

SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS
AND OUR COMMUNITY BY
PROVIDING QUALITY LEGAL
SERVICES.

Northwest Community Legal Clinic

SEPTEMBER 2013

Service Canada

Yvonne Hutton, CLW, Atikokan

Service Canada provides assistance with federal government matters including the Canada Pension Plan (including Disability and Survivor's Benefits) Old Age Security, Employment Insurance, and Social Insurance Numbers.

Information and forms may be obtained through the website at www.servicecanada.gc.ca. The website contains links and information for particular population groups (seniors/aboriginal peoples/newcomers to Canada/etc) as well as links to government ministries such as Trans-

port Canada for those looking to obtain their Pleasure Craft Operator Cards. The website contains excellent information and "how to's" for Life Events as diverse as what to do when you have lost your wallet to what to do following a death. A link to the national Job Bank is also provided from the website.

Staff are available to assist Monday through Friday in offices in Fort Frances (301 Scott Street) and Kenora (308 Second Street). In Atikokan, an outreach office is available on the second Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each month at 214 Main Street West.

Staff will provide limited assistance with filling out forms, photocopying documents and providing on-site computer access to federal programs.

The toll-free number provides additional information and access to call centre staff; 1.800.622.6232

If you require assistance with federal government programs – filling out forms or appealing decisions - The Northwest Community Legal Clinic may also be able to help.



Congratulatory Certificates for milestone birthdays or anniversaries from the Queen, the Prime Minister, the Governor General and your MP.

MP Greg Rickford - Kenora
468-2170 or 1-866-710-0008
2 - 25 B Main Street South

MP John Rafferty
Fort Frances 274-9313
140 Fourth Street West

Atikokan 597-2000
113A Main Street East

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, October 18th

7:00p.m.

Northwest Community

Legal Clinic

206 Scott Street

Fort Frances, ON

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See insert for more  
information

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## Member of Parliament (MP)

Liz Polischuk, Support Staff, Kenora

Your local MP is your representative to the federal government at the House of Commons in Ottawa. MP Greg Rickford (Kenora Riding) and MP John Rafferty (Thunder Bay - Rainy River Riding) are the current elected representatives.

Staff at your MP's office are available to assist constituents (people living within their Riding) by acting as a liaison between the constituent and the federal government agency. They are able to assist by

requesting information, getting updates or assisting with any complications that may arise. Some of the issues they assist with are: Passports, Citizenship and Immigration, Canada Revenue Agency (such as Child Tax Benefits, Income Tax etc.), Employment Insurance, Old Age Security, Canada Pension Plan (CPP) CPP-Disability, and Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS).

Your MP's office is also able to assist you with ordering

# Service Ontario

Yvonne Hutton, CLW, Atikokan

Service Ontario provides assistance with provincial government matters including Ontario health cards and driver's licences through an extensive website ([www.services.gov.on.ca](http://www.services.gov.on.ca)) and through physical offices located throughout the province.

In the Northwest, offices are located at:  
 Atikokan – 108 Saturn Avenue  
 Kenora – 220 Main Street South  
 Fort Frances – 922 Scott Street  
 Red Lake - 227 Howey Street  
 North

Provincial toll-free numbers provide additional information and access to staff;  
 General Inquiry 1.800.267.8097

Health Cards 1.888.376.5197  
 Driver and Vehicle Inquiries 1.800.387.3445

The following list covers only some of the services available through Service Ontario;

- Vehicles - driver's licences, accessible parking permits, driver's records, vehicle plates and stickers (permits), off-road vehicle permits, etc. They can provide information on buying and selling used vehicles. Enhanced Driver's Licences are available in this region only through the Thunder Bay Service Ontario office located at 400 Balmoral Place.

- Ontario Health Cards and organ/tissue donor registration

- Outdoors Cards – fishing and hunting licenses

- Identification and Certificates – birth/death/marriage certificates; changing name; Indian Status and ID cards, Ontario Photo Cards

Documents for hearings with the Landlord and Tenant Board can be filed at the Service Ontario offices, as well as Employment Standards Act claims. Most Service Ontario offices have a public computer available for access to provincial government information and forms. Staff may be able to assist with Ontario government forms (not Federal) and generally a Commissioner of Oaths is available to commission documents related to provincial government services. They are not able to commission family law documents, real estate, property or financial documents.

If you require assistance with provincial government programs – filling out forms or appealing decisions - The Northwest Community Legal Clinic may also be able to help.

**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.



## Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP)

Liz Polischuk, Support Staff, Kenora

Your elected MPP represents the residents of their riding at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in Toronto. MPP Sarah Campbell serves constituents in Kenora and Fort Frances as part of the Kenora - Rainy River District. In Atikokan, constituents are served by MPP Bill Mauro who represents the Thunder Bay - Atikokan Riding.

Staff at your MPP's office may be able to provide assistance on provincially related issues such as OHIP, the Ontario Renovates Program, Northern Health Travel Grants, Birth Certificates, queries relating to provincially funded programs, Energy Retailers and many others. Their staff will also give appropriate referrals for other issues they are unable to assist with.

**MPP Bill Mauro**  
 Atikokan 597-2629  
 205 Main St. West

**MPP Sarah Campbell**  
 Kenora 467-2415  
 300 McClellan Ave, East Room  
 Fort Frances 274-7619  
 140 Fourth Street West



*Does your group require accessible meeting space in Fort Frances or Kenora during regular office hours? Please contact our office to discuss.*

# Changes to Social Assistance

Laurie Nuttall, Staff Lawyer, Fort Frances

Ontario Disability Support Program (“ODSP”)-**Basic needs rates have increased by 1%** for persons with disabilities and members of a prescribed class. There has also been a 1% increase to the following ODSP benefits: Northern Allowance, Personal Needs Allowance, Special Boarder Allowance, Guide Dog Benefit and Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities.

