

# STOP the EVICTIONS

15

## **2019 - 2020** ANNUAL REPORT

### CONTENTS

Message from the Board Co-Chairs	1
Message from the Clinic Director & Program and Operations Director	5
Message from the Academic Director	11
In Memoriam: Bart Poesiat	13
Year in Review	15
Housing Rights	17
Immigration and Migrant Rights	21
Income Security, Anti-Violence and Health	29
Workers' Rights	31
Awards and Honours	37
Dorothy Leatch Award	38
Frederick H. Zemans Prize in Poverty Law	39
PCLS welcomes Wendy and Sheleca	40
Treasurer's Report	41
Board, Staff, Students and Volunteers	45

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CO-CHAIRS



**KALSANG DOLMA** Co-Chair Board of Directors

2019-2020 has been, and continues to be, a period of the great reckoning. The pandemic, along with the Black Lives Matter movement, police abolition, Indigenous rights, migrant struggles and climate catastrophe, have forced many of us to confront on a global and local level our tenuous link to basic necessities, dignity and community. Within this milieu, Parkdale Community Legal Services continued to provide help to the residents of Parkdale and beyond.

PCLS staff and law students, split between two offices and with reduced staffing, worked diligently to ensure that those who are most vulnerable have access to justice. Although we could not serve as many clients as we normally would, our staff still worked relentlessly to address the rising rates of evictions, homelessness and abuse in various forms. We took our cues from the neighbourhood we serve—leaning on its mix of resilience, resourcefulness and relations. Along the way, we achieved successes big and small, and plenty of lessons learned as well.

It has been an honour and privilege to serve on the PCLS board of directors. I want to thank the staff led by Johanna Macdonald and Tenzin Tekan, the law students, and my Board colleagues for their work in helping create a more equitable and just Toronto. Later this year, PCLS will be operating from a new, permanent location on Dufferin Street, in Parkdale. Our work is necessary here, and it grows more urgent by the day. Thank you and all the best.



**FAY FARADAY** Co-Chair Board of Directors

In 2019-2020, the Clinic Director, staff and students at Parkdale Community Legal Services have once again shown incredible commitment and resilience, meeting unexpected challenges as they arose, to continue our work for Parkdale and Swansea residents.

Due to Legal Aid Ontario's funding cuts in 2018-2019, PCLS staff and students have been operating out of two temporary locations, one of which is not even in Parkdale. Despite this, they worked to ensure that PCLS could continue to support the residents of Parkdale and Swansea with issues of income security, decent work, secure and affordable housing and the right to live safely in Canada.

We thank all the amazing community partners who have helped us meet this challenge by welcoming us into their spaces so that we could meet with residents who need the Clinic's services.

But then the COVID-19 pandemic upended life for all of us. We thank the Parkdale and Swansea community for your patience and support as we shifted to provide our services by phone and in other physically distant ways to protect the health of clients and staff alike. In May, PCLS and the Parkdale community mourned the passing of our long-time staff member Bart Poesiat who worked at PCLS as a Community Legal Worker since 1984. He engaged in street level organizing with low-income tenants, roomers, boarders and persons who are without stable homes for over 35 years. He is deeply missed but PCLS works every day to uphold his legacies and spirit of fierce dedication to the Parkdale and Swansea community.

As the 2019-2020 year ends, we see signs of positive change. We have been able to hire two new staff members: Wendy Atkinson and Sheleca Henry. And the renovation and move to one of our new spaces – 366 Dufferin – is complete.

We thank the Osgoode Hall Law School community, and the loyal and generous alumni who continue to support the Clinic in the present and as we look to the future. We thank our board of directors, who have provided dedicated leadership throughout the year. We thank the incredible, hardworking staff and students of PCLS. And we thank our Clinic Director, Johanna Macdonald who has gone above and beyond to provide the steady leadership which helps sustain our work.

We are immensely grateful to all of you and look forward to continue serving the community.



