

Farewell to a friend

In Memory of Mr. Ernest Craik, Volunteer

Carol Grosset, OM, Kenora

In April, the Kenora office of the Northwest Community Legal Clinic lost a great friend, Mr. Ernest Craik.

In the summer of 1989, after retirement from the local papermill, and with experience and knowledge through the papermill union, Kenora-Keewatin District Labour Council and the Kenora District Injured Workers Group, Mr. Craik became a part time volunteer at the (then) Kenora

Community Legal Clinic, to assist with Worker's Compensation files. He retired from working on files in 1995 at the age of 70, and then evolved into a full time position into the early 2000's, as he dedicated the later years to research, to find a better way to provide income support for long term disabled people, whether it be from injury or illness. He was also a member of the Kenora Community Legal Clinic's Advisory Group to the Board of Directors.

He was known to the staff as "Mr. Craik" – never Ernie or Ernest. He treated us to fresh vegetables from his garden and beautiful gladiolas when in season, and was a valuable resource for compensation matters. When presented with the Governor General's award in 1998, Mr. Craik was quoted to have said, "You shouldn't have to be paid for doing good, but I must confess, being rewarded with this [Governor General's] certificate does mean a lot and inspires me to continue helping others as long as I'm able." And he did.

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2012 Budget Cuts to OW & ODSP

Tammy Noble, CLW, Fort Frances

In spite of a 2.9% increase in the Consumer Price Index over last year, Ontario plans to freeze Social Assistance rates and eliminate two critically important benefits of the Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Programs (ODSP).

Starting January, 2013, the Community Start-up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB) and the Home Repairs Benefit are being cut. Why is CSUMB important? It is targeted to assist people on social assistance

to attain or retain housing and prevent homelessness.

It will help pay for things a person might need to set up a new home, such as a last month's rent deposit or deposit and hook-up fees for heat or utilities, clothing, furniture and other household goods.

CSUMB also helps people stay in their homes by providing money for things like rent or utility arrears, payments to get your utilities back if they have been cut off, getting rid of bed bugs, and

buying or repairing necessary home appliances such as a fridge or stove.

The Home Repairs Benefit helps people on assistance who own their own homes pay for things like emergency plumbing repairs, patching a leaky roof, or repairing damage from fire or floods. The only alternative will be programs that provide loans for repairs, which people on OW and ODSP cannot afford to repay. **The deadline to apply for this benefit is June 30, 2012 - talk to your worker IMMEDIATELY to apply!**



Consider the environment...

Please recycle this newsletter!

Identity Theft

Nan Normand, CLW, Kenora

My illusion of safety that blithely precluded caution regarding my wallet has been burst. A friend's identity was stolen using just Facebook data. Another friend's son had his cards scanned while he walked down a public street. A week later, her daughter was also scanned at an airport in another city and subjected to credit card fraud. All three individuals faced the reality of identity theft-bills, charges and the task of re-establishing themselves. I now check for inserts into ABMs before inserting my debit card, limit my Facebook data and use a scan

resistant wallet to carry my passport and credit cards. In our chip-imbedded, webbed world we must realize that we are exposed to risks that our grand parents never envisioned.

If you discover that your identity or credit cards have been lost, stolen or fraudulently used, take immediate action to reduce your personal loss.

⇒ Cancel your cards because you may be liable for losses if you haven't reported the issue
 ⇒ File a report with the police and obtain the incident report number

⇒ Request a credit report to

monitor card usage (www.tuc.ca and/or www.equifax.ca) and consider a fraud alert posting on your credit file

⇒ Replace government ID cards by calling 1-800-O-Canada

⇒ Contact Canada Post (www.canadapost.ca) if mail is missing

⇒ Demand an investigation into each organization who provided unauthorized credit, money, information, goods or services in your name

Identity caution is just common sense and common sense is learned through our shared experiences.

Our Pamphlet Stands
 All three offices of the Northwest Community Legal Clinic carry a large supply of pamphlets relating to areas of law within the Clinic Mandate. We invite you to call or stop into your local office to view the selection.

