
Community Together) program through the local Greenstone O.P.P. We were invited along with other members of the "Justice Family"; Children's Aid Society, Probation office, Alternative Justice. This was a 7 week program which gave us the opportunity to get a glimpse of what goes on behind closed doors of policing. Numerous presentations and hands on activities were just some of the things that went on. My favorite hands on activity was putting the bomb suit and controlling the "robot".

Greenstone continues to face many challenges. The employment rate in the region continues to decrease. Every mill in the area has either been shut down permanently or temporarily. This is proving to be very detrimental to the community both socially & economically. Many families have left the area to find employment elsewhere. Other families have been torn apart where 1 spouse has left to find work elsewhere. Greenstone has formed a Labour Adjustment Committee which is currently conducting information session and needs assessments across the region to assist those unemployed. Our office was able to provide numerous Public Legal Education materials to assist the GLAC with their next information session to be held August 11 to 13.

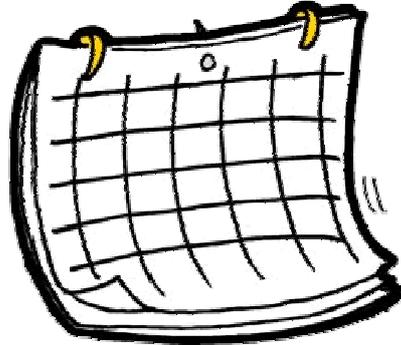
Greenstone is a very strong, positive and outgoing community and I am certain that the area can overcome these difficult times and we at the KALC will continue to work hard and assist the community any which way we can.



Statistics



## Dates to Remember



### **AREA COMMUNITY MEETINGS 2008**

#### **Armstrong**

Monday, September 8, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.  
Whitesand Rec Hall, Armstrong  
\*\*Angela Nodin's term expires\*\*

#### **Geraldton**

Monday, September 22, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.  
Thunderbird Friendship Centre, Geraldton  
\*\*Andrea O'Nabigon's term expires\*\*

#### **Marathon**

Tuesday, September 16, 2008 at 7 p.m.  
Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic, 52 Peninsula Square, Marathon

#### **Nipigon**

Monday, September 29, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.  
Red Rock Band Office, Lake Helen Reserve

#### **Thunder Bay**

Friday, September 12, 2008 at 12 noon - 1:00 p.m.  
Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic, 86 S. Cumberland St., Thunder Bay  
\*\*Luke Sagutch and Cathy Creighton's terms expire\*\*

#### **Annual General Meeting**

Saturday, October 25, 2008  
Prince Arthur Hotel  
Thunder Bay, Ontario  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**2008 is Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic's 30th Anniversary!!**

**2007/08 Board of Directors**

<b>Wanda White</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Dave Fortin</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>
<b>Irene Merineau</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Cathy Creighton</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Angela Nodin</b>	<b>Director</b>
<b>Andrea O’Nabigon</b>	<b>Director</b>
<b>Luke Sagutch</b>	<b>Director</b>

Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Board members are elected at our Area Community Meetings, which are held each year in our five main communities: Armstrong, Geraldton, Marathon, Nipigon, and Thunder Bay. Each area elects one member to the Board of Directors, except Thunder Bay, which elects three members to the Board.

For over 20 years, Wanda White has served on the Board of Directors representing the Nipigon area. She has been President of the Board for 18 years. Wanda is a school teacher who retired from Lakehead University a couple of years ago.

Dave Fortin works at the Pic River Health Centre as a Family Support Worker. He has been on the Board for five years representing the Marathon area and was elected Vice-President of the Board last year.

Irene Merineau is the Director of Finance at the Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre. She is a Certified General Accountant (CGA) and she is the Treasurer.

Cathy Creighton recently rejoined the Board after relocating to Thunder Bay. Previously she served on the Board representing Geraldton, and now she represents the Thunder Bay area. Cathy works at Anishnawbe Mushkiki.

Angela Nodin was elected to the Board in 2006 to represent Armstrong/Whitesand. Previously her mother, Lena Wabason, served on the Board for many years. We are pleased to have her join the clinic family and continue in her mother’s footsteps. Andrea O’Nabigon was elected in 2006 to fill the vacancy created when Cathy Creighton moved away from Geraldton. Andrea works at Dilico.

Luke Sagutch is the most recent addition to the Board, having been elected in early 2008 to complete the remaining year of a two-year term that had become vacant when Meladina Hardy left the Board of Directors. Luke works at Matawa First Nations Management.

Sitting on the Board means coming to Thunder Bay approximately every two months for meetings. The legal clinic pays for the travel expenses, including hotel accommodation. Board members set the direction for the legal clinic and provide direction to the management staff. The clinic is funded by Legal Aid Ontario and the Board of Directors ensures that the legal clinic complies with their funding conditions.

All of our volunteers donate their time and energy to the clinic. They are not paid for their travel time or for the numerous meetings they attend throughout each and every year. Board members serve the community to ensure that quality legal clinic services are available to low-income residents of the District of Thunder Bay.

**Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic Staff****Thunder Bay**

Richard Atkinson Community Legal Worker	Barry Beaupre Community Legal Worker	Sally Colquhoun Lawyer/Coordinator	Dan Cox Lawyer
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Don Henderson Librarian	Teri Hofer Reception/Bookkeeper	Barb Kulifaj Reception/Secretary
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Cindy Johnson Assist. Dir. of Admin.	Patricia McGuire Executive Secretary	Beth Ponka Director of Admin.	Mary Veltri Lawyer
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Liisa Lynch Reception/Secretary	Melanie MacKenzie CLW – contract	Maryanne Matthews Summer Student 2008
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**Armstrong/Nipigon**

Tracey Kirby Community Legal Worker	Stephanie Wanakamik Reception/Secretary
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**Geraldton**

Chantal Walterson Community Legal Worker	Guylaine Letourneau Reception/Secretary
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**Marathon**

Val Biggs Community Legal Worker (on leave)	Miriam McCutcheon Community Legal Worker (contract)
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Candace Raciborski  
Reception/Secretary (contract)