

Annual Report 2010



*Dalhousie Legal Aid Service
Presented at the Annual General Meeting
March 10, 2011*

2010 Annual Report

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Our Board of Trustees continued their efforts in providing direction for the work of Dalhousie Legal Aid in 2010. In 2010 there was ongoing work to revise the current Board of Trustees manual. All trustees were involved in the project and were assigned sections to review and present to the board leaving room for questions, discussion and suggestions for change. The goal of this project is to ensure the manual is kept up-to-date and able to address any processes that are obsolete and fill in gaps not addressed in the current document. This is an ongoing project for the Board members.

The board was also involved in effectively assisting Dalhousie Legal Aid in making difficult fiscal decisions and providing insightful guidance with respect to the same. Their direction was invaluable in sorting out priorities and how to address various needs for the year.

The Board also participated in better defining the role of the members and prioritizing responsibilities into “must do” and “can do” categories. This exercise will continue into the upcoming session and be incorporated into the work taking place on the revised board member manual.

We are privileged to have the commitment, time and talent of the volunteers who make up our Board of Trustees.

FINANCE

Our budget to actual comparison for the fiscal year April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011 to date is attached. It appears at this point that we will be able to deliver a balanced budget this year. We also delivered a balanced budget in March of 2010 for the 2009/2010 fiscal year.

We would like to give special thanks to the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia and Nova Scotia Legal Aid for their continued financial support.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND LAW REFORM

Our work under this branch of our mandate continues to be centered on test case litigation, community legal education and advocacy. We continue to challenge inequity and systemic deficiencies affecting the low-income community in the areas of income assistance legislation, housing, homelessness and mental health issues.

Test Case Litigation:

Bedbugs: s.9(1)(1) violation of the *Residential Tenancies Act* by landlord: We have received many residential tenancies complaints centered around this issue. As a result of the frequency and unacceptable conditions for tenants, we are attempting to set a precedent that provides remedies such as rent abatement and damages for costs incurred to tenants where landlords

are found in violation of s. 9 (1) (1) of the RTA (landlord's obligation to maintain rental premises in good condition). We are continuing to use this strategy and finding some success for tenants with this very distressing issue.

Project Unbound: This project seeks to address injustice to sex workers who are placed on boundary restrictions after being charged under prostitution laws. This project is comprised of both practically oriented information sessions about individual rights and a process to launch a test case to challenge the inequities of the current conditional release regime. We continue to work with staff at Stepping Stone to develop a strategy to raise awareness about the issue of boundaries. We are maintaining our search for the appropriate scenario to launch the test case and are partnering with others to expand our outreach efforts.

Nova Scotia Human Rights Complaint: We are representing a woman with her complaint to the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission alleging substantive discrimination by the provincial government. As a result of a lack of options for community based housing the client was unnecessarily institutionalized in the Nova Scotia Hospital for over 10 years. She does not have a psychiatric illness. As a result of an intellectual disability and her poverty, she requires the Minister to provide supports and services to enable her to live in the community. The mediation session held in this matter was successfully concluded in June, 2010.

Income Assistance Overpayments: We continue to explore the best approach to using the *Charter* to challenge the collection of overpayments by the provincial government from recipients of income assistance as a discriminatory practice.

Community Legal Education

Extraordinary Assistance Plan: We continue to consider ways to make a claim under the Extraordinary Assistance Plan through Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada for a client who was secondarily infected with Hepatitis C and HIV by a partner who acquired infection through tainted blood and now cannot be located. The claim can only be made with proof of the primary's medical records which are not accessible to the secondarily infected person.

Aboriginal Focused Human Rights: We continue to be involved in representing Aboriginal individuals before the Human Rights Commission on race based complaints. To date we have been successful at resolving the majority of the cases we have taken on to the satisfaction of the clientele. These cases have provided the opportunity to address discrimination in the area of education and employment and their affect on the broader aboriginal community.

Aboriginal Legal Education: We consult on an ongoing basis with individuals and organizations in the Aboriginal Community on legal issues affecting family, child protection, criminal matters, administrative law and aboriginal law. This initiative may result in providing legal advice, workshops, referrals, consultations, and/or representation.

African Nova Scotian Public Legal Education: We consult on a continuous basis with individuals and community groups and organizations on matters of law and legal issues affecting African Nova Scotians.

Income Assistance Workshops: We participated in workshops at St. Vincent de Paul and Adsum Centre, Connections Clubhouse, Dartmouth Family Resource Centre and North End Family Resource Centre.

