

EMPLOYMENT & VULNERABLE POPULATIONS: SUPPORTING CLIENTS

CONNECTING OTTAWA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 25 – NOVEMBER 8, 2022

TOOLS/RESOURCES FOR FRONTLINE WORKERS

<p>Connecting Ottawa (CO) Website: https://connectingottawa.com/</p> <p>Contact information: info@connectingottawa.com</p> <p>Catchment: Ottawa</p>	<p><i>Eligibility criteria: Frontline workers with clients belonging to target population (not proficient in English/French and/or has a sensory disability) in Ottawa. CO does not assist clients directly.</i></p> <p>CO develops the capacity of frontline workers to help address their clients' legal problems. Frontline workers with clients belonging to the target population can contact CO. No income eligibility criteria to meet.</p>
<p>Workers' Health and Safety Legal Clinic (WHSLC) Website: http://workers-safety.ca/</p> <p>Contact information: whslc@lao.on.ca 1-877-832-6090 or 416-971-8832</p> <p>Catchment: Ontario-wide</p>	<p><i>Eligibility criteria: Low income, non-unionized workers in Ontario. Follows Legal Aid Ontario's financial eligibility guidelines (see here under "Clinic services").</i></p> <p>WHSLC provides services in Human Rights Tribunal claims, claims of reprisal to the Ontario Labour Relations Board, some health and safety related Federal claims, representation at Small Claims or Superior Court for wrongful dismissal and constructive dismissal lawsuits, and representation at the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) for Return to Work and Occupational Disease claims.</p>
<p>Injured Workers Community Legal Clinic (IWC) Website: https://www.crwdp.ca/en/partners/injured-workers-community-legal-clinic-iwc</p> <p>Contact information: info@iwc.clcj.ca 1-833-461-2411 or 416-461-2411</p> <p>Catchment: Ontario-wide</p>	<p><i>Eligibility criteria: Low income, injured workers in Ontario. No financial eligibility criteria for legal advice, but follows Legal Aid Ontario's financial eligibility guidelines for representation (see here under "Clinic services").</i></p> <p>IWC provides legal services to injured workers on issues related to WSIB. IWC may also assist with related issues such as Canada Pension Plan disability appeals for a work-related injury or a human rights issue for discrimination in employment related to the work-related disability.</p>

For more information on Connecting Ottawa: <https://connectingottawa.com/>

<p>Industrial Accident Victims' Group of Ontario (IAVGO) Website: https://iavgo.org/</p> <p>Contact information: 1-877-230-6311 or 416-924-6477</p> <p>Catchment: Ontario-wide</p>	<p><i>Eligibility criteria: Injured workers and their families, and injured worker representatives in Ontario. No financial eligibility criteria for legal advice, but follows Legal Aid Ontario's financial eligibility guidelines (see here under "Clinic services"). Interpretation available.</i></p> <p>IAVGO assists injured workers and migrant workers with all aspects of their workers' compensation claims, including representation before the WSIB and the Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeal Tribunal.</p>
<p>Office of the Worker Adviser (OWA) Website: http://www.owa.gov.on.ca/en/Pages/default.aspx</p> <p>Contact information: owaweb@ontario.ca See list of offices and phone numbers here</p> <p>Catchment: Ontario-wide</p>	<p><i>Eligibility criteria: Non-unionized injured workers and their survivors in Ontario.</i></p> <p>OWA provides free services including legal advice and representation in workplace insurance matters and on occupational health and safety reprisal issues. OWA may represent workers or provide self-help information for workers to handle their own claims or applications where appropriate. Services are available in English or French.</p>
<p>Community Legal Services of Ottawa (CLSO) Website: https://www.clsottawa.ca/legal-topic/employment-and-work/</p> <p>Contact information: 613-733-0140 or 613-241-7008 or 613-596-1641</p> <p>Catchment: Ottawa</p>	<p><i>Eligibility: Individuals with social assistance as their main source of income, or those who meet Legal Aid Ontario's financial eligibility guidelines (see here under "Clinic services").</i></p> <p>CLSO gives legal advice on Employment Insurance (EI) benefits and represents clients denied these benefits or have their benefits suspended. CLSO also provides legal help for overpayments, workers' compensation benefits, and WSIB services.</p>
<p>Black Legal Action Centre (BLAC) Website: https://www.blacklegalactioncentre.ca/</p> <p>Contact information: 1-877-736-9406 or 416-597-5831</p> <p>Catchment: Ontario-wide</p>	<p><i>Eligibility criteria: Black Ontarian non-union workers who have been treated unfairly because of their race.</i></p> <p>BLAC provides legal services to non-union workers on employment standards, WSIB claims, and wrongful dismissal claims. BLAC may also act for group claims for employment standards matters and give summary advice for Small Claims matters relating to disputes over employment standards claims.</p>
<p>Sicotte Guilbault & EORC Community Legal Clinic Website: https://eorc-creo.ca/2021/10/new-legal-clinic-information/</p> <p>Contact information: legalaid@eorc-creo.ca or 613-741-6025</p> <p>Catchment: Ontario-wide</p>	<p><i>Eligibility criteria: Residents of Ontario. Employer must also be in Ontario.</i></p> <p>The Clinic provides free 30-minute sessions with a lawyer every first and third Wednesday of the month between 4pm and 7pm. Call or email to book an appointment. Virtual appointments are available.</p>

<p>Ottawa Pro Bono Employment Law Legal Clinic* *The Clinic is not currently operating</p> <p>Website: https://www.ottawalegalclinic.ca/</p>	<p><i>Eligibility criteria: Residents of Ontario who cannot afford a lawyer.</i></p> <p>The Clinic provided legal advice and assistance on issues such as unemployment, underemployment, workplace safety, workplace injuries, workplace violence/harassment, and discrimination/human rights.</p>
<p>Reach Canada Website: https://www.reach.ca/</p> <p>Contact information: lawyerreferral@reach.ca or 1-888-669-4001 or 613-236-6636</p> <p>Catchment: Ottawa and Champlain region</p>	<p><i>Eligibility: Individuals with any kind of disability.</i></p> <p>People with all disabilities can contact Reach about any legal issue and be referred to one of more than 200 lawyers, mediators, and paralegals in Reach's network. Clients who are referred to a legal professional may receive up to 3 hours of free, confidential, and personal legal services.</p>
<p>HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic (HALCO) Website: https://www.halco.org/</p> <p>Contact information: talklaw@halco.org 1-888-705-8889 or 416-340-7790</p> <p>Catchment: Ontario-wide</p>	<p><i>Eligibility: Anyone living with HIV/AIDS in Ontario. Contact HALCO for details on case and financial eligibility requirements for representation.</i></p> <p>HALCO provides summary legal advice and representation on employment standards and income security programs such as Ontario Works and EI.</p>
<p>ARCH Disability Law Centre Website: https://archdisabilitylaw.ca/</p> <p>Contact information: intake@arch.clcj.ca 1-866-482-2724 or 416-482-8255</p> <p>Catchment: Ontario-wide</p>	<p><i>Eligibility: Individuals with disabilities in Ontario. Follows Legal Aid Ontario's financial eligibility guidelines (see here under "Clinic services").</i></p> <p>ARCH provides free summary legal advice on accessibility laws, accommodation in the workplace, and discrimination and human rights. ARCH also provides referrals.</p>
<p>Ontario Legal Information Centre (OLIC) Website: https://legalinfocentre.ca/</p> <p>Contact information: 1-844-343-7462 or 613-842-7462</p> <p>Catchment: Ontario-wide</p>	<p><i>Eligibility: no eligibility criteria.</i></p> <p>OLIC offers a free 30-minute meeting with a lawyer to anyone with a legal issue in Ontario. OLIC can help clients understand their rights and obligations relating to an employment contract, employment insurance, overtime or leave, resignation or dismissal, or any other issue relating to non-unionized work in Ontario.</p>
<p>Human Rights Legal Support Centre (HRLSC) Website: https://www.hrlsc.on.ca/en/home</p> <p>Contact information: notices@hrlsc.on.ca 1-866-625-5179 or 416-597-4900</p> <p>Catchment: Ontario-wide</p>	<p><i>Eligibility: Find full eligibility criteria here.</i></p> <p>HRLSC provides legal advice and assistance to individuals who have experienced discrimination in Ontario and can assist in human rights-related employment issues involving rights under the <i>Human Rights Code</i>.</p>

<p>Pro Bono Ontario Free Hotline Website: https://www.probonoontario.org/work/ Contact information: 1-855-255-7256 Catchment: Ontario-wide</p>	<p><i>Eligibility: Non-unionized Ontario employees.</i></p> <p>Pro Bono Ontario operates a Free Legal Advice Hotline that provides up to 30 minutes of free legal advice on a range of employment legal issues. Pro Bono Ontario also has a separate hotline for victims of workplace sexual harassment (1-855-776-1855).</p>
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Other Resources to Help Find an Employment Lawyer

<p>Law Society Referral Service (LSRS) Website: https://lsrs.iso.ca/lsrs/welcome Contact information: Contact LSRS through the website or email lsrs@iso.ca for urgent matters</p> <p>LSRS provides referrals to lawyers or paralegals who work in the area of law at issue for a free 30-minute consultation.</p>	<p>Ontario Lawyer and Paralegal Directory Website: https://iso.ca/public-resources/finding-a-lawyer-or-paralegal/lawyer-and-paralegal-directory</p> <p>Clients can search for an employment lawyer or paralegal by using this online directory and filtering their search by location and language, if needed.</p>
<p>JusticeNet Website: https://www.justicenet.ca/</p> <p>Clients whose incomes are too high to access legal aid but too low to afford standard legal fees can search for a legal professional who can provide services for a reduced fee on this website.</p> <p>There is a modest registration fee of \$25 + HST to register for this service.</p>	<p>Legal Aid Ontario Legal Clinics Website: https://www.legalaid.on.ca/services/legal-clinics/</p> <p>This webpage provides a list of legal clinics across Ontario. Clients can find a legal clinic in their area to ask if the legal clinic provides employment law help.</p>

Online Resources on Employment Law

- [Steps to Justice: Common Employment Legal Issues Q&A](#)
- [Employment and Work Archives - CLEO Connect](#)
- [Workers' Action Centre: 3 Things You Can Do to Protect Yourself at Work](#)
- [Resources - Caregivers Action Centre](#)
- [Ontario: Filing a Claim | Your Guide to the Employment Standards Act \(Ontario Ministry of Labour Claims for either *Employment Standards Act* or *Employment Protection for Foreign Nationals Act*\)](#)
- [List of Federally Regulated Industries and Workplaces](#)
- [Welcome | Sexual Harassment and Assault Resource Exchange \(hrlsc.on.ca\)](#)

If you're having a problem with your employer and you have a **union**:

- talk to your union representative
- check your **collective agreement**

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