

Legal Advocacy Program

The Legal Advocacy Program provides services province-wide to people aged 55 and over. The clients served by legal advocacy program face multiple challenges due to their physical and low cognitive abilities. They are unable to focus on their issues and get confused when explain their situation. The clients served by legal advocacy program are low income and of course those who have difficulties accessing justice elsewhere.

Areas of Service:

1. Residential Tenancy

In residential tenancy cases, legal assistance is provided at multivariate levels. Legal Advocate provides assistance to clients before or at the time of creation of tenancy, during tenancy, and after the termination of tenancy. If the issue is taken before the Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB) then assistance is provided on preparing & filing dispute resolution application, the preparation & submission of evidence, and representation during the hearing. In addition to dispute resolution assistance, Legal Advocate also provides assistance to clients on Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) and other housing subsidies when they are declined by BC Housing.

2. Pensions

Legal Advocate provides assistance on Canada Pension Plan (CPP), Old Age Security (OAS), Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) Allowance, Survivor's Pension, Canada Disability Tax Credit, and Canada Pension Plan Disability (CPPD)) and assist filing appeals before Social Security Tribunals and represent clients against the decisions of Service Canada on these issues.

3. Debt

Legal Advocate assists clients on debt issues and deal with financial institutions, government agencies including CRA, and other federal agencies.

4. Public Legal Education

Legal Advocate conducts workshops and provides presentations to seniors, landlords, social & mental health workers, nurses and other agencies serving on residential tenancies, pensions and benefits from provincial & federal governments.

5. Miscellaneous issues:

Besides representation before federal and provincial tribunals, Legal Advocate refers clients to pursue complaints before Ombudsperson if not resolved at any other level prescribed by law. Legal Advocate also identifies systemic issues and refers clients to Provincial Senior Advocate for reporting.

REFERRALS TO LEGAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Residential Tenancy Act and Manufactured Home Park Tenancy Act

Residential Tenancy act applies to non- profit housing providers, market rentals, basement suites, BC Housing Independent buildings and units

- Entering into a tenancy
- Renewing a tenancy
- Ending a tenancy
- Rent increase
- Housing conditions
- Resolving any breach of tenancy
- Dispute Resolution in Residential Tenancy Branch-RTB hearings
- Manufactured home park tenancy

Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER)

- Any inquiry about this program
- Resolving subsidy issues with BC Housing.

Cooperative Housing

LAP only provides services for repair issues in COOP.

Federal Pensions

- Canada Pension Plan (CPP)
- Old Age Security (OAS)
- Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)
- Survivor Allowance
- Survivor's Pension
- Canada Pension Plan Disability (CPPD)
- Involuntary Separation
- Credit Split upon divorce or separation or incapability followed by appointment of trustee.

- Reconsideration of decision before Service Canada
- Appeal to Social Security Tribunal

Federal Allowance (formerly Spouse's Allowance)

A spouse or common law partner can apply to Service Canada for Survivor Allowance if the spouse or common law partner was a Canadian Citizen or Permanent resident and contributed to the Canada Pension Plan.

Survivor's Pension

The Surviving spouse, surviving common law partner or surviving spouse of same sex marriage can apply for Survivor Pension if the deceased has contributed in CPP according to CPP Legislation.

Death Benefits

The surviving spouse, common law partner, surviving spouse of same sex marriage or the person who made arrangements for the funerals of the deceased can apply to Service Canada for death benefit. It is a lump sum amount given to the most eligible person if the deceased has made contribution in CPP.

Involuntary Separation

The benefits of Old age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement and Allowance are based on the family income of spouses or Common Law Partners. When a spouse or Common Law partner moves to a care facility due to illness and the other spouse is left at home, financial hardship may result. This is involuntary separation as it is beyond the control of spouses.

Canada Pension Plan Disability (CPPD) Eligibility and Benefits

Legal Advocate provides information, legal advice and representation on CPPD but does not assist on provincial benefits under Person with Disabilities status (PWD).

