



# FLEMINGDON COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES

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SPRING 2010

This Newsletter provides information about Flemingdon Community Legal Services and issues of interest to our community. For specific legal advice, please consult the Clinic or a Legal Advisor.

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## FLEMINGDON COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES

INVITES YOU TO OUR

### 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010*

**BUSINESS MEETING (voting members only) at 6:30 pm**

**GUEST SPEAKERS AND SOCIAL (open to all) at 7 pm**

**Topic: Representatives from**

### CAPO

**(Canadian Association of Pakistan Origin)**

**Our AGM will be held at:**

THORNCLIFFE NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICE

#### YOUTH CENTRE

EAST YORK TOWN CENTRE

45 OVERLEA BLVD. SUITE 108A

(Entrance behind the mall – south side,  
next to Ontario Early Years Centre)

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

**RSVP** by May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010

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**We look forward to seeing you**



**NOTICE OF BYLAW  
AMENDMENTS**

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO  
THE MEMBERS IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS  
OF THE FLEMINGDON  
COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES

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Please be advised that the Board of Directors of Flemingdon Community Legal Services has by resolution approved the following revision to the bylaws:

**(H) COMMITTEES OF THE  
BOARD**

**Repeal**

1. The Board shall establish standing committees consisting of at least the following:

- a) Executive Committee
- b) Finance Committee
- c) Personnel Committee
- d) Community Services Committee

**Insert**

1. The Board shall establish standing committees consisting of at least the following:

- a) Executive Committee
- b) Corporate Resources Committee
- c) Community Services Committee

**Repeal**

3. The Chair of each standing committee shall be a Board member. The Chair of the Finance Committee shall be the Treasurer.

The members of the other standing committees shall elect the Chair of their committee following the Annual meeting and from time to time as required.

**Insert**

**3. The Chair of each standing committee shall be a Board member. The Chair of the Corporate Resources Committee shall be the Treasurer. The members of the other standing committees shall elect the Chair of their committee following the Annual meeting and from time to time as required.**

**Repeal**

5. The Executive Committee shall be elected by the Board from among its voting members and shall be comprised of the officers of the Board as set out in the Constitution and Bylaws and the chairs of the Personnel and Community Services Committees. The Board shall approve the terms of reference for each committee.

**Insert**

**5. The Executive Committee shall be elected by the Board from among its voting members and shall be comprised of the officers of the Board as set out in the Constitution and Bylaws and the chair of the Community Services Committee. The Board shall approve the terms of reference for each committee.**

**(I) OFFICERS**

**Repeal**

4. The duties of the Treasurer shall be:

- a) to chair the Finance Committee;
- b) to account for the funds of the organization and ensure that necessary accounts are maintained;
- c) to oversee the preparation of budgets and financial statements and ensure that they are brought to the Board's attention at appropriate times and submitted to any funding bodies as required; and
- d) to perform such other duties as the Board or Executive Committee may recommend from time to time.

**Insert**

**4. The duties of the Treasurer shall be:**

- a) to chair the Corporate Resources Committee**
- b) to account for the funds of the organization and ensure that necessary accounts are maintained;**
- c) to oversee the preparation of budgets and financial statements and ensure that they are brought to the Board's attention at appropriate times and submitted to any funding bodies as required; and**
- d) to perform such other duties as the Board or Executive Committee may recommend from time to time.**

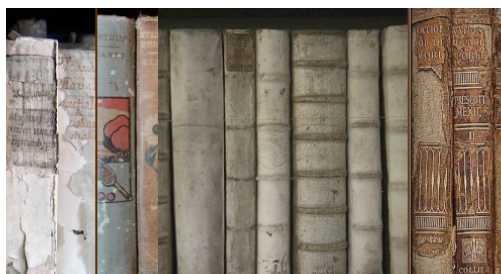
THESE REVISIONS TO THE BYLAWS WILL BE VOTED ON BY THE MEMBERS AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY MAY 20, 2010 AT 6:30 PM AT THE TNO YOUTH CENTRE

*Dated at Toronto this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 2010*

**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PAKISTAN ORIGIN (CAPO)**

As you will have noticed on your invitation, this group will have representatives speaking at our AGM. CAPO was founded by and for members of the Pakistan community. “The purpose is to inform, educate, motivate and connect. We will work to connect our community with the mainstream through networking, awareness of Canadian systems and resources.” In addition, CAPO will educate the Pakistan community “about ways and means to grow socially and economically in the Canadian society.” Among other things, this organization seeks ways, not to duplicate what the mainstream offers in terms of services and resources, but rather to complement what exists and work with the mainstream to fill any identified gaps in service. In this regard, this organization could prove to be a model for others to follow.