Maneuvering the Youth Criminal Justice Act: We present workshops on the Youth Criminal Justice Act to various community and professional groups.

Immigration Settlement and Integration Services (ISIS) Partners for Legal Education: We participate in annual legal information sessions at ISIS which included sessions on Violence against women, family law, and child protection among others.

Safer Communities Act: We are presently exploring the impact of this legislation and government action on people living in poverty and offering legal advice to clients who have been evicted or are at risk of being evicted from their homes under this legislation.

Women Unlimited: We presented information about family and child protection law to two different classes of women who are enrolled in the Women Unlimited Program.

IB& M Initiative: Catalyst for progressive change: We participated in a special OTL Session for approximately 180 first year law students as well as some upper year students, alumni and faculty. Speakers commented on their commitment to the community, what inspired them to go to law school, the highlights and lowlights of their law school education and how each has used their law education to become a catalyst of change.

Transition Year 40th Anniversary: We were on the planning committee for a symposium that was held to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Transition Year Program at Dalhousie University.

Community Advocacy

Equality

Aids Coalition of Nova Scotia: We continue our regular meetings with the Program Coordinator/Executive Director providing legal advice on policy development, bylaw amendments, employee and volunteer matters, consent forms review, disclosure issues, brochure development, staff and board training. We partnered with ACNS in September 2010 in their annual fundraising campaign "Walk for Life" where 65% of proceeds our team raised came back to DLAS. We raised \$868.80 for DLAS.

Stepping Stone: We continue to offer advice and legal support to the staff of Stepping Stone. We also offer poverty law legal services and general legal information to the clients of Stepping Stone upon request.

Women's Community Space: We are members of the task force operating the Women's Community Space and have been a driving force behind this project which opened on March 7, 2008 at the YWCA on Barrington Street. The space is the location for programs about, by and for women. This space has been consistently used since it was opened by women's groups for meetings and training as well as for programs offered by the task force, which includes a monthly Lunch and Learn on topics relevant to women's issues.

BCAANS (Black Community Advocates Association of Nova Scotia): We continue to provide legal information and participate in the training and development of legal services for the African Nova Scotian community.

Nova Scotia Association of Social Workers: We sit as a member on the Standards and Ethics Committee of the Board. The work of this committee has focused on revising a code of conduct for Social Workers as well as revised standards for practice. In addition, we have sat as a member on the ad hoc subcommittee of the Standards and Ethics Committee and made resolutions that were voted on at the general meeting of NSASAW regarding "Social Justice Inclusion in Standards of Practice". We are presently implementing the resolutions with an educational component on social justice for the members as well as rewriting the chapter on social justice for the standards of practice.

Dalhousie School of Social Work: We act as Agency Advisor to Bachelor of Social Work and Master of Social Work students completing their field placements at DLAS. We supervised a BSW student with the school who was working with the Community Office of Megan Leslie, MP. This placement concluded on April 1, 2010 with the candidate presenting DLAS staff and students with her "Framework for Social Work Practice" based on her experience in the placement.

International Women's Day: We sit on a committee of community organizations to organize International Women's Day activities.

HRM Youth Court Liaison Committee: We sit as a member of this committee for the Halifax Youth Justice Court. The work and purpose of the committee is to review and improve practices and procedures in the Youth Court on an ongoing basis as issues arise. The committee sits monthly and consists of Youth Court Judges, Prosecutors, correctional services, community agencies, and Defence Counsel.

Indigenous Black & Mi'kmaq Pilot Mentorship Initiative: We are assigned a student and act as a mentor based on area of practice and mentee's interests.

Capital Health Research Ethics Board: We are a member of this Board. This board reviews research proposals from Capital and District Health Authority. The Capital Health Research Ethics Board (the “REB”) is charged with reviewing all research projects involving patients, staff, resources or data within the Capital District Health Authority. The role of the legal representative is to alert REB members to legal issues in relation to clinical trials and their implications. The REB plays a key role in scientific and medical research, as ethics review is required by Capital Health before such research can proceed. Our role is to make sure that they are not performing a questionable research study on vulnerable populations.

Mi’kmaq Native Friendship Centre: We continue to be a member on the Board of Directors of this organization which operates for the use and benefit of Aboriginal Peoples. This mandate is carried out through the promotion of educational and cultural advancement, assistance in meeting shelter needs and support for newly arrived Aboriginal Peoples in Metro Halifax.

Aboriginal Issues: We respond to inquiries from the Aboriginal individuals, organizations and communities on legal matters utilizing a holistic approach with regards to the issues.