Overseas Pension

Under the Canada Pension Plan, there are situations when the caller is eligible for overseas pensions and social security benefits from other countries.

Deferment of Property Taxes

LAP deals with Deferment of Property Taxes and inquiries related to it.

Senior's Supplement

The Senior's Supplement is a provincial top-up to the federal Old Age Security (OAS)/Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) payment. The Senior's Supplement ensures a conditionally guaranteed minimum income level for residents of BC and is paid to low-income residents of BC who are 65 years of age and older and who are receiving OAS/GIS or federal Allowance (formerly Spouse's Allowance).

Debt

- CRA debt and garnishment of pensions
- Medical Services Plan (MSP of BC): eligibility, premium contributions, bills, Regular and Emergency Premium Assistance Program
- Utility companies (BC Hydro, phone service providers, gas companies)
- Student loans and Canada Revenue Agency loans/debt when pensions are being garnisheed.
- Debt issue and harassment from a creditor.

Note: The Legal Advocate does not assist on issues relating to the following:

- Ministry of Social Development & Poverty: employment and income assistance (Regular and Persons With Disabilities: PWD and hardship assistance)
- Employment Insurance
- Work Safe BC claims and benefits
- Employment matters/complaints and/or Employment Standards Branch claims and issues

Immigration and Refugee Legal Clinic (IRLC)

Creation of the clinic

IRLC was jointly created by the province and the Law Foundation of BC after the government's External Review of Legal Aid services recommended a refugee legal clinic be established to "take on urgent and complex cases" and supplement the legal aid system.

We opened April 1, 2020 as an independent program funded by the Law Foundation of BC, housed at the ISS Welcome House.

What we do

The Immigration and Refugee Legal Clinic provides free legal advice and representation, with interpretation services, for low-income people across BC. The clinic acts as a safety net for individuals and families, whose cases are not covered or easy to serve in the traditional legal aid system.

Alongside our casework, we advocate for change on issues that repeatedly come up for our clients by engaging in systemic litigation and law reform efforts. We provide legal education to community groups and service providers across BC. Clinic staff also serve as mentors to law students and junior lawyers interested in the refugee and immigration law field.

Our core activities include:

- Information and referral
- Summary advice
- Full legal representation
- Public legal education for lawyers, service providers, general public
- Mentorship to law students
- Systemic litigation
- Advocacy through various working groups

Full representation cases

We prioritize providing full representation in litigation and on applications requiring legal submissions for individuals and families whose cases:

- are legally complex, or
- involve sensitive client care issues, or
- require immediate, urgent action

Issues we work on, include:

- judicial reviews at Federal Court of decisions from the Immigration and Refugee Board, Canada Border Services Agency, or Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada
- refugee claims and appeals
- applications requesting humanitarian and compassionate considerations
- inadmissibility cases at the Immigration Division and Immigration Appeal Division
- detention reviews at the Immigration Division
- sponsorship appeals at the Immigration Appeal Division
- applications to defer removal and motions to stay removal

Contact information

We are primarily operating remotely.

You can contact the legal clinic by phone, email, or by completing an intake form.

info@irlc.ca

778-372-6583

<https://bit.ly/IRLCintake>

Our website is www.irlc.ca



Introducing the Disability Law Clinic

People with disabilities often experience discrimination and lack of access around public services and programs.

DABC has begun a new project, the Disability Law Clinic, to provide free legal advice and assistance to people with disabilities.

The Clinic is the first community legal clinic in Western Canada that specializes in disability-related areas of law.

The Disability Law Clinic is the first community legal clinic in Western Canada that specializes in disability-related areas of law.