MESSAGE FROM THE CLINIC DIRECTOR & PROGRAM AND OPERATIONS DIRECTOR



JOHANNA MACDONALD Clinic Director



**TENZIN TEKAN** Program and Operations Director

Parkdale and Swansea communities continued to push back against the unfair rollbacks in decent work and fair pay, the commodification of space and homes in the neighbourhood, the marginalization of migrants, the pulling back of legal aid supports, the unequal income, health and human rights of racialized communities and the violence and oppression faced especially by Indigenous and Black communities.

Deep budget cuts placed Parkdale Community Legal Services in a weakened and transitory space this year. However, from this place, PCLS staff, students, volunteers and our Board of Directors were still able to rise to the challenge of both joining community members in the fight for social justice as well as maintaining our services in the community. Being flexible, patient, creative and adaptable were the key elements of success when working together this year. We are thankful that our allies and clients were able to trust us to continue working together with the limitations we experienced: decreased staff, new operational structure, unstable office space.



We thank our community partners who have provided us this year with the gift of space. Our partnership with the Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre will start this winter when we move into the lower level of the Centre. Until then, the Centre has provided space for Board meetings and has been receiving our mail for over a year at this point! The Parkdale Intercultural Association, Kababayan Multicultural Centre, and Parkdale Activity Recreation Centre literally opened their doors to us providing space to meet with community members and train students. We thank St. Mark's Church for giving us a home for the year – with a short notice move-in date and always a warm reception and community around us – thank you.

We thank Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) for their core funding. Though LAO communicated to us last spring that we would receive a 45% core funding cut over two years, we were able to have this decision reviewed by a subcommittee of the LAO Board of Directors. The Committee confirmed that it was premature to decide any cuts for the second year so that, to date, PCLS has only received a 22.5% funding cut. The fight continues to maintain core funding for clinics to support access to justice. We made submission to the government regarding changes to the Legal Aid Services Act and are engaged with LAO's modernization process and forthcoming funding agreements with the aim of maximizing supports and resources needed by our communities, especially during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

PCLS thanks Osgoode Hall Law School for our partnership and the multigenerational commitment Osgoode Hall has to the Parkdale neighbourhood and the Intensive Program in Poverty Law. We are happy to also thank the Maytree Foundation for their support to our organizing and outreach activities tied to evaluating the impact of social justice change.

PCLS received an enormous boost of hope from our private donors this year. We were honoured to be recognized by our community members and organizational donors. Thank you to our supporters - alumni, Osgoode faculty, neighbours, family and friends.

Between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020 we received over \$150,000 in donations from over 200 supporters, including 16 monthly donors. Many thanks to Goldblatt Partners LLP, Jeff Davis, Lerners LLP and AMAPSEO for their generous donations to PCLS.

### TOTAL CASES OPENED BETWEEN APRIL 1, 2019 - MARCH 31, 2020

484

295

1309

Housing Rights

Income Security, Anti-Violence and Health

> Immigration and Migrant Rights

Workers' Rights

Total:

Number of people who contacted us

We send heartfelt thanks to all our donors. We are truly grateful. With this motivating support, we were able to secure not only the partnership with the Health Centre for permanent space, but also secure and recently move into our 2nd permanent office space at 366 Dufferin Street.

This year, PCLS operates with a new 'rights advice program', a key 'litigation and office administration' role and looks forward to engaging in planning with the casework and campaigns/community work programs. With the loss of resources early in the fiscal year, we were so happy when nearing the end of the year, we could finally plan for regrowth. Today, we have a new frontline administrator and a new finance officer at PCLS. Both positions are critical to PCLS' community relations and financial wellbeing and will provide stability and consistency as PCLS continues to plan forward.

Thank you to our Board of Directors, staff, alumni, funders, community partners, dedicated community members and countless volunteers and mentors that have fought with us as well as worked with us in patience and grace. Outgoing Board cochairs Fay Faraday and Kalsang Dolma, and outgoing Board members Amar Bhatia – please accept our greatest thanks. You have each given countless hours and energy to keep PCLS accountable and moving forward through this difficult year. You will each be deeply missed.