Have a Safe Summer!
 - Fay Clark, CLW, Kenora
www.safetyinfo.ca is a great resource to help you make this summer season a safe one. The website includes checklists for safe barbequing, camping, home safety and many more.
 Don't have access to the internet? Call the legal clinic and we will gladly print a list for you, or call the Technical Standards and Safety Authority at 1-877-682-TSSA (8772).

Time of Use (TOU) Energy Pricing

Liz Polischuk, Support Staff, Kenora

TOU pricing applies to consumers with smart meters who have energy contracts which are regulated by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB). If you have your electricity through a retailer, you will pay the costs outlined in your contract.

The OEB has three Ontario Electricity TOU Price Periods – summer, winter and week-ends and Statutory Holidays.

Summer TOU price period is weekdays from May 1 through October 31, while the winter TOU price period is weekdays from November 1 through April 30.

We are now in the summer TOU price period; weekday rate periods and rates are as follows: **off-peak** is from 7pm – 7am at 6.5¢/kWh; **mid-peak** is from 7-11am and 5-7pm at 10.0¢/kWh;

and **on-peak** is from 11am-5pm at 11.7¢/kWh. Remaining Statutory holidays within this rate period are: Canada Day (July 2), Civic Holiday, Labour Day and Thanksgiving Day. These, along with Saturdays and Sundays are considered **off-peak** time.

For more information on TOU pricing, including how much money your appliances cost you to run, go to the OEB website at www.OntarioEnergyBoard.ca.

Indian Residential Schools IAP Deadline Fast Approaching

Liz Polischuk, Support, Kenora

September 19, 2012 is the deadline for former students of recognized Indian Residential Schools to submit applications for the **Independent Assessment Process (IAP)**, an out-of-court process created to resolve claims of abuse at these Schools.

Applications will NOT be accepted past September 19th.

Former students can apply for the IAP whether or not they have received the Common Experience Payment.

The application process is complex and all parties to the IRSSA recommend that applicants have a lawyer

represent them, but it is not a requirement. The legal clinic does NOT assist with these claims.

The Independent Assessment Process guide and application forms are available online at <http://iap-pei.ca/information/publication/pdf/pub/iapf-v3-20110714-eng.pdf> or by calling 1-866-879-4913.

Financial Assistance for Families of Homicide Victims

Carol Grosset, OM, Kenora

If you are an Ontario resident and are the parent(s) or spouse of a homicide victim which occurred in Ontario on or after January 1, 2011, you may be eligible to apply for financial assistance through the *Financial Assistance for Families of Homicide Victims (FAFHV) Program*, no later than August 31, 2012.

“Homicide” includes first and second degree murder and manslaughter.

Unlike compensation through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board which requires family member(s) to have had witnessed or come upon the scene of a crime involving a loved one, and experienced significant psychological shock requiring significant treatment,

the FAFHV Program addresses the gap by helping those suffering grief and sorrow by providing financial assistance up to \$10,000 per homicide.

For further information or an application for *Financial Assistance for Families of Homicide Victims* call the Program at 1-855-467-4344 or go on-line at www.ontario.ca/victimservices.

Ontario Tuition Grant of 30%

Sallie Hunt, Staff Lawyer, Kenora

The Ontario Tuition Grant of 30% is to help post-secondary students offset the costs of their education.

Undergraduate university and college students can apply for this grant. Secondary school (high school) students who have confirmed acceptance to a post-secondary program can also apply.

For 2012-13, the grant will be \$1,680 a year for students in a degree program

at a college or university, or \$770 a year for students in a certificate or diploma program at a college. Payment will be made in two instalments (September 2012 and January 2013).

To qualify, students:

- must be attending full-time at a public college or university in Ontario,
- must be Canadian citizens, permanent residents or protected persons
- must be in a “first-entry program” (entered directly from high school)
- must be out of high school for less than

four years; and

- have parents whose gross income is \$160,000 or less (based on 2011 income tax returns).

OSAP applicants are automatically considered for this grant. This grant should not affect people on OW or ODSP benefits.

For further information or application instructions see: <https://osap.gov.on.ca/OSAPPortal/en/PostsecondaryEducation/Tuition/FAQ/index.htm>.