What We Do

We will assist people living in British Columbia with legal issues related to accessibility and discrimination, including:

- Accommodation in the workplace
- Access to transportation
- Access to education
- Accessible housing
- Access to supports, including service animals
- Accommodations related to the COVID-19 virus and social distancing

In some cases, the Clinic may be able to assist people with:

- Disability-related human rights cases at the BC Human Rights Tribunal, the Canadian Human Rights Commission, and the Canadian Transportation Agency
- Questions or concerns about disability-related service providers, such as care homes and support workers
- Decision-making rights and supported decision-making, in cases involving court-appointed guardians and trustees, or the Public Guardian and Trustee
- Questions or concerns about disability insurance benefits

Partnering with Advocacy Access

The Clinic will also work closely with DABC's Advocacy Access program to assist people who are applying for government disability benefits or who are involved in disputes with the government about their benefits.

How the Clinic Works

Most of our services are provided by phone, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. For anyone whose disability requires them to communicate by other methods, we will do our very best to accommodate you.

Your Privacy

Our services are confidential. We will protect your information, and discuss with you if and when any of your personal information will need to be shared to assist with your case.

Please contact Justina Loh at 604-875-0188 for a copy of DABC's full Privacy Policy.



How Do I Make an Appointment?

1. Contact the Disability Law Clinic and leave a message.
Local 236-427-1108
Toll free 1-800-663-1278
lawclinic@disabilityalliancebc.org
2. We will contact you for an intake interview. We will ask for some personal information, details about your situation and, in some cases, specific documents we need to help you.
3. After the intake interview, we may schedule an appointment with one of our lawyers. Or, we may give other advice or assistance on what you should do next.

What to Do Before Your Appointment

To get the most out of your call with Clinic staff, gather any documents related to your situation beforehand, such as:

- emails, texts or letters
- contracts or agreements
- government documents
- any previous decisions by a court or tribunal
- any documents requested in your intake interview

Disability Law Clinic

Local 236-427-1108
Toll free 1-800-663-1278
Fax 604-875-9227
lawclinic@disabilityalliancebc.org

Street / Mailing Address

Disability Alliance BC
1450-605 Robson Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 5J3

Traditional, Ancestral, and Unceded
Territories of the Musqueam
(xʷməθkʷəy̓əm), TsleilWauthuth
(Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh) and Squamish
(Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw) Peoples

Thank You to the
Law Foundation of BC
for funding this project.



Disability Law Clinic

Legal Advice and Assistance
For People with Disabilities

www.disabilityalliancebc.org
#DABC @DisabAllianceBC



CHILD AND YOUTH LEGAL CENTRE

All services are private,
confidential, and provided for
young people **free of charge**.

Our Legal Centre is committed to
improving the well-being of children and
youth in BC through the advancement of
their legal rights.

The role of the Centre is to advocate on
behalf of vulnerable children and youth in
BC. Centre services include:

- Drop-in Legal Clinics
- Consultations, information, and referrals
- Full representation in court

We work in the areas of family law, child
protection, and human rights.

We are grateful to the Law Foundation
of BC for their ongoing support of our
Legal Centre.



WHO DO WE HELP?

Children and youth up to 19 years old, and
sometimes older.

Lawyers are available across BC, even in
remote communities, and can meet in person,
over the phone or video.

WHAT DO WE DO?

We provide **private, confidential, and free**
legal help for young people who are
experiencing problems relating to family law,
child protection, a breach of your human
rights and many other legal issues.

That means, we make sure that their rights,
interests and points of view are heard and
respected.

We do this through providing young people
with legal information, advice, and in some
cases full representation in court.

CONTACT US:

We want to hear from you!

Phone: 778-657-5544
Email: cylc@scyofbc.org
Website: www.scyofbc.org

**And if you're not sure if we can
support you, call us and find out.
We can help you figure out what
you need.**

OTHER PROGRAMS

WORKSHOPS AND CONSULTING

We deliver custom-designed, sliding-scale
workshops on various issues concerning
children's rights

CHILD AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Being seen and heard in their communities
helps young people feel valued and
increases self-esteem.

We can help you increase your ability to
meaningfully engage different types of
young people in a variety of contexts.