## MESSAGE FROM THE ACADEMIC DIRECTOR



It is no doubt a momentous time. An ongoing global health pandemic, street protests targeting racist police practices, legal and direct action mobilizations against growing homeless encampments, rent strikes, and more, all signal the gravity of the current moment. Social justice is on the tips of the tongues of a great many people.

Placement students have navigated the ebbs and flows of the times with considerable commitment and resilience. And while students and staff are now forced to work remotely, a necessary consequence of pandemic response measures, I have been fortunate to witness a redoubling of efforts to work in service of Parkdale residents — but with a twist. Efforts have shifted to consider ways in which we can engage in struggle together while physically apart. This is what social justice advocacy looks like in the time of COVID-19.

My work in the program has centred around deepening student commitments to collectivizing responses to everyday injustices. It is borne out of an understanding of law as a constraining and individualizing force. In this regard, ours is a project targeting not just the regressive force of the police but the ways in which the Canadian state polices poor and racialized bodies, from street checks or "carding" to social assistance regimes and onto labour and housing markets and territorial border controls.

May the power of collective, direct action run through the program — and through Parkdale and beyond — for the next fifty years!

IN MEMORIAM: BART POESIAT (1941 - 2020)

Parkdale Community Legal Services staff and community members mourn the passing of Bart Poesiat. Bart passed away in May 2020. PCLS co-hosted a celebration of life event alongside the Parkdale Tenants Association and the Parkdale Musicians Collective in honour our beloved colleague and community advocate.

Please visit Bart's online memorial page to leave a tribute, share a story, memory or photograph: <a href="https://www.mykeeper.com/profile/BartPoesiat/">https://www.mykeeper.com/profile/BartPoesiat/</a>

## YEAR IN REVIEW 2019 - 2020

# PCLS' work is organized around four areas of work.



Here are some highlights from the past year.

# HOUSING RIGHTS

Over the past year our work supporting tenants form organizations at their apartment buildings has developed. We worked with tenants at one Parkdale lowrise apartment building who were successful in having their landlord <u>withdraw</u> its application for a rent increase above the guideline through collective action. The tenants have gone on to support other Parkdale tenants in their struggles against evictions and rent increases.

In the past year PCLS continued to see an ever increasing number of tenants seeking our services. We represented hundreds of tenant households to defend against evictions on various grounds and assert their rights through negotiations and before the Landlord and Tenant Board.

 We represented a group of tenants who had been rendered homeless by fire damage to their rental complex as a result of the landlord's failure to meet property standards. The tenants successfully fought two eviction attempts, filed their own applications and won monetary compensation of twenty one thousand dollars.



Illustration by Paterson Hodgson

 We continued our work on the **Pro-Active Eviction Prevention Project** focussing on the education and organizing of Parkdale rooming house tenants.

Through the program we reached hundreds of tenants under pressure from the rental market through direct outreach. In a number of cases tenants learned their rights and formed committees which were successful in improved conditions and backing landlords off eviction attempts.



Illustration by Patterson Hodges



Illustration by Patterson Hodges

We played a leading role in opposing 'renovictions' in Toronto, including involvement in the <u>high-</u> profile case of the tenants of **394 Dovercourt Road**.

Our work in this area led to Toronto City Council forming a sub-committee for the protection of affordable rental housing. PCLS now sits on an advisory group to the subcommittee.

### **CLIENT SUCCESS STORY**

A corporate landlord which controls more than one thousand rental units in Parkdale evicted a tenant based on an accounting error. The tenant received no notice and came home to the lock on her apartment door having been changed. With a young child, being new to Canada, and not speaking English well, the tenant needed support and turned to PCLS. The same day two staff members and a law student caseworker accompanied the tenant to a meeting with the company's head of operations. We exposed the accounting error and the tenant was allowed to repossess her unit.

 Finally, with the <u>support</u> of Maytree, we published and launched our report **Demanding** the Right to Housing and the Right to the City: The Role of Non-profits in Supporting



**Community Organizing**. The report outlines best practices for legal clinics and non-profit organizations for supporting grassroots, community organizing.

# PARKDALE COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES

# IMMIGRATION AND MIGRANT RIGHTS

Immigration policy is going through substantial changes. <u>Recent trends</u> <u>demonstrate</u> that the government has shifted priorities from one-step immigration programs to two-step immigration programs. The move to temporary or two-step migration models puts many people at risk of precarious status.

#### **MIGRANT WORKERS ALLIANCE AND MIGRANT RIGHTS NETWORK**

PCLS has worked with the **Migrant Workers Alliance for Change (MWAC)** since 2008 and works with the **Migrant Rights Network** formed in 2018.

Year in Review 2019 - 2020 | Immigration and Migrant Rights



 Since COVID-19, the Migrant Rights Network has been meeting weekly to map risks and impacts on migrant workers and to push for access to CERB, healthcare, housing for migrant workers and to push for better health and safety protections for migrant workers who are doing much of the 'essential' work under COVID.



- We joined with the Migrant Rights Network early in the pandemic,
   <u>calling for support</u> for all migrant workers, including those most at risk on the farms.
- As the essential front line work of migrant and undocumented workers was exposed, we joined with others in launching the <u>Status for All!</u> Campaign.

#### CAREGIVERS' ACTION CENTRE

PCLS has worked with the **Caregivers' Action Centre (CAC)** since 2007, providing legal, policy and campaigns support. CAC is a worker-led organization of current and former caregivers.

- Over the past year, we have won some significant gains in Caregivers' struggle for decent wages and working conditions and access to permanent residency. We were successful in demonstrating that tied work permits and features of the Caregiver Program and Temporary Foreign Worker Program create conditions open for abuse.
- The new <u>caregiver program</u> also allows caregivers to come to Canada with their families on open work permits to work providing in-home care. While there are still many barriers to working class care workers from the global south, these changes include some of the demands from CAC.
- In addition, the government announced a new program providing temporary foreign workers with open work permits if they experience or fear experiencing abuse. The new program of **Open Work Permits for Vulnerable Workers** came into effect in June 2019.
- During COVID we have been providing webinars, zoom member meetings and developing information materials.
   Care Workers have been participating in the Status for All campaign, speaking out at rallies and on-line forums.







L to R: Toni Schweitzer, Jamyang Nyima and Orsolya Kiss

#### CASEWORK

On the casework front, 2020 has been a very strange year. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a slowdown and, in some cases, almost complete shutdown of immigration offices in Canada and around the world. Our ability to work with our community was affected as well by the need to move to largely remote work with our clients. While this was a challenging situation for all casework, it posed particular challenges in our division due to our heavy reliance on interpreters for all communication with clients.

Despite this we continued to work with our community to fight for speedy and equitable family reunification and for regularization of status. Many of our cases involve unusual and complex situations which take significant time to address. As a clinic with particular expertise in assisting certain immigrant communities, we are well placed to take on these clients who would otherwise go without representation. Some examples of our successes this year:

 We were able to stop Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) from deporting a Tibetan client to China, where he would have faced significant and serious risk. We sought assistance from Human Rights
 Watch, who were outraged that Canada would even contemplate such a step. Our ability to engage with Human Rights Watch to get their prompt and personalized assistance was due in large part to our Tibetan coworker who maintains broad involvement on Tibetan issues. We argued that our client had not yet had a proper risk assessment and provided detailed evidence about his past experiences and risk of future harm. In preparing this case we had excellent assistance from our in-house Tibetan interpreter, Jamyang Nyima, whose skill and knowledge were instrumental in assisting us to put forward a very strong case. This new risk assessment was successful and our client is now on his way to becoming a permanent resident with his family, ending over 5 years of uncertainty, separation and anxiety.



I fought hard to bring my wife to Canada and Parkdale Legal was ways in my corner. - Michael and Donna

26

 We were also able to successfully argue that a failed Tibetan refugee should be able to stay in Canada on humanitarian grounds. The Refugee
 Board had refused her case because of alleged deficiencies in her identity documents, leading to a conclusion that she had not established her identity.

We were able to meticulously address each concern raised by the Refuge Board and establish that their concerns were unfounded and based on western-centric notions.

