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# Neighbourhood Legal Services

*Serving the Community Since 1973*

## “Legally Speaking” Accessing the Legal System

Phone: (416) 861-0677

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Volume 11 Issue 1

Spring/Summer 2009

### NLS 35th Anniversary Celebration

On March 10th, 2009 Neighbourhood Legal Services hosted its 35th Anniversary Celebration. And NLS sure had a lot to celebrate ... 35 years of providing legal service to our low-income communities who face multiple challenges in their everyday lives. The theme for this celebration was “Partnering for Successful Outcomes” because the work of NLS cannot be and has never been done alone. We have always relied on many partners to fulfill our mandate.

NLS relies on partnerships with our funders, from the offices of the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Aid Ontario, as well as our partnerships with our local M.P., Bob Rae, M.P.P., George Smitherman and Councillor, Pam McConnell. Very importantly, we rely on our partnerships with other local community service providers who step in to assist our clients with housing, access to social services and health and mental health supports. Most of all we rely on our partnerships with our clients whose strength and resilience remind us everyday why the work of the legal clinic system is so important.

Those in attendance were pleased to hear congratulations expressed by George Smitherman, not only an MPP but a resident of the community who has been a tireless champion of improving access to services for people frequently marginalized. His donation of \$250 to NLS was divided between the NLS Scholarship Fund and Pathways to Education, a grants project which supports local students in their pursuit of higher education.

We also heard from Arlene Perly Rae, on behalf of Bob Rae our local MP, who individually and together, have been constant in their commitment to social justice both locally and abroad. Melliha Wilson expressed warm wishes and support from Chris Bentley, Minister of the Attorney General, who has long acknowledged the Ontario Legal Aid system as world-renowned.

Representatives from Legal Aid Ontario included John McCamus, Chair of the Board of LAO, whose work on the McCamus Report set the framework for our current system of publicly funded high quality legal aid services in Ontario,

and Rob Buchanan, V.P. of the GTA Legal Aid Ontario. Joining in the congratulations were messages from Mayor David Miller and City Councillor, Pam McConnell expressing support and congratulations to NLS for the outstanding contributions to the community.

The Regent Park School of Music provided some wonderful performances from two very talented and aspiring young musicians; a tribute to the success of that local program. The evening also included awards from NLS to some of our most significant community partners over the years—Irene Ryner at Central Neighbourhood House, Ambaro Guled at Regent Park Community Health Centre, Mike Yale and Nancy Vander Plaats the co-chairs of the ODSP Action Coalition, Lana Frado at Sound Times, Laura Cowan at Street Health, Florence Gruer at Salvation Army Immigrant & Refugee Services, and Alex Lee at TCHC. In addition, NLS had the privilege of awarding scholarships to two outstanding young students from our community who had demonstrated not only their academic achievements but their commitments to social justice. Our evening ended with words from Pathways to Education spokesperson, Lana Rozitis, and we are happy to report that our evening fundraiser enabled us to contribute \$450 to this very worthwhile program.

In conclusion, I would like to thank members of the Board, both past and present, who have contributed their time and energy over they years to the work of the clinic. On behalf of the Board I would particularly like to thank the staff of NLS who support their clients to navigate a complex legal system with so much skill and compassion.

Shirley Roberts  
Chair, NLS Board of Directors



# *NLS 35th Anniversary*

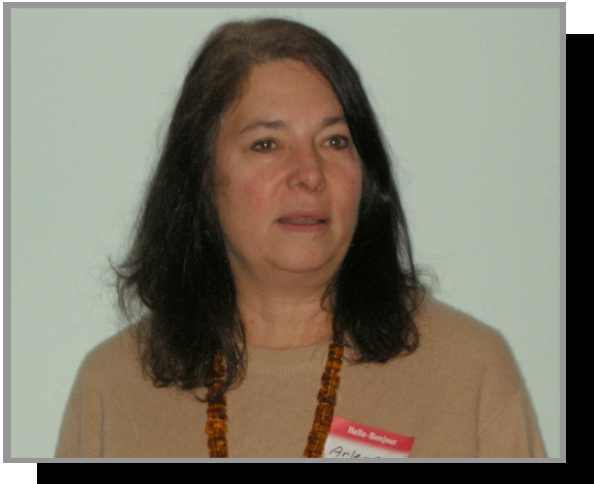
## *“Celebrating our Successful Partnerships”*



*NLS Board Chair Shirley Roberts (right) with George Smitherman, MPP (left)*



*Malliha Wilson, Assistant Deputy Attorney General MAG and Legal Aid Ontario Board Chair, John McCamus*



*Arlene Pearly Rae, on behalf of Bob Rae, MP*



*Rob Buchanan, V.P. GTA Legal Aid Ontario*



*NLS Board Member, Naomi Berlyne with Scholarship Award winner, La Rose Betoukoumessou*



*NLS Board Secretary, Ed Montigny with Scholarship Award winner Mohammed Kahn*



## NEIGHBOURHOOD LEGAL SERVICES

333 Queen Street East  
(near Parliament St.)

Phone (416) 861-0677

Fax (416) 861-1777

### WHAT WE DO

We provide free legal help to people with low incomes who live in our community. We also provide legal education and training for agencies. Call for more information.

The boundaries of our community are Yonge Street, Bloor Street, the Don Valley, and Lakeshore.

We provide advice in these areas:

- Tenants' rights
- Ontario Works & the Ontario Disability Support Program
- Canada Pension & Old Age Security
- Employment Insurance & Employment Standards
- Immigration
- Commissioning Documents

### ADVICE LAWYERS

Dixon Hall (416) 863-0499  
58 Sumach Street

#### *Criminal Law Duty Counsel*

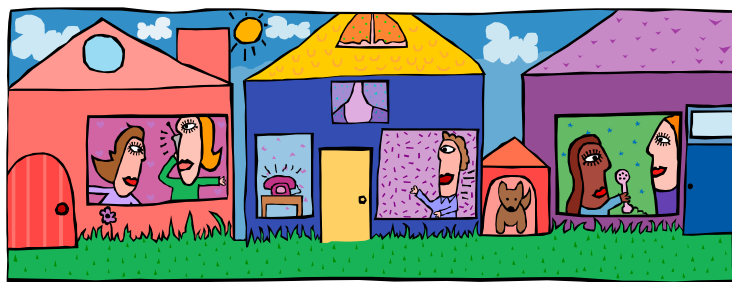
Old City Hall Court House  
60 Queen Street West, Room 162

College Park Court House (416) 325-8910  
444 Yonge Street, 2nd Floor

*Family Law Advice* (416) 963-0684  
311 Jarvis Street

*Landlord & Tenant Board  
Duty Counsel* 1-888-332-3234  
79 St. Clair Avenue East

Information OW & ODSP Appeals  
Social Benefits Tribunal (416) 326-0978



### CLINIC HOURS OF SERVICE

Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri 10:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Tues 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Landlord & Tenant Drop-In:  
Mon & Thurs 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Social Assistance Drop-In:  
Wed 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Housing Affidavits  
(call in advance—cut off for information is  
Friday before 5:00 pm)  
Tuesday 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Other Affidavits & Notarizing  
(call in advance—cut off for information is  
Friday before 5:00 pm)  
Thurs 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

### LEGAL AID ASSISTANCE

Legal Aid Office (416) 598-0200  
Atrium on Bay  
20 Dundas Street West, Suite 201  
(Apply for Legal Aid Certificate for criminal, family,  
immigration and civil law)

Refugee Law Office (416) 977-8111  
Atrium on Bay  
20 Dundas Street West, Suite 201  
Suite 603

Family Law Office (416) 348-0001  
Atrium on Bay  
20 Dundas Street West, Suite 201

Other:  
Lawyer Referral Service (416) 947-3330  
(\$6.00 charge on your phone bill  
and free half hour consultation)