Mental Health Peer Advocate Training: We sit on a project advisory committee which is tasked with developing a protocol for training of peer support advocates in the area of mental health advocacy.

Failure to Educate Project: Our research and outreach in the community has revealed that African Nova Scotian children enrolled in the public education system are statistically more likely to face suspensions and expulsions than their classmates. As a result, access to and inclusion in free public education is often diminished or lost to these students.

We launched this project in the spring of 2009 and it has had a phenomenal impact. As a result, the various aspects of the project have grown exponentially. We have divided the project into three main branches:

- **Community Development and Education**

Under this branch we continue to meet regularly with the community for the purposes of gathering information, doing outreach and consultation regarding needs, options and potential solutions. We have been doing bi-weekly presentations and consultations with a variety of communities in the HRM with focus on the community of North Preston. In addition we have identified a pressing need for this project in the Digby area of Nova Scotia and we have been consulting and holding meetings as often as resources will allow in that community. As a part of the education of parents, we have been holding workshops and have completed three brochures providing the following information:

- school discipline policies especially suspension and expulsion
- the right to and process of conducting an appeal before the school board
- how to file a police complaint

As a result of police action in schools in the spring of 2009, we are responding to the community's need for information about police protocol in attending incidents occurring at school, appropriate police intervention and how to address improper police conduct. It is important to note that a number of students associated with the incidents at Cole Harbour High and Auburn Drive School have received both criminal charges and school disciplinary action. We are also participating with an independent police investigation into the police response to the incidents at these schools. We are meeting and liaising with parent groups in the community to identify needs and goals.

- **Advocacy**

Under the second branch of this project we have represented a number of students who have appealed the disciplinary measures imposed by schools before the Appeals panel of the School Board. These students have been adversely affected by the unfairness of the discipline policy.

- **Test Case Litigation**

Under the third branch of this project we have identified a test case that at its core deals with discrimination and breach of human rights. This case was initiated in the context of a human rights complaint lodged by the Digby Education Committee. We have engaged in several days of mediation and the minister's response to our initial report came out on October 19, 2010. They agreed to some, but not all, of our recommendations. Two additional days of mediation have been scheduled for June 2011. We are using the mediation as a way to address inadequate and unfair policies and facilitate implementation of recommendations of the BLAC report.

December 6th (Montreal Massacre) Commemorative: We are members on a committee of various women's organizations who plan a December 6th event to commemorate the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre to bring awareness to the issue of violence against women.

Racial Equity Committee of the NS Barrister's Society: We are engaged with the Nova Scotia Barristers Society as a member of the Racial Equity Committee which oversees and initiates programs which address issues of racism and discrimination in the legal profession, including programs to increase access to the legal profession.

Residential Tenancies Act amendments consultation and lobbying: We participated in government consultations regarding proposed amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act. The next step involves development of a lobbying strategy to push for pro-tenant amendments to the Act.

Maclvor: This was a decision of the British Columbia Court of Appeal that sought to end gender discrimination under Bill C-31. This Bill was enacted in 1985 to amend the Indian Act and was intended to address the registration of Indians under s. 6 to ensure children with native mothers and non-native fathers were not excluded from application for status. However, the

legislation continued to discriminate on the basis of sex in that it excluded those female children included by Bill C-31 from passing status along to their offspring who had non-native fathers. This was found to constitute gender discrimination and as a result will be remedied by processes anticipated to be enacted by the Federal government to ensure these female children have access to the same rights as their male counterparts. We have offered to assist the urban aboriginal community in processing applications with respect to correcting this injustice.

African Nova Scotian Focused Human Rights: We continue to be involved in representing African Nova Scotian individuals before the Human Rights Commission on race based complaints

Auburn Parents for Justice: We provide representation of 12 youths with complaints against the police related to circumstances surrounding the arrest of these black youths after an altercation at Auburn High School in the spring of 2009.

Urban Aboriginal Strategy: We sit on the original strategy committee aimed at providing opportunities for organizations that serve aboriginal people in HRM to reach out and prioritize needs that will create sustainable programming and improvements in the lives of aboriginal people.

Poverty

Welfare Rights Project:

- *Welfare rights clinics or drop ins.* These drop ins are held in community spaces such as food banks, libraries and single parent centers. They are staffed by community legal workers and law students who provide one on one information and guidance with respect to income assistance problems. We continue to offer these sessions in community spaces as resources will allow. We held five workshops addressing welfare rights and special needs while on welfare, with 72 attendees in total over this period.

