

# Community Legal

## Facts/*FAX*

### DUNDURN

#### COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES

110 King Street West, Plaza level, Suite 610  
(In Jackson Square, up escalator from food court)  
Hamilton, Ontario, L8N 3Y3

Telephone: (905)527-4572

### HAMILTON MOUNTAIN LEGAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES

550 Fennell Avenue,  
(in the south-east corner of Fenworth Mall)  
Hamilton, Ontario, L8V 4S9

Telephone: (905) 575-9590

### McQUESTEN

#### LEGAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES

1440 Main Street East  
(1 block east of Kenilworth)  
Hamilton, Ontario, L8K 6M3

Telephone: (905) 545-0442

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

“ Promoting Access to Justice ”



Hamilton's Community Legal Clinics are reaching out and going on-line to provide greater access to community legal services. Through the assistance of volunteer designer Nageeb

Twal, Dundurn Community Legal Services, Hamilton Mountain Legal & Community Services and McQuesten Legal & Community Services collaborated to develop a joint internet web-site:

[www.hamiltonlegalclinics.ca](http://www.hamiltonlegalclinics.ca). As the web-site evolves, individuals, agencies and local organizations will be able to access information to find out about various areas of clinic practice. We also want to include information about community development projects, public legal education seminars and law reform initiatives. If you have any suggestions about the website or would like us to provide a link to your agency or organization, please e-mail Tom at [coopert@lao.on.ca](mailto:coopert@lao.on.ca).



***On the  
Hamilton better***

***move to serve***

### McQUESTEN LEGAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES:

**New Address:**  
**1440 Main Street East,  
Hamilton  
1 block east of Kenilworth**



In September, after 23 years on the corner of Reid Avenue and Queenston Road adjacent to the Red Hill Creek Valley, McQuesten Legal & Community Services moved to a new, fully accessible location on Main Street East near Kenilworth. McQuesten will continue to serve people in East Hamilton and Stoney Creek with legal advice and representation in landlord-tenant disputes, social assistance appeals, workers' compensation and more. The McQuesten Staff and Board will be hosting an Open House on December 6, 2001 from 2 p.m.

until 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend.



### DUNDURN COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES:

**New Address:**  
**in Jackson Square-  
110 King Street West,  
Suite 610, Hamilton  
on plaza level (up the escalator from food court)**

Dundurn Community Legal Services will re-locate to downtown Hamilton's Jackson Square in late November, 2001. Dundurn has seen a significant increase in contacts and case-loads over the last couple of years. This new office in the heart of the city will enable Dundurn's lawyers, legal workers and support staff to meet growing needs in the community. Dundurn Community Legal Services' office can be found after November 21<sup>st</sup> on the plaza level (2<sup>nd</sup> level) of Jackson Square, up the elevator beside

## Community Legal Facts/FAX briefs--

### Community Start-Up Benefits

# C.S.U.B.

Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) recipients can request CSUB, if they are moving and cannot afford to pay last months' rent or have no money to pay for the cost of renting a vehicle to move furniture. CSUB can also include the purchase of clothing, household furnishings and fuel & hydro deposits.

The maximum amount payable is \$799 for a single



recipient and \$1500 for a family. Generally, CSUB will only be paid once in a 12-month period. Some examples of situations in which CSUB would be paid include, moving from a hostel or institution to more permanent accommodation, moving because of family violence, uninhabitable or overcrowded accommodation, or moving to a place where the rent is lower than the current rent. Generally, if someone is moving from another city to Hamilton, the previous OntarioWorks' office should have provided the CSUB. If the person left because of family violence or health related matters the caseworker should consider granting CSUB and the person should not be expected to contact the previous OW office and make a request.

Requests for CSUB must be made in writing and receipts, estimates or landlord letters (confirming rent amount) must be provided, before the funds will be paid by the Ontario Works caseworker. In certain circumstances, there is a limited provision to pay CSUB within the 12-month period, as well as for rent arrears or overdue utilities.

IF A REQUEST FOR CSUB IS DENIED, IT CAN BE APPEALED. Further information about CSUB and the appeals procedure can be obtained by calling the local

legal clinic.

## Homelessness in Hamilton

### Responding to Community Needs

Local organizations in Hamilton will receive \$4 million in funding from the Government of Canada for projects to prevent and alleviate homelessness in the city. Hamilton West Member of Parliament, Stan Keyes made the announcement on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Salvation Army's Booth Centre. Noted Keyes, "No one government has all the answers, but we can, and must, act together to combat homelessness".

Hamilton's Community Legal Clinics have taken up this call of action in collaboration with the Solutions for Housing Action Committee (SHAC), the Housing Help Centre, S.I.S.O, SPRC and others. A proposal entitled "The Hamilton Tenant Education Project" was



approved for funding by the Community Advisory Board on Homelessness and the Federal Government. This comprehensive education, outreach and research initiative will provide low income and vulnerable tenants with the information to find and maintain affordable rental housing and prevent homelessness. Hamilton is currently facing a severely constrained rental housing market. The Community Action Plan on Homelessness recognized that a key component to solving the homelessness crisis is the retention and creation of more affordable housing. The report stated: "it is necessary to educate tenants of their rights under the Tenant Protection Act in order to prevent homelessness". Hugh Tye, Executive Director of Hamilton Mountain Legal & Community Services said "the Hamilton Tenant Education Project will work with individuals and groups to provide resources to 'at-risk' tenants in Hamilton. The Hamilton Tenant Education Project will run through March, 2003.

Community legal clinics welcome the participation of individuals and organisations who share their aims and objectives. We encourage you to become a member of the clinic in your area. Members are kept informed of clinic activities. Once a year an election is held to fill vacancies

on the boards of directors. Becoming a member of your local clinic is easy. Contact us! We look forward to hearing from you.

---