



Community Advocacy & Legal Centre



INVITATION to an INSPIRING “Justice Innovation” EVENT

October 29, 2015

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 pm

We invite you to come and explore and strategize with us how we can work with justice partners and libraries to help to bring access to justice to rural and remote communities.



Who is invited?

We are looking for people who belong to one of the following groups to join us in Toronto for a creative and generative conversation, enabled by experienced facilitators:

- Public libraries
- Courthouse libraries
- Law libraries
- Masters in Library Science
- Law Associations
- Community legal clinics
- Law school student clinics
- Legal Aid Ontario
- Law Society of Upper Canada
- Other justice partners

The challenge:

People in your community need new access points to legal information about common legal problems and access to legal help. What role can public libraries, their staff and their volunteers, County Law Associations, Court House librarians and law school librarians, play in creating new pathways for people to “access justice”? How can community-based legal clinics work together with you most effectively in justice innovation partnerships?

The context:

As people who work on the front lines in rural and remote communities, we are aware of the challenges faced by people in our communities who need legal information and services. Recent research has confirmed what our experience tells us: that we must build networks of people who care and that can help connect people who need help to the right resources. Lack of legal awareness and low legal literacy is becoming a significant barrier to social inclusion in a world that is “thick with law.” Let’s work together to change that!

Recent legal needs studies by community legal clinics in Ontario call for new partnerships to help reach marginalized and rural and remote populations – and specifically suggested library staff as important allies!

We are inviting people who care about making a difference in their rural and remote communities to join us in Toronto on Thursday, October 29 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. for a stimulating information-sharing, brainstorming, and design session.

Please join us for a day-long “justice innovation” event that hopes to accomplish the following:

- Raise awareness about the prevalence of common legal problems with significant impacts if left unresolved, and the importance of “early intervention.”
- Learn about the need for credible and plain language legal information caused by a growing access to justice crisis in Canada.
- Learn about interesting initiatives in Ontario and across Canada and in other countries like Australia and the U.S. and hear from B.C. Courthouse Librarian Janet Freeman about their innovative [Law Matters program](#), [Wikibooks](#), and [ClickLaw](#) website initiatives.
- To provide fodder and inspiration for potential new projects and new prototypes to make a real difference in our communities.
- Help you take action with new partners.

If you are interested, here are some steps you can take:

- Help us gather information about what is already happening in your libraries or with your clinic-library collaboration by emailing us details at calc@lao.on.ca.
- Find a clinic, library or Law Association partner in your community who might be interested in working collaboratively in new ways. Invite them along to this special event.
- If you would like to be one of the 45 people attending the Thursday, October 29 event in the Museum Room of the Law Society of Upper Canada on Queen St. in downtown Toronto (steps from the Osgoode subway station), please register for the event online at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/libraries-and-justice-innovative-access-for-rural-and-remote-communities-tickets-12910376283> by September 30. Registration, food and refreshments are free.
- If you need a travel subsidy – please tell us this when you register. We have a small fund for travel subsidies available. Priority will be given to people who are keen to start new projects. We are trying to advise you about available subsidies by October 10.
- Review this new site, www.plelearningexchange.ca/ple-for-librarians/libraries-and-justice-partnerships/, on the PLE Learning Exchange, where we are beginning to collect materials to inspire us all about what is happening and what is possible. It will be updated bi-weekly until conference time with new content.

Questions?

If you have more questions that this invitation and the registration process do not answer, please direct them to calc@lao.on.ca.