- *Welfare Rights Guide:* we have finished writing the substantive part of the guide that deals with rights and responsibilities with respect to income assistance. We used a community based approach to its production. We conducted consultation sessions with Income Assistance recipients; we drew on feedback from focus groups and incorporated advocacy tips in the guide that had worked in practice. The demand for this guide is tremendous throughout the province. In the spring of 2010, we were without any copies of the guide and scrambled for money to print more. As predicted, these guides are the “go to” resource for many community organizations such as women’s shelters, homeless shelters, food banks, single parent centers and the like. Although the Guide is accessible on line, many grassroots organizations do not have the resources to access the same. With expected revisions coming to the *Employment Support and Income Assistance Act* within the next year, and some developing already, we anticipate a need for maintenance of resources to update and revise to keep the Guide a valuable and accurate resource. We distributed well over 1000 copies of the guide to Community Organizations around Nova Scotia to date and have completed a second print run that is dissipating quickly.
- *Special Needs Clinics:* These clinics started as a pilot project during our last fiscal year. The purpose is to raise awareness in the low income community and among health professionals of the entitlement of income assistance recipients to apply for special needs such as a special diet, telephone or transportation because of a medical condition. We are very pleased with the outcomes being achieved by this project. The clinics have now become a mainstay of the offerings at Dalhousie Legal Aid. We organized and staffed a number of special needs information sessions where welfare recipients learned about what they are entitled to from the Department of Community Service's Income Assistance Program. The information sessions were organized in partnership with community groups including the Gordon B. Isnor Tenants' Association and the Bayer’s Westwood Family Resource Centre. We organized and staffed a special needs session in partnership with the North End Parent Resource Centre.
- *Welfare Rights Advocacy for Advocates:* We provide training for folks who, as part of their jobs or on a volunteer basis, advocate for income assistance recipients. We provide this training in the form of workshops that deal with the substantive issues around income assistance law, but also provide strategies and approaches for being a successful advocate. This manner of delivering legal information has proven to be very effective and will continue to be offered by our service. Most sessions are restricted to metro Halifax due to limited resources.

Community Coalition to end Poverty: On October 17, 2008, the Coalition presented its document "A Framework for a Poverty Reduction Strategy for Nova Scotia." The framework includes the following six objectives:

- Establish Universal Access and Coordination of services for those in need;
- Create a social safety net that enables all Nova Scotians to meet the basic needs of individuals

and families to participate in the social and economic benefits of society;

- Entitle all residents to a livable income for their labour;
- Establish a comprehensive, accessible, coordinated Early Childhood Development Strategy;
- Commit to a better educated population;
- Communicate the causes and consequences of poverty.

In spring 2010 the Provincial NDP Government announced its adoption of the Poverty Reduction Strategy. The Coalition is monitoring the government's commitment to poverty reduction. Also, the Community Coalition has been asking the government for an explanation of what the redesign of the ESIA Act will look like. We met with the Minister of Community Services to inform her of concerns and have input into the redesign of the Act. We are acting as oversight of the redesign to ensure the government abides by its commitment to poverty reduction.

The community Coalition to end Poverty was also on the organizing committee to plan the TAKING ACTION ON POVERTY conference which took place in Truro on October 26-28, 2010. The aim of this conference was to improve understanding of the human and social costs of poverty; to develop strategies to reduce poverty and to build community participation to eradicate poverty. One of our staff lawyers also sat on a panel focused on housing at this conference.

ARK Outreach: We continue to work closely with this community agency. Our work involves providing legal information and legal research to staff and clients who attend programs at the agency. We began offering tenant's rights and welfare rights workshops at the agency during 2010.

Landlord Exploitation of Vulnerable Tenants: We are working with other anti-poverty and homelessness groups on the issue of landlord exploitation of vulnerable tenants. We have found that landlords in certain rooming houses are selling mouthwash to their tenants for consumption, contrary to the Liquor Control Act and they are intimidating them into giving their entire monthly welfare monies to them. We have met with a by-law enforcement officer and an HRM housing inspector to discuss oversight options in this situation. Both have told us that the only way to initiate any action against the landlord must come from a current tenant. We continue to mobilize with grassroots organizations to put an end to this blatant exploitation of power. We are trying to develop innovative partnerships with Mobile Outreach Street Health (MOSH) Nurses to raise awareness of the need for managed alcohol programs/shelter which would serve as alternative housing for those who are addicted to alcohol and vulnerable to exploitative landlords. We participated in a one day information session in the Spring of 2010 where nursing experts from Ottawa who have already developed a sustainable shelter for people with chronic addictions shared their knowledge with community members in Halifax. Discussions are underway to develop a similar shelter in Halifax to address some of the issues that arise as a result of the exploitation of vulnerable tenants who are the focus of this community file.