Again, due to our in-house connections to the Tibetan community we were able to obtain evidence from an official in the Central Tibetan Administration who spoke to common practices of document production for the Tibetan diaspora in India.

At first blush the decision of the Refugee Board seemed unassailable but through careful attention to detail and expert evidence we were able to work with the client to systematically deconstruct the findings against her.

'it wasn't for the , my family d I wouldn't have made it to Canada. There were times when we almost gave up on ourselves but PCLS didn't. hey reflect the st of Cana values: compassion + knowledg

 We were also able to successfully argue that a failed Hungarian Roma refugee claimant should be able to stay in Canada on humanitarian grounds. Her personal circumstances are very challenging and we had to adapt and be creative in our approach to working with her. Our inhouse Hungarian interpreter, Orsolya Kiss, provided invaluable assistance in reaching a positive outcome in this case.

#### PUTTING DOWN NEW ROOTS

Rose Nabwire at our new office on Dufferin Street. Rose is holding a plant gifted to her twenty years ago by two articling students. One of the students, beth long, returned to PCLS as a staff lawyer in 2016.

MALL

5.00

# INCOME SECURITY, ANTI-VIOLENCE AND HEALTH

#### PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION

PCLS continued to intervene in hundreds of disputes regarding our clients' eligibility for **Ontario Works (OW)** and **Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)** benefits, mainly with respect to the following issues:

- Treatment of income and assets
- Calculation of benefits
- Residency in Ontario
- Membership in the benefit unit
- Spousal status
- Immigration status

- Overpayments
- Eligibility for health and employment-related benefits
- Human rights issues flowing from provincial and municipal policies and practices in the administration of these benefit programs

Increased need for legal information and referral support for ODSP and OW income support recipients during COVID-19 were available through our COVID-19 backgrounder and resource guide.

We also continued to support and guide community members and clients experiencing intimate partner and systemic violence issues, as well as in hearings before the **Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (CICB)**.

# PARKDALE LEGAL CLINIC - NOW OPEN -

Problems with:

- Work?
- Income?
- Immigration?
- Landlord?

## 416-531-2411



# WORKERS' RIGHTS

PCLS continues to assist low-wage workers with recovering their unpaid wages, securing wrongful dismissal damages, obtaining their federal Employment Insurance benefits, and other employment entitlements. In 2019-20, we recovered **\$568,110** for workers in our community.

#### **CASEWORK HIGHLIGHTS**

- \$27,896.89 in unpaid wages for

   a live-in caregiver who was forced
   to work both days and overnights.

   The OLRB found that the employers

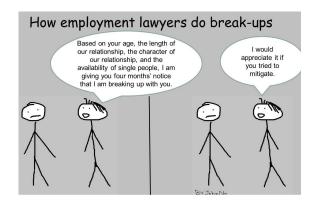
   falsified records and also ordered
   the employers to pay further
   \$2,789.69 to the Ministry of Labour as
   administrative costs.
- PCLS also commenced strategic litigation against a multi-national temporary help agency that requires its employees to pay a \$30,000 fee if



they want to leave their employment. PCLS is representing five employees, who have all been asked to pay the fee. The matters are currently at the Ontario Labour Relations Board (OLRB), and if the OLRB finds that the fee is contrary to the ESA, then our litigation should assist thousands of employees who are under the same restrictive contracts.

- Successfully argued at the OLRB that an ESA provision that exempts caretakers of residential buildings who reside in the building from receiving minimum wage and overtime pay does not apply to a cleaner of a group home, who happened to sleep in a basement room in the group home.
- Successfully represented a number of young workers who worked in the restaurant industry who were fired after raising concerns about health and safety. All of the young workers received compensation for the reprisal.

- Recovered \$19,000 in unpaid wages for a refugee claimant who was exploited by his employer.
- Successfully represented a young worker who sold residential energy contracts door-to-door but received no pay because the employer misclassified him as an independent contractor who only receives pay if he sold a contract. The Ministry of Labour determined that the young worker was an employee and not an independent contractor.
  - Obtained \$16,000 in human rights damages for a worker who was fired for going on a medical leave of absence.



We also had a very exciting year in that we intervened in two Supreme Court cases! Our first intervention was in the case of Matthews v. Ocean Nutrition Canada Ltd., where we encouraged the Supreme Court to determine that the employer owes a duty of good faith to an employee during the entire employment period.

Our second intervention was in the case of the much discussed Uber Technologies Inc. v. Heller. The case centred on Uber's standard form contract, which purported to require Uber drivers who have disputes against Uber to pursue private arbitration against it in the Netherlands, according to the rules of the International Chamber of Commerce. The cost of filing such a claim would amount to approximately US\$14,500. PCLS, partnering with the Income Security Advocacy Centre, warned the Supreme Court that workers would lose access to justice, e.g. the Ministry of Labour's Employment Standards Act claims process, if the Court upheld the mandatory arbitration clause. Fortunately, the Supreme Court of Canada found Uber's mandatory arbitration clause to be unconscionable.



# The Workers' Rights group continues to support organizing for systemic change.

- PCLS' Mary Gellatly was appointed by the federal government to the Expert Panel on Modern Federal Labour Standards, which reviewed five issues including the federal minimum wage; labour standards protections for non-standard workers; the "right to disconnect" outside of work hours; access and portability of benefits; and, collective voice for non-unionized workers. The Panel's report was released in late 2019.
- PCLS is on the Labour Standards Advisory Committee (LSAC). This tri-partite committee advises the government on employment law matters relating to federally regulated workplaces. Over the course of the past year, the LSAC reviewed and advised on the implementation of legislative updates to the Canada Labour Code that are being phased in over the next two years.



Building on the success of Ontario's \$15 and Fairness campaign, we pressed the federal government to update labour standards. In September, 2019, new rights for federally regulated workers were brought into effect that give workers 5 days of personal leave, 3 of which are employer paid; fairer scheduling rules; and, protections against lowering wages and benefits after contract flipping. Equal pay for equal work regardless of job status will be brought into effect later in 2020. These improved labour laws will benefit almost 1 million workers across Canada.

- PCLS participates in the \$15 and Fairness campaign. Over the past year, we have continued to push to raise the minimum wage floor and bring in employer paid sick days. The federal government committed in its mandate letter to raise the federal minimum wage to at least \$15.
- As the threats of the pandemic became clear at the beginning of the year, we began pushing for a program of Health Emergency Labour Protections in February for COVID-19 income supports, employer paid sick days, and health and safety protections. When the government's pandemic emergency response was announced March 15th, we launched a campaign to push for \$500 per week income supports that left no workers behind. We continue to push to close the gaps in pandemic income supports and effective paid sick days.



air abour aws ave ave ves

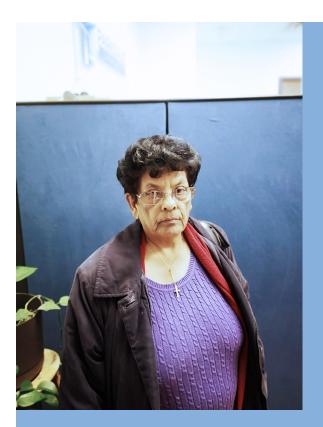
A

# #OCCUPY FORD

AWARDS AND HONOURS

# DOROTHY LEATCH COMMUNITY AWARD - ROMA ROCHESTER

Dorothy Leatch was a much beloved receptionist at Parkdale Community Legal Services for more than 30 years. She took an active interest in the clients and in the community, as well as being very actively engaged in her own church and family community. Dorothy passed away in 2011, and we felt there was no better tribute than to honour in her memory a community member who embodies Dorothy`s own approach to community.



Roma Rochester has lived in Parkdale for over thirty years. She is a retired healthcare worker and an active member of the Parkdale community. Roma is a tenant at a King Street highrise where she is a member of the building committee and a veteran of a successful rent strike in 2018.

She frequently connects her friends and neighbours with the services and activities of PCLS and she got involved during last year's fight against legal aid funding cuts. Her generous, fighting spirit resonates strongly throughout the community and inspires all of us to work together to defend the neighbourhood.