Ontario Works (“OW”)-**As of**

**1 October**, the maximum basic needs amount for single OW recipients will increase by **\$20/ month (1% + a \$14 top-up)**.

OW asset limits are now **\$2,500** for a single recipient and **\$5,000** for couples.

OW asset exemptions for motor vehicles have been expanded – a **primary vehicle of any value** is now **fully exempt** and a secondary required for employment or employment assistance

activities is exempt up to **\$15,000**.

If EI payments are clearly designated as a "training allowance" (e.g., income supports offered through the Ontario Skills Development Benefit Program) and specifically received to participate in a training program, then the earnings exemptions may be applied. EI will normally be considered "income."

For further information about the changes please check our Facebook page and December Newsletter.

## District Social Services Administration Boards

Laurie Nuttall, Staff Lawyer, Fort Frances

Our clinic service area is covered by two District Social Services Administration Boards: the Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board (RRDSSAB) and the Kenora District Services Board (KDSB). Both the RRDSSAB and the KDSB have a number of services available for community members. *KDSB specific information will be provided in December's Newsletter.*

**Ontario Works**-which has a number of components such as: Financial Assistance; Employment Support and Resource Centre; Employment Placement; Community Participation and Learning, Earning and Parenting (LEAP) a program for teen parents. Other benefits are also available such as drug coverage and medical transportation costs.

**Housing-RRDSSAB** is responsible for all public housing in the Rainy River District. The RRDSSAB directly owns 297 units and administers approximately 15 rent supple-

ment units. Housing is provided to all types of low income households – families, seniors and singles. All tenants pay rent based on income. There are also two types of non-profit housing providers in the Rainy River District: 1) Private Non-Profit and 2) Urban Native. There are a number of housing programs available to assist with affordability and repairs/renovation. Such programs include: The Rent Supplement Program, The Rent Bank Program, the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) and Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI).

**Child Care Services**- The RRDSSAB and service providers must adhere to all regulations of the *Day Nurseries Act*. Existing services are Licensed Child Care Facilities, Licensed Nursery Schools & Family Resource Programs. Services for Child Care include: Wage Subsidy for Non Profit/Profit, Fee Subsidy, Special Needs Resourcing, Resource

Centres, Repairs/Maintenance (Health & Safety) and Ontario Works Child Care.

**Ambulance Services**– The RRDSSAB Ambulance Bases are located in Fort Frances, Atikokan, Emo and Rainy River. Land Ambulance Bases in Kenora, Nestor Falls, Sioux Narrows, Ear Falls and Red Lake are operated by Northwest EMS in the Kenora District. Land ambulance services may also be provided outside the jurisdiction of the both the RRDSSAB and Northwest EMS within unincorporated, First Nation communities and adjacent districts.

Need more information about the services available for you? In Fort Frances, Rainy River, Emo and Atikokan areas please contact the RRDSSAB office at (807) 274-5349. In Kenora, Ear Falls, Red Lake, Sioux Narrows areas, please contact the KDSB at (807) 223-2100 or visit their website [www.kdsb.on.ca](http://www.kdsb.on.ca).



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

**Fort Frances**

206 Scott Street  
Fort Frances, ON  
P9A 1G7

(807) 274-5327 Phone  
1-800-799-2485 Toll Free  
(807) 274-3141 Fax

**Kenora**

Ste. 6 - 308 Second St. S  
Kenora, ON  
P9N 1G4

(807) 468-8888 Phone  
1-800-403-4757 Toll Free  
(807) 468-4928 Fax

**Atikokan**

305 Main St. W  
PO BOX 1676  
Atikokan, ON  
P0T 1C0

(807) 597-2811 Phone  
(807) 597-6697 Fax

[www.NorthwestCommunityLegalClinic.ca](http://www.NorthwestCommunityLegalClinic.ca)

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Check us  
out on  
Facebook!



## Office Closures

October 14 - Thanksgiving  
October 18 - Staff Meeting  
November 11 - Remembrance Day

## Sub-Offices

**Red Lake** - November 13,  
December 4  
**Ear Falls** - November 14,  
December 5

## Financial Abuse

Tammy Noble, CLW, Fort Frances

Anyone can be a financial abuser. Financial abusers can be family members, close friends, acquaintances, or strangers. They may also be professionals or caregivers who have been hired to help.

Is someone you know being financially abused? Know the signs.

- ⇒Do they seem isolated/withdrawn?
- ⇒Is there a sudden or unexpected change in living arrangements?
- ⇒Do they show signs of depression or mental illness?
- ⇒Are they assuming financial responsibility for a family member such as an adult child or spouse?
- ⇒Do they exhibit unusual fear or sudden change in feelings about a

- particular person or people?
- ⇒Do they have a change in appearance, such as poor hygiene or sudden weight loss?
- ⇒Are they frequently accompanied by someone who appears overly protective or controlling?
- ⇒Do they need to “ask permission” from someone before making a purchase, paying a bill or spending money?
- ⇒Is there a change in their ability to perform daily activities, such as self-care, management of finances or taking medication?
- ⇒Is there a noticeable discrepancy between their income and their standard of living?
- ⇒Are they suddenly unable to pay their own bills?
- ⇒Are there unusual financial transactions such as unexplained

bank withdrawals or unusual purchases?

If you think financial abuse may be happening to someone you know, seek help. The police can help determine whether there has been a criminal offence.

If the victim does not have the capacity to understand their situation, phone the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee (OPGT) at 416-327-6348 or Toll-free at 1-800-366 0335. The Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee protects the rights and interests of mentally incapable adults and will conduct an investigation.

**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.*



Consider the environment...

Please recycle this newsletter!