

GTA LEGAL CLINICS' TRANSFORMATION PROJECT VISION REPORT

Motion of Endorsement – January 15, 2015

Our community legal clinic believes that the GTA legal clinics can better serve the low income population of the GTA by collectively transforming our operations. We believe that the following transformational principles are critical.

1. It is crucial that community legal clinics transform their service delivery processes so that more resources can be put into direct client service work.
2. Areas of service should be consistent across the GTA, should be available to clients regardless of where they live in the GTA and should be delivered at levels that reflect the needs of the community as informed by the clinic's Board.
3. Quality of service requires that geographic clinics operate exclusively within a single municipal boundary.
4. Clinic law services can be enhanced, quantitatively and qualitatively, by the use of staffing teams and case management systems.
5. Community development work is a priority of legal clinics that can only be met with dedicated staffing.
6. We can ensure client access across an increased catchment area through the use of community access points.
7. Resources for community legal clinics must be equitably distributed amongst the low income population of the GTA. This must be assured through regularly scheduled analysis of changes in the distribution of the low income population.
8. To fully realize these objectives, legal clinics need to be larger, with each having a staffing complement of around 33 staff.
9. Additional funding for GTA legal clinics will be required to implement this transformational model.

The Community Legal Clinic of York Region endorses the creation of GTA community legal clinics large enough to be transformational (roughly 33 staff or more in each clinic), with the exact number of legal clinics to be determined by the Steering Committee as outlined in the Vision Report. However we do not endorse basing resource allocation on outdated data. We will endorse resource allocation based on reasonably predictable population growth trends.



Kathleen D'Souza
President, Board of Directors