Out of the Cold Winter Shelter: We are once again sitting on the Out of the Cold Winter Shelter Organizing Committee as the cold weather approaches. The group is in the process of fundraising and heightening community awareness about the need for an alternative cold weather shelter. The OOCWS was opened for the 2nd winter, once again run entirely on donations (no government funding) and 98% volunteers. St. Matthews Church has committed to providing the space for the shelter for the winter 2010-2011. Also, we met with senior level government bureaucrats to discuss funding issues and alert them to the need of the Department of Community Services to recognize the shelter address as a legitimate home address so that shelter guests are able to access income assistance funds.

Women's Employment Outreach: We are presently a member of the Board of Directors of this community organization that provides training and assistance to women to enter the workforce.

Steering Committee to address Poverty reduction: We are a member of a steering committee involved in putting together a conference centered on poverty issues.

Housing

New Common Front for Housing Rights: In partnership with tenants and tenant advocates we have participated in a process to build a provincial housing coalition in Nova Scotia. We have sponsored three public meetings in HRM to solicit the feedback and participation of the widest possible audience and to establish guiding principles for the coalition.

Tent City: We participated with the Nova Scotia Common Front for Housing in the Tent City held on the rain date of October 23rd. It was originally scheduled for October 16th but was wisely rescheduled due to inclement weather. This demonstration brought together groups and individuals to draw attention for the need for (and right to) affordable housing in Nova Scotia. On October 25th, Dal Legal Aid participated by hosting a tenant's rights booth at the Halifax Connects event held in the Armouries just off the commons. This was a daylong event to provide information, advice and services to the homeless and low income community. At least 500 people were seen.

Tenant Rights Project: The Tenant Rights Project continues to grow and change with the needs of the community. We now staff four different tenant rights drop-in sessions around HRM: the Women's Community Space, the Halifax North Memorial Library, Stairs Memorial United Church in Dartmouth and St. Paul's Family Resource Centre in Spryfield. We are currently working to set up drop ins at Sunday Supper at St. Andrew's Church and the soup kitchen at Feed Others of Dartmouth. We have had great success with these drop ins which get us out into the community where people can easily access our service. Additionally, we have conducted eight workshops on tenant rights issues at a variety of locations. We saw 149 participants at 13 workshops over this period.

Our tenant info line has been very successful, and we continue to field many calls from tenants looking for information on their rights. Our tenant's rights website has also been popular and a user friendly place for tenants to seek answers to their questions. Since the launch of our website we have been fielding more calls from around the province. From January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010 we made 685 contacts with tenants.

Security of Tenure-Section 10 Reform: Section 10 of the Residential Tenancies Act allows a landlord to give a notice to quit to a tenant without reasons, provided that the tenant has lived in the unit for less than 5 years. This lack of security of tenure in Nova Scotia has a dramatic impact on the rights of tenants. We have been working with tenants and with elected officials to consider changes needed to the RTA to eliminate "forced evictions". We have been advised that there will be upcoming changes to this provision to provide tenants with immediate security of tenure.

Affordable Energy Coalition: We continue to have a very active role within the Affordable Energy Coalition, demanding access to energy for low income Nova Scotians. The AEC has become a strong voice on issues of energy poverty in this province, and our members are turned to regularly by government and media for their expertise. Last year the AEC was represented at the CAMPUT conference and was included in the provincial community consultation on renewable energy promotion in Nova Scotia. Most recently the AEC appeared as interveners at the NSUARB Demand Side Management Hearings into NS Power's delivery of energy reduction programming. We made a proposal to NSPI to provide a research report into various DSM programs operating throughout North America. This report highlighted DSM programming which benefits low income energy rate payers. This project is ongoing and will be partially resourced by NSPI. We meet on a monthly basis with the low income program development working group to give updates about the project.

Halifax Housing Help Office: We sit on the advisory board of Halifax Housing Help Office, organization that does housing support service delivery.

Urban Aboriginal Housing: We look at issues facing aboriginal people in urban settings. Also, we look at adequate and affordable housing. In conjunction with these issues, we now sit on the Board of Directors for Tawaak Housing which is concerned with housing and housing issues facing native persons in metropolitan areas.