CAPO has a highly motivated and committed leadership and we look forward to hearing them speak about their current status and future plans. Please join us and show some support for this recently formed organization.



**CHANGES TO LEGAL AID ONTARIO**

There have been a number of major changes occurring at Legal Aid Ontario over the past year. Some affect the clinic system and some deal with the area offices which provide the legal aid certificates to allow you to hire a private lawyer.

On the clinic side we are now dealing with a brand new funding application. It comes with new criteria, more demands for performance measurement targets and more emphasis on clinics collaborating within the legal aid system and with other community agencies. The three separate clinics in Hamilton are now amalgamated into one large entity. The two clinics in northwestern

Ontario have also amalgamated. Many of the clinics outside of Toronto share space with their area office counterparts.

On the area office side many of the smaller offices have been dismantled and clients must rely on internet access, telephone access or travel long distances to a regional area office. For instance Barrie is now the regional centre for clients to the north of the GTA. Within Toronto there is a movement to have the area offices become more specialized centres. For example the North York Area Office at Sheppard and Yonge is now a family law specialized centre offering a variety of services, with special emphasis on services to those in domestic violence situations. Paralegals there will be available for document preparation

services and there are mediation/ settlement conference facilities. In Newmarket the area office is also transforming from a client intake office to a family law service centre while duty counsel services at the Newmarket criminal courthouse are being expanded.

We anticipate further changes in the Legal Aid Ontario system for this year. The changes could encompass more collaborative measures but also could lead to clinic amalgamations and more emphasis on use of province wide telephone advice services and the LAO website as a resource point for legal information.

Change is certainly the mantra of Legal Aid Ontario at this point in time.

**LEGAL BITS AND PIECES**

- As of January 01, 2010, the new maximum limit for claims in Small Claims Court increased from \$10,000 to \$25,000. This is a substantial increase. As the maximum monetary claims at the Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB) were the same as the Small Claims Court (\$10,000), the increase at the Small Claims Court means that the maximum claim at the LTB is now also \$25,000.
- If a tenant requires a property standards inspector to appear at the Landlord and Tenant Board as a witness, there is no longer a witness fee required for the inspector to appear before the Board.
- For those who use the Law Society's Lawyer Referral Service (LRS), you will note that 2 new changes have been made to the service. As of January, 2010, the \$6.00 administrative charge that was added to the phone bill when someone called the LRS is no longer being charged to callers. There is now no charge for this service. In addition the 900 number which has been used for some time, has now been changed to a toll free number: 1-800-668-7860. It is still the case that you can call this service for up to 30 minutes of legal advice for free.

**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH**

Flemingdon Community Legal Services Board and Staff wish to recognize our volunteers for 2009-2010 who provide such a necessary service for our staff and community. We extend our thanks to our office administration Ejona Qylafi, Tina Lamce, Shanequa Patterson, and Ferjana Jerin; to our Pro Bono Law Students Oana Chivaran, Doris Birk, Jennifer Lynch, Jackie Allen, Nicole Guthrie, Morgan Sim, Rachel Jansen and Christine Doucet. Thursday afternoon document service is staffed with Private Bar lawyers who graciously donate their time and we thank Jonathan Bliss, Silvia Valdman, Timothy Leach, Mbuso Nkosi, Mark Winter and Peter Haber.

**THANK YOU TO DEPARTING BOARD MEMBERS**

It is with regret that we say farewell to two of our Board members at the AGM this May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Both Martin Sweeny and Shemin Shivji will have completed six years of continuous representation on our Board of Directors. According to our bylaws after six years a Board member must step down to allow someone new to have the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors.

Martin Sweeny has represented the Don Mills area of our catchment area until

very recently when he moved to the southwest portion of our catchment area. During his time on the Board he served as Chair of our Community Services Committee. He was instrumental in the drafting of our Advocacy Policy as well as assisting with other policies and as a volunteer at a number of community events. He attended many additional meetings such as the AGM for the Association of Community Legal Clinics of Ontario.

Shemin has had two terms of service on our Board of Directors [1990 to 1996 and 2004 to 2010. Shemin served

as Secretary of the Board from 1991-1992 and again from 2006-2007. She served on a number of sub committees including Personnel and Finance. Shemin has been very active in her faith community and as well holds positions of leadership with the Girl Guide organization.

The Staff and Board of Directors of FCLS want to express our appreciation to both Martin and Shemin for their years of dedicated service to our legal clinic. They will be greatly missed. We wish them health and happiness in their future endeavours.