

Travelling Lawyer Service Now Available for Seniors in Eastern Ontario

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Community Advocacy and Legal Clinic in Belleville announced a new Seniors' Program in May 2017. Special services are now available to low-income adults, age 60+ who require assistance with the following issues: Wills, Powers of Attorney, advance health care planning, Old Age Security/Guaranteed Income Supplement issues, care home and long-term care facility concerns, access to Home and Community Care (formerly Community Care Access Centres), elder abuse, and issues of legal capacity.

The Seniors' Lawyer sees clients at the clinic, in hospitals, in the long-term care facilities, or in the client's home. Being able to serve clients in a range of locations benefits the many seniors who live in rural and remote areas. Many seniors are no longer able to drive, or they may have difficulty leaving their residence due to illness or mobility issues. Some are difficult to serve by phone due to hearing challenges, and benefit greatly from seeing a lawyer face-to-face. As well, many seniors rely on a family member or personal support worker for daily living assistance and to travel to appointments. This creates a major barrier to accessing legal service particularly where the protection of privacy is paramount.

At this point, the most popular services provided by the Seniors' Lawyer have been wills and powers of attorney. Although the people they traditionally help have limited assets, having a will allows the senior to name an executor to attend to the necessary tasks such as closing

If you or someone you know could benefit from the Seniors' Lawyer, you can call 613-966-8686 or 1-877-966-8686 or email calc@lao.on.ca.