Hate Crimes

Yvonne Hutton, CLW, Atikokan

A workshop addressing “Hate Crimes” was held in Fort Frances May 28, 2012 with two NCLC staff in attendance as well as members of several community groups including the OPP, Treaty Three, Victim Services, Canadian Mental Health Association, youth volunteers, Seniors and Law Enforcement Together work group, and the Fort Frances Chief’s Secretariat office.

The workshop was presented by Stephen Camp, a Detective with the Edmonton Police Services Homicide Section and a nationally renowned expert on hate crimes. It was designed to facilitate a common understanding of

what constitutes a hate crime and what responsibility a community shares in addressing and preventing hate crimes. Detective Camp presented a working definition of hate crimes;

A hate crime is an offence committed against a person or property, which is motivated in whole or in part, by the suspect’s hate, bias or prejudice towards an identifiable group based on, real or perceived, race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation or any other similar factor.

Examples of hate crimes include acts of violence or threats of violence, acts of mischief or vandalism, distribution of hate literature/hate mail, threatening phone calls, and destruction of religious property or symbols. Less serious but

no less disturbing are ‘hate incidents’ such as use of racial slurs against individuals, and intimidation against identifiable groups or individuals.

Hate crimes are different from other crimes in that a message is sent to an entire group that they are not welcome or safe, not just the victim. Minority group members may be more commonly at risk for hate crimes while hate crime offenders tend to be teenagers or young adults, not organized groups.

Public awareness and education is key in preventing hate crimes. The Kenora-Rainy River “Respect - It Lives Here” campaign is a prime example of a public education program bringing people together to work towards creating a more aware and more respectful community.

DISCLAIMER: These articles provide information only and are not to be considered as legal advice. Content reflects the laws that were current at the time of publication and the law may have since changed. Consult your community legal clinic or legal representative for legal advice on your specific situation.



**Supporting individuals and our community
by providing quality legal services.**

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Office Closures

Monday, July 2nd

Monday, August 6th

Monday, September 3rd

Sub-Offices

Red Lake - July 4th, August 1st & September 5th

Ear Falls - July 5th, August 2nd & September 6th

These dates are subject to change, please call the Kenora office to confirm dates & times or to book an appointment; walk-ins are welcome.

Community Mental Health Support Services

*This issue, we feature Kenora's **Community Mental Health Support Services**, Thanks to Diane Pelletier, Director for submitting the information.*

The primary goal of Community Mental Health Support Services is to assist persons and their families who struggle with persistent and severe mental illness to achieve their goals, to feel as well as possible and live in a place of their choice.

Community Mental Health Support Services is a program of Kenora Association for Community Living. It presently provides community support & services for persons with serious mental illness. Referrals can be made by phone or in person by individuals in need of assistance who have a mental illness, their family members, friends, family doctors, psychiatrists and other community agencies. These services are funded by the North West Local Health Integration Network and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. The following is a brief description of the

services we provide:

Intensive Case Management

Support: Using the personal strengths model for recovery we offer flexible and individualized support that varies in intensity, is based on consumer choice and uses an individual's capacities, strengths, talents and abilities to develop a support plan that assists persons to realize personal recovery goals. Support is available 16 hrs/day - 7 days/wk.

Dual Diagnosis Program: Support to assist persons with coexisting developmental disability and a mental illness, and their caregivers, to access specialized services in a timely manner, as close to home as possible.

Housing Subsidies and Support

Service: This service provides rental subsidies to persons on Ontario Works or Ontario Disabilities Support Program. People applying must have a serious mental illness and have had minor altercations with the law or have substance use issues. Persons applying for the subsidy must have rental agreements which exceed their shelter allowance. Services are provided through

the development of agreements with landlords and coordination of rent subsidies in the Kenora area.

Non-ministry funded community wellness is also a project CMHSS provides. This project is funded through grants, community clubs and community partnerships and provides people from our community with opportunities to engage in activities geared to health and wellness that they couldn't otherwise afford. The following is a brief description:

Community Wellness Project: To reduce barriers to wellness activities for vulnerable adults in the Kenora area. Barriers to participation include social isolation, limited finances, transportation, limited or few opportunities and lack of motivation. This program is open to all adults in our community who want to participate but face all of these barriers to health and wellness.

Contact Community Mental Health Support Services at (807) 467-5236 for more information.