

DLAS 2006 Highlights

Affordable Energy Coalition

This was a busy year. We are being regarded as experts on low income energy issues. Representation on this committee included projects such as:

- Application for Leave to the Supreme Court of Canada to appeal the decision of NSCA regarding the scope of the Utility Board's jurisdiction to order programs for low income consumers
- Report Card on Energy Assistance and low income energy efficiency including a press conference
- During the Provincial Election we drafted a report card on the four parties' energy poverty policies
- Worked with government to ensure low income energy issues are addressed
- Developed an Energy Poverty Framework for the Dept. of Energy and Conserve Nova Scotia
- Worked nationally on energy poverty issues with the Low Income Energy Network and Green Communities in Canada
- Drafted a grant proposal to study the impacts and effects of energy poverty in Nova Scotia
- Participated in the Utility and Review Board's hearings
- Signed on as intervenors for Nova Scotia Power's 2007 rate application
- Began a Charter challenge to the Public Utilities Act.

- Worked with Nova Scotia Power to address credit and collections concerns
- Attended the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association Annual Congress in Ottawa with attention to low income energy issues.



Dalhousie Legal Aid Service
Clinic Students

Mental Disability and Housing

We are currently working with the Kendrick Report Coalition to develop a funding proposal. Submitting an application to the Supreme Court for declaration that the Department of Community Services' classification policy and unnecessary institutionalisation of a person with a disability are discriminatory.

Legal Links, Workshops & Clinics

With thanks to the ProBono Students Canada law student teams, we have been busy around

HRM conducting workshops and clinics on topics of Child Protection, Criminal Law, Youth Law, Family Law, Employment Law, Human Rights, Income Assistance, Debtor Creditor, Tenant Rights and Protestor Rights.

We made 648 legal links contacts and provided information and summary advice to 580 people by phone.

Tenant's Rights

Dalhousie Legal Aid Service provides drop in sessions around HRM. Our tenant info phone line staffed by volunteer students answered 234 calls offering legal information and referrals. We received a grant from HRM to outfit in house space for this project and provided copies of the Tenant Rights Guide. Through funding from HRM we developed a website for which tenant's across Nova Scotia can find out their rights <http://tenantrights.legalaid.dal.ca>

Client Representation

We closed 342 files during 2006. We are currently representing 412 individual and community clients.

And There's More...

- Member, Board of Directors North End Community Health Centre
- Presentation on Youth Crime: Cause & Effect-Resources & Services
- Workshop on Youth Criminal Justice Act
- Presentation at the Black United Students Youth Conference
- Presentation on Youth rights
- Workshop on parent's rights under the YCJA
- Consult with individuals and organizations in the Aboriginal Community
- Aboriginal Focussed Human Rights
- Conducted research into the feasibility of a black court workers program through The Black Community Advocates Association of Nova Scotia
- Assisted in the review of materials designed by youth in care with respect to youth rights under the CFSA Act
- Member, Capital Health Research Ethics Board
- President, Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre
- Panel Discussion to provincial student support workers
- President, Board of Directors Community Justice Society
- Youth Homelessness
- Attended the Poverty Law Advocates Network of Canada in Vancouver

Staff

Thanks to our staff for a very productive year. It is a pleasure to work with such dedicated colleagues. Staff members include Lynette Colley, Catherine Currell, Donna Franey,

Scott Hicks, Shawna Hoyte, Susan Jones, Cathy Leiper, Megan Leslie, Susanne Litke, Clare McNeil, Heather McNeill, Melinda Shaw and Sue Young.

Nutrition and Poverty

We have developed a colour brochure regarding Income Assistance and Special Diets. The brochure informing recipients and doctors of the right to a nutritious diet. In addition, we have provided workshops to various communities in the HRM.

Women's Centre in Halifax

This initiative is to establish a women's center in HRM. We are developing a questionnaire to send to women to determine a vision and mandate.



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Board of Trustees

We are grateful to our volunteer Board of Trustees who have spent countless hours developing policies and attending many committee meetings.

Clinical Law Students

42 students have participated in the Clinical Law Program and recruitment for the upcoming year is underway.

Volunteers

We have had a fabulous year working with 28 dedicated volunteer students.

Building Improvements

We thank staff at Facilities Management for the completion of a new roof, new air handling unit and painting of the downstairs.

Funding

Our funding bodies keep the clinic going. Thanks to Dalhousie Law School, the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission, Legal Who Committee, SALSA, FA4LA, Student Orientation Committee, Law Student's Society Community Outreach program, clinic alumni, HRM and friends of Dal Legal Aid.