CHILD RIGHTS INITIATIVES

For over 45 years, we have been creating
and delivering programs that have
motivated change in research, legislation,
policy, and practice in Canada.

PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Child rights posters, pamphlets, brochures
and more available in 7 different
languages.

CHILD AND YOUTH FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

Resources to help any community better
plan for the needs of children and youth.

URBAN EXPLORERS

Provides opportunities for youth to be
involved in city planning.



Seniors First BC Legal Services Elder Law Clinic

Elder Law Clinic



- * Seven monthly legal consultation clinics in Vancouver, Burnaby, Surrey, New Westminster, North Vancouver and Richmond. To book, call 604-336-5653

- * Legal consultations over the phone



- * To speak to our lawyers, contact the Seniors Abuse and Information Line at 604-437-1940 or toll-free 1-866-437-1940 and one of our lawyers may be able to assist.

- * For older adults 55+ and people who care about them

- * Targeted at older adults who cannot afford to hire a lawyer

4

Seniors First BC Legal Services Elder Law Clinic

Common issues that ELC lawyers can assist with:

- * Advance planning instruments:
 - * Simple wills, powers of attorney, representation agreements
- * BC Supreme Court and Small Claims Court cases that don't involve family or criminal law (so long as we have time and expertise)
 - * For example – debt collection, declaration of interest in property
- * Elder abuse, including physical, emotional and financial abuse

5

Seniors First BC Legal Services Elder Law Clinic

Common issues that ELC lawyers can assist with (continued)

- * Patients Property Act committeeships
- * Adult Guardianship Act issues
- * Human rights complaints
- * Advocating for better care in residential care facilities

If in doubt, refer to SAIL for intake and SAIL staff will refer legal calls to Seniors First BC lawyers or legal advocate

6

Seniors First BC Legal Services Elder Law Clinic

Our legal services include:

- * meeting with one of our lawyers,
- * receiving summary advice in person or over the phone,
- * receiving unbundled services such as drafting of documents,
- * receiving full legal representation, and/or
- * getting connected to other useful community resources

Our legal services do not include

- * Our lawyers do not give advice about criminal law or family law matters.

7

Seniors First BC Legal Services Legal Advocacy Program

Our Legal Advocate can assist seniors with the following issues:

- * Residential tenancy disputes, including representing seniors at hearings and assisting seniors to remove unauthorized people from their rental units
- * Transition from independent living to care homes
- * Access to CPP, OAS and GIS and other benefits
- * Debt issues

8

Seniors First BC Legal Services Elder Law Clinic

Our legal services include:

- * meeting with one of our lawyers,
- * receiving summary advice in person or over the phone,
- * receiving unbundled services such as drafting of documents,
- * receiving full legal representation, and/or
- * getting connected to other useful community resources

Our legal services do not include

- * Our lawyers do not give advice about criminal law or family law matters.

7

Elizabeth Fry Legal Clinic

We provide free legal advice and representation to clients in the Kamloops and surrounding area, through a staff lawyer, poverty law advocate and a family law advocate.

We can help with:

- income assistance
- limited family law
- disability issues
- tenancy issues
- employment law
- indigenous legal issues
- human rights
- small claims matters
- judicial reviews



ELIZABETH FRY LEGAL CLINIC
702-235 1ST AVENUE, KAMLOOPS, BC
250-374-2119



Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society Legal Clinic

knxiti? snqsilxw
Help the Relatives

Hours of Operation:
8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Monday – Friday

442 Leon Avenue
Kelowna, BC V1Y 6J3
Phone: (250) 763-4905
www.kfs.bc.ca



The Law Clinic will provide public legal education, advocacy, legal advice and representation, mainly to low income individuals, in many areas of the law including: social assistance, income assistance, tenancy, employment (including employment insurance and employment standards), aboriginal law issues (including Indian status applications, health benefits, band membership applications, housing and income security), workers compensation, human rights, debt and consumer rights, and disability (including mental health).

The Community Legal Clinic is funded by:

