

Connecting Ottawa Communiqué April 20, 2022

We are pleased to provide this information for front-line workers to support the information and referral needs of clients. Education sessions that may be of interest to workers are listed first followed by information and updates on services and programs relevant to clients who have a communication barrier due to language or sensory disability. Please feel free to share this email widely among your networks.

Upcoming Connecting Ottawa education sessions:

Landlord and Tenant Board forms for front line workers - An In-depth Look at N6 - April 26

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 (in conjunction with Reach Canada)

Time: 11:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon

Speaker: Sylvia Chapman, CLSO

Via

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82309653888?pwd=STZmejYyQ2J2ZGFPVDBGUIJzWUZ1UT09>

Meeting ID: 823 0965 3888

Passcode: 795953

Reviewing the form together in detail, including what to look for in the forms and answering all of your N6 related questions.

Tips for supporting a client who has an LTB hearing - May 19

Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2022 (in conjunction with Reach Canada)

Time: 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: Melissa Bramson, CLSO

Via zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88603377804?pwd=Qm5wdzF4c0U1Ry9kUVNiQ0016VXJZdz09>

Meeting ID: 886 0337 7804

Passcode: 741495

This session will discuss the LTB online hearing process and how front-line workers can support clients, including clients with disabilities, with the process.

Emergency benefits for Ukrainian arrivals

The Ministry of Community and Social Services has advised that the Ontario Works regulations have been amended to allow Ukrainian migrants who have been granted an emergency authorization to enter and remain in Canada for humanitarian reasons to apply for emergency assistance, effective immediately. Applicants will need to show confirmation that they are in Ontario under the new federal immigration stream for people fleeing Ukraine – the [Canada-](#)

[Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel \[CUAET\]](#). Qualifying applicants should be issued a manual drug card in addition to other benefits available.

Information on acquiring OHIP for Ukrainians

[Ukrainian Settlement Helpers Ottawa](#) have developed a document to assist CUAET arrivals to acquire OHIP. The document is based on feedback received from settlement workers, conversations with Service Ontario agents, and hosts and new arrivals experiences. The document is available in EN/FR/Ukrainian and can be accessed here:

<https://connectingottawa.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/ohip-coverage-under-cuaet-guide-2022-04-19.pdf>

Plain language glossary of legal terms

Laws that set out whether individuals have a right to benefits are very technical, and the words used to explain processes and decisions can be complicated. As part of their plain language initiative, the Social Services Tribunal has put together a glossary, to explain what these complicated legal terms mean. To access the glossary, visit: <https://sst-tss.gc.ca/en/our-work-our-people/glossary>

Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) payments

As of April 1, 2022, the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative [CHPI], Home for Good [HFG], and the Strong Communities Rent Supplement [SCRSP] have been merged into a single program to deliver housing supports, called the Homelessness Prevention Program [HPP]. For background, see [Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing news release](#) (7 March 2022). The Ministry of Community and Social Services issued a policy memorandum confirming that HPP payments will continue to be treated in the same way that they would have been treated prior to consolidation of these programs. Since income exemptions applied to payments under each of the three original programs (CHPI, HRG and SCRSP) for social assistance purposes, and there has been no change to the eligibility requirements or the types of payments provided, comparable HPP payments are to be exempt as income as well.

Payments made in error under COVID one-time payment to persons with disabilities

In July 2020, the Government of Canada announced that a one-time payment would be issued to approximately 1.75 million Canadians with disabilities who were recipients of any of the following programs or benefits: Disability Tax Credit certificate provided by the Canada Revenue Agency, Canada Pension Plan disability benefits or Quebec Pension Plan disability benefits, and disability supports provided by Veterans Affairs Canada. The one-time payment to persons with disabilities was issued in three installments, from October 2020 until April 2021. At the time the first payment was issued in October 2020, an administrative error was discovered whereby seniors with disabilities received an amount in excess of the \$600 one-time payment. Since the money paid in excess was due to an administrative error, the Government of Canada has decided not to collect these overpayments and will instead cancel this debt.

Interim Federal Health Program

It may be confusing to determine who is eligible for the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) which provides health coverage to individuals such as refugee claimants, pre-removal risk assessment applicants, and individuals denied refugee status who have not yet left Canada. Please see this helpful sheet from the Canadian Council for Refugees reviewing who is and is not eligible for the

IFHP:

English <https://connectingottawa.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/IFHP-Flow-Chart-external-internal-partners-2018-EN.pdf>

French: <https://connectingottawa.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/IFHP-Flow-Chart-external-internal-partners-2018-FR.pdf>

Tips for completing immigration forms

Many times, an application is returned by Immigration Refugees And Citizenship Canada because an applicant or someone assisting them made a minor error. IRCC is more and more picky about forms. Here are a few of our many tips for ensuring that forms are completed correctly:

- If a question does not apply, always write N/A for not applicable. Never leave a question blank or IRCC will assume you missed it.
- Be sure to review the rules for correctly signing and dating all forms. Different forms have different rules. Some forms require a typed signature while others require a hand-written one.
- When completing information concerning an individual's personal history or past addresses, be sure not to leave any gaps in time or the form may be returned.
- Be sure to very carefully review and answer any questions concerning past arrests, detentions, denied visa applications or prior requests for status in other countries. Failure to correctly answer such a question can lead to a finding of misrepresentation if information is accidentally omitted.

If you have any questions while completing immigration forms, please contact info@connectingottawa.com and we will be happy to assist.

ProBono Ontario Extended Hours

ProBono Ontario (PBO) has extended their legal advice hotline hours. The hotline now generally accepts calls Monday to Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. In person services have not yet resumed. To view available services from PBO, visit:

<https://www.probonoontario.org/hotline/>

New Digital Disability Determination Package expanded to more users

The Ministry of Community and Social Services initially piloted the “DDDP” with a small group of about 70 health-care providers, beginning in November 2021. As of April 7, 2022, it is available to all physicians and nurse practitioners who have an OHIP billing number and a GO Secure account, as well as any delegates or designates acting on their behalf. Access to the DDDP is through a secure Ministry of Health portal called the Special Authorization Digital

Information Exchange (SADIE). Use of the DDDP allows physicians and nurse practitioners to digitally complete and submit an applicant's Health Status Report and Activities of Daily Living Report without the need to mail or fax to the Disability Adjudication Unit. An applicant must still complete and sign the paper Consent to Release Medical Information form and optional Self Report, but health-care providers using the DDDP may scan and submit them on the applicant's behalf. The paper version of the DDP continues to be available to all applicants and health care providers.

Justice for Children and Youth

Justice for Children and Youth (JFCY) is a legal clinic that provides legal advice and other legal services to:

- young people under 18 in Ontario,
- homeless youth under 25 in Ontario through its Street Youth Legal Services program, and
- youth under 25 in Ontario who entered Canada when they were under 18 and have precarious immigration status, through its Childhood Arrivals Support and Advocacy (CASA) program.

JFCY's lawyers are experts in numerous areas of law that impact children and youth; this includes youth criminal justice, health and mental healthcare, education access and discipline matters, privacy issues, and much more. For legal information, visit our Legal Wiki at www.jfcy.org.

If you have questions about your legal rights as a young person, or as an adult supporting a young person, please call JFCY's intake line to arrange a phone call with one of our legal team members: 1-866-999-5329 (JFCY) or 416-920-1633

Seminar: Registered Disability Savings Plan and Canada Disability Savings Grant and Bond

Date: April 28, 2022: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Presented by: Reach Canada

Join Reach Canada for an educational session on the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) and the Canada Disability Savings Grant and Bond. This session will cover the differences between the RDSP, Canada Disability Savings Grant and Bond, as well as what you and your loved ones need to know regarding eligibility and application processes. Additional information regarding the Canada Disability Savings Program can be found at www.canada.ca/RDSP.

Register at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ocemrrjsjHtHiXnpuaP3XxxGFvsiWBaMz>

Hoarding Conference

[Reach Canada](#) will be hosting the "Reach 2022 Hoarding Conference: Increasing Awareness, Legal Challenges and Community Collaboration Presented by Meridian Credit Union". The conference aims to increase awareness of hoarding, provide practical tips and resources to support those experiencing hoarding behaviors, address legal challenges related to hoarding, and improve community collaboration around these difficult situations. This event is a three-part conference series being held virtually on May 10, June 1, and June 15. For more details, please visit [Reach 2022 Hoarding Conference: Increasing Awareness, Legal Challenges and Community Collaboration Presented by Meridian Credit Union](#)

Upcoming CLEO Connect: Lunch and Learn Series

Virtual LTB Hearings, April 28th, 12 - 12:45 p.m.