# THE FREDERICK H. ZEMANS PRIZE IN POVERTY LAW - ERIN SOBAT

The Frederick H. Zemans Prize in Poverty Law is awarded annually to an outstanding student enrolled in the Intensive Program in Poverty Law. Frederick Zemans was our founding Clinic Director and has maintained both academically rigorous and supportive relationship with the Clinic since he founded the Clinic.



Erin is a passionate advocate for social justice, our community and for our clinic. He went above and beyond in his case work and community work during his time at PCLS. Erin contributed significantly to two Supreme Court of Canada interventions: David Matthews v. Ocean Nutrition Canada Limited and Uber Technologies Inc., et al. v. David Heller.

Erin was collaborative, supportive of his colleagues, and took the lead when necessary. He also deeply cared about the issues confronting workers and provided a significant leadership role in the Workers' Rights Division and in his community organizing work. He participated in bi-weekly \$15 and Fairness meetings and campaign activities. Erin's commitment to poverty law and access to justice was demonstrated through the significant work he took on during his 8 months at PCLS. Erin also contributed to PCLS' submissions to Legal Aid Ontario's Modernization Project consultation and to Legal Aid Ontario for reconsideration of a 45% cut to PCLS' budget.

# PCLS WELCOMES WENDY ATKINSON AND SHELECA HENRY

**Wendy Atkinson** has worked in a financial role in the GTA's community legal clinic system since 2013. Prior to that, she managed the accounting and administration at a charitable organization for over 7 years as the Director of Finance & Operations, administered and oversaw the financial controllership function at a large duty free operation for 11 years as the Controller, and worked in a shelter for abused women and their children for 5 years, providing financial services and composing grant proposals for the shelter's programs & services. During that time she also coordinated the project development and construction of a new facility. Wendy is a strong collaborator who understands the importance of working with stakeholders – she is also committed to working in an organization focused on the challenges facing diverse and marginalized communities.

**Sheleca Henry** brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her new role at PCLS. She has many years under her belt as a legal administrator providing frontline services, legal information and referrals. Sheleca worked at the Scarborough Family Law Project where she provided administrative support to four community legal clinics and one community hub where she coordinated large caseloads for clinics specializing in Family Law. In her most recent role as a legal administrator at the Health Justice Program she helped people navigate medical-legal networks and to bridge gaps in service.

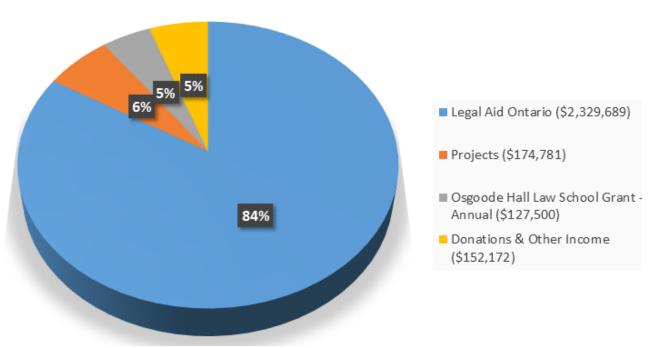
# TREASURER'S REPORT



**CHRISTINE ANDREWS** Treasurer Board of Directors

The Auditor's Report is presented to the membership of Parkdale Community Legal Services each year at the Annual General Meeting. The purpose of an annual audit is to provide the membership with a "reasonable assurance" that the Financial Statements do not contain any misstatements due to fraud or error.

Parkdale's audit was performed by the accounting firm Segal LLP. The auditors test the financial systems and assure you, the members, that the financial picture presented to you, is a fair description of Parkdale's financial position.



## PCLS: 2020 Revenue

LAO continues to be the primary funder of PCLS Services, funding 84% of the Clinic's overall budget during the year. Generous donations made up 5% of our annual revenue. The annual Osgoode Hall Law School Grant, and project funding consisting of grants from Maytree and Trillium PARC, came in around 5% and 6% respectively. Many thanks to all our generous supporters!