Access to Justice

Legal Aid Appeals Project: This is the fifth year of full scale operation for our Legal Aid Appeals Project whereby we assist people with their appeals for legal aid funding from the Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission. Our volunteer law students assist with the drafting of appeal briefs to the Commission, and will provide support at appeal hearings. The students are meeting with community organizations to raise awareness about legal aid appeals, and have done outreach with lawyers who are known to work on legal aid certificates. The demand for this assistance is

rising as legal aid eligibility rates continue to be artificially low in comparison to the rise in the cost of living.

Legal Links: This continues to be a major initiative of Dalhousie Legal Aid to assist the low income community in accessing services and information about their rights and representation. The Legal Links project is in its 8th year of operation. The project provides information to clients who either meet with Legal Links in the community, or make contact by phone.

In total, staff and volunteers made 286 contacts with people over the phone, offering them legal information, summary advice, and referral information.

We continue to hold legal "clinics" at organizations around HRM. The host organization books 1/2 hour appointments with someone from DLAS, at their organization. This provides us with an opportunity to reach diverse, vulnerable and at risk populations within our community in a safe, confidential setting. In total we met with 195 individuals and families at these clinics, offering assistance on a variety of legal issues. We offer these monthly legal clinics at: Metro Immigrant Settlement Association, Adsum House women's shelter, Bayers Westwood Parent Resource Centre, Stepping Stone, Direction 180, the Single Parent Centre and the Metro Turning Point.

Tele Links: As a result of increased calls received by our community legal workers we have set up a project with volunteer students who have already completed a clinical term to assist with the first contact on many of these calls, offering legal information and summary advice. We are excited to supervise a project that gives law students an opportunity to work with clients directly, and that can increase the number of people that we can assist. This project has proven to be successful for both the law students and the community at large. We will continue this project as long as we have resources. From January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010 we have made 159 contacts with members of the community who have called the clinic for legal information on a wide range of poverty law issues.

Community Justice Society Conference: We had a booth at the conference that was centered on youth and the law. Information on restorative justice was highlighted as well as the services offered to youth at Dalhousie Legal Aid.

LEGAL SERVICES TO CLIENTS:

During this period we opened 330 new files between January 1 and December 31, 2010; 168 in the area of administrative or poverty law, 6 new community files, 22 adult and child protection, 2 adult criminal file, 87 young persons involved in the criminal justice system, and 45 family law files.

CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION

Participation of third year law students in the work of Dalhousie Legal Aid Service continues to be a high priority. Our community development projects and law reform initiatives play a key role in their education. The exposure of students to systemic and discriminatory problems faced by the low-income community broadens their perspective regarding the impact of the law on the lives of the disadvantaged and powerless.

We continue to be active in student placement activities, participating in a recruitment session with law firms and government departments held at the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University. The inquiries and expressed interest continues to be high.

STUDENT ENROLMENT						
Term	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Summer	11	11	11	12	12	12
Fall	15	15	16	16	15	16
Winter	16	15	16	16	15	16
Total	42	41	43	44	42	44

STAFFING

The management of Dalhousie Legal Aid Service has been carried out by the Executive Director, Donna Franey since May, 1995 and she has been a member of staff since 1990. Our dedicated staff consists of Staff Lawyers, Claire McNeil (1991), currently on a two year sabbatical, Shawna Hoyte (1995), Heather McNeill (1997), Susanne Litke (1999) and Susan Young (2001) and Jennifer Cox (June, 2009) who is standing in during Claire's leave. Our work was enriched by the valuable contributions of our Community Legal Workers, Fiona Traynor (2008) and Cole Webber (2007). Our support staff continues to be dedicated to the work of the clinic. Our Office Manager is Reena Davis (2008). Cathy Leiper (1976) and Lynette Colley (2005) share Reception duties, Melinda Shaw (1984) and Susan Jones (1999) are Legal Assistants.

A special thank you goes out to our funders and supporters, without whom, we could not keep the doors open. These include the Schulich School of Law, the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Legal Aid and our generous alumni and friends.

Our volunteers have been numerous this year and we have students from ProBono Student Canada, SALSA, law students and Dalhousie Undergrad students. These students have been serving our clients, staff and clinic students. Many thanks to Ellen Dodson, Jackie Pidduck,

James Urquhart, Jessica May, Kelsey Hudson, Kelsey McLaren, Kimberley Scheelar, Leon Tovey, Leslie Bateman, Michael Maynes, Michelle Black, Michelle Squires, Nadine Barnes, Sandra Green, Sarah Zimmerman, Sean Kaulbach and Taralee DeJong.