

**SAVE MONEY ON YOUR ELECTRICITY
BILLS!!**

Green Communities Canada is a national association of local non-profit organizations that deliver environmental programs and services. They are delivering the Energy Efficiency Assistance Program for Houses which is a pilot program of the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) and participating local utilities in 2007. Waterloo Region is one of the communities involved.

This is a FREE service for income-eligible households. To be eligible for the program, you must pay your own electricity bill, live in a house and meet a financial eligibility test which looks at your gross household size and income OR your source of income. For example, people receiving benefits from Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program, Guaranteed Income Supplement or National Child Benefit Supplement will qualify.

If accepted into the program, a Certified Energy Advisor will evaluate the needs of your home and plan a retrofit to save you money. Some minor changes can be made immediately such as upgrading to compact fluorescent light bulbs. The energy advisor will recommend the most appropriate energy improvements for you and then install the measures free of charge! **IF YOU RENT, THEY WILL CONTACT THE LANDLORD TO OBTAIN PERMISSION TO MAKE THE IMPROVEMENTS FREE OF CHARGE!** Typically, the improvements include adding insulation, draft-proofing some areas and replacing inefficient refrigerators. After the work is done, a follow-up visit is made to ensure the recommended improvements were installed and that you are satisfied with the work. Hopefully, you will then see a reduction in your electric bills!

For more info, contact the local office of Green Communities Canada at **519-744-9799**. You can also visit their website at www.greencommunitiescanada.org.



WE DO:

- Landlord/Tenant
- Ontario Works/ Ontario Disability Support Program
- Workplace Safety and Insurance
- Canada Pension Plan
- Criminal Injuries Compensation
- Employment Insurance

Call us: (519) 743-0254 (Must meet financial eligibility limits)

LEGAL AID DOES:

- Family Law
- Criminal Law
- Immigration

Call Legal Aid: (519) 743-4306

LEGAL CLINIC CONTACT:

Kitchener - (519) 743-0254
170 Victoria Street South
Kitchener, ON, N2G 2B9
Fax: 519-743-1588
Hours: 9 am to 5 pm Mon to Fri

Cambridge

At the Cambridge Self Help Food Bank - 54 Ainslie Street South
Hours: Mon 1:30 to 4:30 pm
Fri 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Visit our web site: www.wrcls.ca

This newsletter is written and produced by Legal Clinic staff and volunteers. It only contains general information and may not reflect the views of the membership or Board of Directors. Please be aware that the law and policies may change.

THE NEW RTA IS HERE! FOR FURTHER INFO ...

Renters Educating & Networking Together (RENT) is inviting people to an open Info Night on March 6, 2007 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Regional Administration Building at 150 Frederick Street, Kitchener! "What's New for Tenants in the Residential Tenancies Act?" Panel to include local MPP John Milloy; Brad Duguid who is MPP and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing and Carol Kiley who is the Manager of Program Development from the Ministry.

COME & LISTEN & ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW ACT!
Call 519-743-2022 for more info.

CHANGES AT THE SOCIAL BENEFITS TRIBUNAL TOO!!

There is a new hearing process in place with SBT now. After you have filed an appeal to the Social Benefits Tribunal, you will get a Notice from the Tribunal to indicate whether you have been given a Telephone Hearing OR an In Person Hearing. If you object to having a Telephone Hearing, you must advise the Tribunal of your objection within 15 days of getting your Notice. The numbers to call to object are provided in the Notice.

While a Telephone Hearing may be more convenient for some people, there may be strong reasons why you should request an In Person Hearing. **CONTACT OUR LEGAL CLINIC FOR MORE INFORMATION!**



CHANGES AT CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION BOARD TOO!!

In December 2006, the Board launched its new application forms which are to be more user-friendly and less paperwork. The new forms are effective as of January 29, 2007 and can be obtained by calling the Board toll-free at 1-800-372-7463. In January 2007, it posted new “Application Tips” on its website at www.cicb.gov.on.ca.

Applicants to the Board must be patient in that even the Board says on its website that it may take 2 or more years to get a final decision on an application. This is certainly our clinic’s experience. **CONTACT OUR LEGAL CLINIC FOR MORE INFORMATION!**

Relevant legislation: *Residential Tenancy Act, 2006*
 You can find the Act on www.e-laws.gov.on.ca under “Statutes and Regulations” under “R”.

Relevant legislation: *Compensation for Victims of Crime Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. 24*
 You can find the Act on www.e-laws.gov.on.ca under “Statutes and Regulations” under “C”.

Useful Links:

<http://www.acto.ca>

The Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO) is a special legal clinic located in Toronto and funded by Legal Aid Ontario. Its role is to deal with province-wide systemic issues in housing. It advocates for tenants across the province with various levels of government on many issues. They also represent tenants in cases where issues will have an impact across the province.

Their website has much valuable and helpful info for tenants who are dealing with the Landlord & Tenant Board and their own landlords. For example, go to their website, to “Tenant Info” and then to “Tenant Tip Sheets” for some very useful tips and materials.

<http://www.LTB.gov.on.ca>

Visit the website for the new Landlord & Tenant Board under the RTA for forms and information.

Remember our clinic is funded by Legal Aid Ontario. Clients must be financially eligible for our services.

VISIT OUR CLINIC WEBSITE AT WWW.WRCLS.CA TO LEARN MORE ABOUT US AND FOR MORE USEFUL LINKS TO OTHER AGENCIES AND INFORMATION!