



# Waterloo Region Community Legal Services

EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE



# INTRODUCTIONS



**Shannon Down**  
**Lawyer and Executive Director**



Funded by Legal Aid Ontario



76 CLCs across the province



A non-profit governed by a Board of Directors composed of community folks.



Every community is serviced by a clinic.



17 specialty clinics in Toronto who each focus on a specific issue



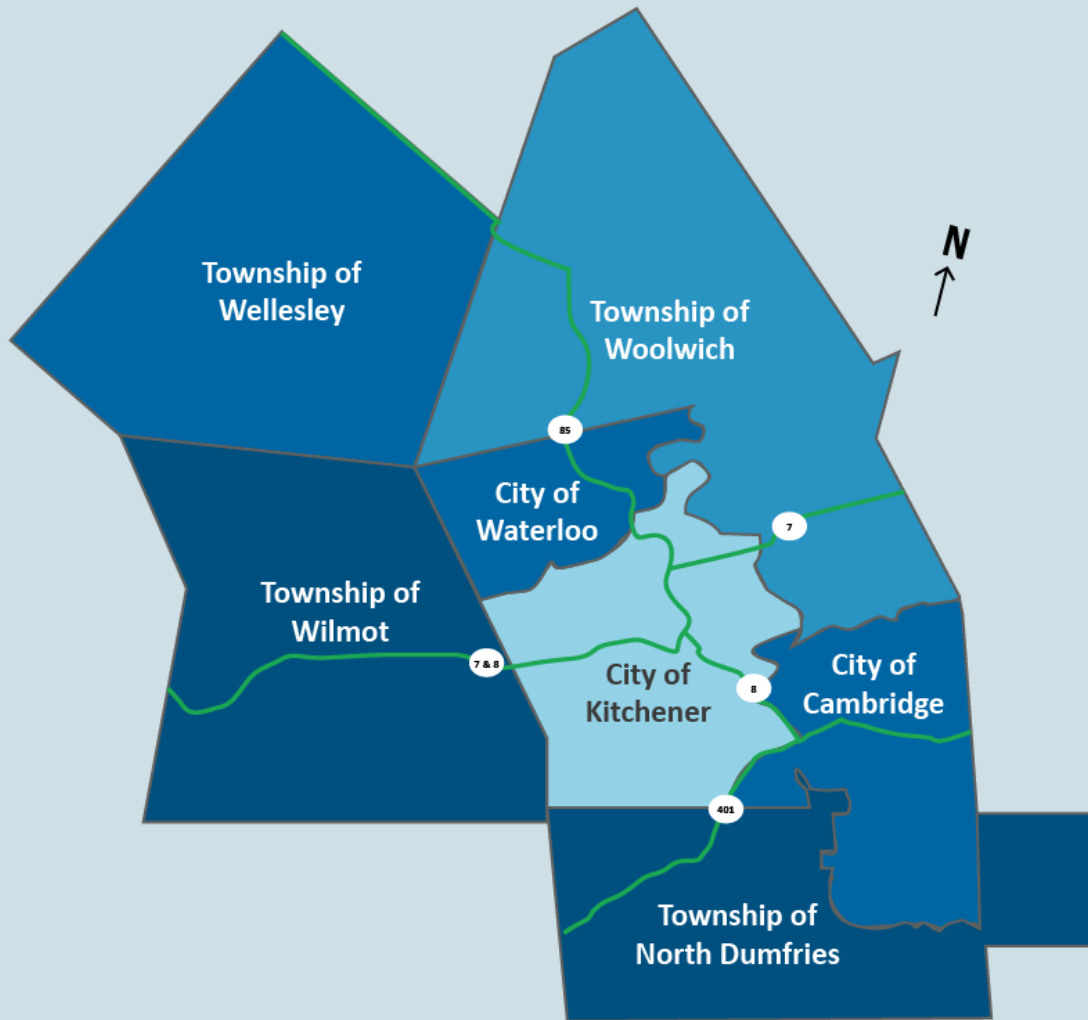
Each Clinic offers a basic service of two areas of law – income support and residential tenancies



Our team: 7 lawyers, 3 paralegals, 2 social workers, 2 community development workers, and 3 office admins

# WHAT IS A COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINIC?





# CATCHMENT AREA



# Waterloo Region Community Legal Services



We offer free interpretation in any language as needed.



We provide services to low-income individuals and Families who meet the financial eligibility.

 **CONTACT US**

Call Us:  
(519)743-0254

or

Website Contact Form:  
[www.wrcls.ca](http://www.wrcls.ca)



# FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY

- Automatically qualify if income source is following:
  - OW
  - ODSP
  - OAS with GIS
  - War Veterans Allowance
  - CPP-D
  - CPP (Where CPP is sole income source)
  - WSIB, where temporary or threatened



# FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY

Family unit size for entity services	Liquid asset value limit for entity services
Individual	\$ 8,933
Family unit of 2 or more	\$11,910

Family unit size for entity services	Gross annual income
1	\$22,720
2	\$32,131
3	\$39,352
4	\$45,440
5 or more	\$50,803



# OUR LAWYERS CAN PROVIDE

- **Legal information**



- E.g. you want to know if your landlord is responsible for repairs

- **Legal support or advice**



- E.g. you receive an eviction notice from your landlord for being in arrears and want to organize next steps

- **Legal Representation (income tested needed for this service)**

- E.g. You are going to the Housing Tribunal and require legal representation



# LEGAL AREAS

- **Housing (Tenancy Issues)**
- **OW/ODSP (appeals to the SBT)**
- **CPP-D (applications and appeals)**
- **Employment Law & Employment Insurance**
- **Immigration & Citizenship**
- **Debt & Consumer Protection**
- **Name Change & Gender Marker Change**
- **Indigenous Justice Program**
- **Notarization and Commissioning of documents**
- **Public Legal Education**



**Ahwenehaode**  
INDIGENOUS JUSTICE PROGRAM

# HOUSING LAW

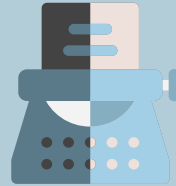
- Arrears
- Eviction notices
- Repairs and maintenance
- Unlawful entry
- Illegal increase of rent
- WRCLS only represents tenants



# INCOME SUPPORT/ SOCIAL ASSISTANCE



Issues  
with OW



Appeals  
to ODSP



CPP-D  
Appeals

# EMPLOYMENT LAW

- Unlawful dismissal (Wrongful termination)
- Unpaid hours
- Human Rights
- Discrimination
- Hours and rates of pay
- Harassment in the workplace



# IMMIGRATION LAW

- Humanitarian applications
- Advice on whether to make a refugee claim (refugee claims in rare cases)
- Admissibility
- Family sponsorship
- One year window applications
- Temporary Residence Permits
- Migrant workers



**Questions?**



# THANK YOU!



Waterloo Region  
Community Legal Services

**Shannon K. Down** B.A. LL.B. (she/her)

Executive Director

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Waterloo Region Community Legal Services acknowledges with gratitude and respect that our work takes place on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee & Chonnonton Peoples. We are thankful to the First Nations, Metis & Inuit people who have cared for this land historically and presently.