Speaker: Claire Littleton, Lawyer, Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic

The online hearing process can be intimidating and overwhelming for tenants. In this Lunch and Learn we will demystify the online hearing process and let you know what to expect and how to support your clients so that they can participate as fully as possible. We will discuss how to access Tenant Duty Counsel and mediation services online and options for how to request alternatives to the online hearing process.

Register at:

<https://outreach.cleo.on.ca/civicrm/?civiwp=CiviCRM&q=civicrm%2Fevent%2Finfo&reset=1&id=310>

Understanding the Eviction Process, May 12th, 12-12:45pm

Speaker: Tracey Lasook, Community Legal Worker/Licensed Paralegal, Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic

Many tenants vacate their rental units upon receiving a Notice of Termination when in fact this is just the first step in the eviction process. In this Lunch and Learn we will provide a brief overview of the eviction process and examine common errors in eviction notices. This webinar provides community workers with information they need to help prevent tenants from being evicted prematurely and possibly at all.

Register at:

<https://outreach.cleo.on.ca/civicrm/?civiwp=CiviCRM&q=civicrm%2Fevent%2Finfo&reset=1&id=311>

CLEO Atelier: Immigration et aide sociale

Mardi 26 avril 2022, de 14h00 à 15h30

Conférencière: Élane Simon, avocate spécialisée en droit de l'immigration et des réfugiés aux Services juridiques communautaires d'Ottawa.

La présentation discutera de la façon dont le statut d'immigration affecte l'admissibilité à l'aide sociale (Ontario au travail) et aux prestations du Programme ontarien de soutien aux personnes handicapées (POSPH). Elle couvrira également les impacts sur les demandes d'immigration lorsque vous recevez l'aide sociale. Enfin, nous parlerons de ce qui peut être fait lorsqu'une personne se voit refuser l'aide sociale en raison de son statut d'immigration.

Inscription:

<https://outreach.cleo.on.ca/fr/civicrm/?civiwp=CiviCRM&q=civicrm%2Fevent%2Fregister&reset=1&id=309>

OCDSB summer school registration for grades 9-12 is now open

Summer School is an option for students who wish to complete an additional credit or who may need to upgrade a mark during the summer. Offerings include Reach Ahead, eLearning, Co-op and more (available on a first-come, first-served basis). Register by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 28th, and [visit the OCDSB website](#) to learn more.

OCDSB's draft policy on student exclusions

The OCDSB is seeking input on the proposed new [Policy P.144.SCO](#) on Student Exclusions. This policy would provide guidance on the authority of school principals to exclude a student from school due to safety

concerns. Exclusions are non-disciplinary and are used to mitigate risk to student safety in schools. A policy is being developed to ensure consistent standards of practice in schools. Members of the public are welcome to submit their feedback on the policy up until May 27th, 2022 by emailing exclusionpolicy@ocdsb.ca. More information is available [on the OCDSB website](#).

Helping with Furniture

Helping With Furniture (HWF) is an award-winning registered charity that provides gently-used furniture and household goods, refurbished bicycles and laptops to families and individuals in distress, to help them start new lives in Ottawa. For more than 15 years, HWF has been helping newcomers to Canada, mainly refugee claimants who seek refuge from conflicts, natural disasters and other difficult circumstances. Reflecting shifts in the Ottawa community, HWF now also assists people fleeing domestic violence, relocating after house fires, struggling with mental illness or at risk of homelessness. HWF only works with agencies or sponsors and does not accept direct requests from families or individuals. Information on how to request HWF's assistance is available at: <https://www.hwfottawa.org/eng/about-us>

Connect with us ...

Connecting Ottawa is available to support front-line workers in Ottawa to provide appropriate legal information and referrals to clients with communication barriers as a result of language or sensory disability. If you have a question or require a consultation, please send it to info@connectingottawa.com along with an Intake Form: <https://connectingottawa.com/request-for-information-consultation/>. This will ensure the most efficient response to your request. As a reminder, we do not provide direct legal services to individuals

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Please be advised that my standard hours of work are Monday to Thursday, 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

The information contained in this correspondence is provided solely for informational purposes. This information is not intended to substitute for professional legal advice or opinion and accessing this information or communicating with a lawyer at Connecting Ottawa by way of email or phone, does not create a lawyer-client relationship.