Please note that there are a couple of important changes to our revenue in the past fiscal year. Because the Province of Ontario significantly cut funding to Legal Aid Ontario, the community legal clinics in the province also received cuts to their funding. The direct annual funding that PCLS receives from LAO was reduced by 22.5% - a major blow, sadly impacting on how the clinic has historically operated and provided services to the community. Revenue from LAO that was earmarked for PCLS' move to a new office was also cut.

However, the community of Toronto responded to our plight and sent in many donations to PCLS – an increase of over 500% in donations received during the 2019 fiscal year, totalling approximately \$152,000 We are forever grateful for all the support we received from our community of friends.

Staffing the clinic and maintaining our offices comprise the largest portion of expenditures for PCLS. This is a normal spending pattern in a community organization similar to ours. Our work is only possible through efforts of our dedicated staff and students.

The PCLS Board of Directors is pleased that once again, the organization has received a clean audit with one exception. The only qualification in our audit is a standard one for most not-for-profit organizations. Auditors have no way of independently verifying the money that donors may send to a charity.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank the auditors, Segal LLP, for their work in producing the audit, especially during these difficult times.

## THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS







## THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR DONORS

\$20,000 - \$30,000



LERNERS

**JEFF DAVIS** 

\$5000



# BOARD, STAFF, STUDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS

#### BOARD

Adrian A. Smith Amar Bhatia Arthur Kong Bryan Daley Christine Andrews Dave Shellnutt Erin Sobat Fay Faraday Jessica Chandrashekar Kalsang Dolma Luca Lucarini Opal Sparks Parmbir Gill Tsering Lhundup

#### STAFF

Bart Poesiat beth long Cole Webber Jinny Kim Johanna Macdonald John No Mary Gellatly Peggy-Gail Dehal-Ramson Phyllis Abrahams Rathika Vasavithasan Rose Nabwire Sheleca Henry Stephen Littleford Tenzin Tekan Toni Schweitzer Vic Natola Wendy Atkinson

ACADEMIC DIRECTOR

Adrian A. Smith

## **INTERPRETERS**

Jamyang Nyima Kate Szczuka Kha-Tieu Chau Orsolya Kiss

## **CUSTODIAN**

Irme Trotman

## STUDENT CASEWORKERS

Aleksandar Ivovic
Amir Tehrani
Amy Hilowle
Antoinette Monardo
Augusta (Rosie) Hatton
Baldon Mitchell
Barbara Brown
Behzadi Mohammadi
Brett Davis
Brittany Hollingsworth

Brunelle Lewis Caitlin Hurren David Szczurko Deborah Olatunbosun Eleanor Hemming Eliza Coogan Erin Sobat Eugene Chao Evaleen Hellinga Isaac Twinn

Janet Song Jesse Abell Juanita Valencia Julia Kennedy Lindsay Correia Madison Pulfer Madison Santos Martin Wissmath Megan Phyper Merina Sebastian

## BUILDING WORKER POWER NEW SERIES MONDAYS 8/7c

/° °

**X**0

00

ſ

-37

3

 $\overline{\mathbb{G}}$ 

Mihaela Ion Nicholas White Nicky Kim Portia Biswas Rebecca Brown Roshni Khemraj Saadia Naim Sheen Kachroo Star Deak Tiffany Guo

## VOLUNTEERS

Anchal Bhatia Ben Rossiter Brittany Ross-Fichtner Jennifer O'Dell Kylie Sier Mika Imai Peter Connelly Tseten Tekan

Summer 2020 Workers' Rights Division depicted as superheroes inspired by the television show Steven Universe. Coming soon to a theater near you!

Illustration by Lorraine Chuen, Workers' Rights student caseworker.

## Mailing address only:

Parkdale Community Legal Services Lower Level 1229 Queen Street West Toronto ON, M6K 1L2

**Tel.** (416) 531-2411 **Fax.** (416) 531-0885

info@parkdalelegal.org www.parkdalelegal.org

Facebook: <u>fb.com/ParkdaleLegal</u> Twitter: <u>@ParkdaleLegal</u> Join our mailing list: <u>http://eepurl.com/cZne6</u>

Report design by Tenzin Tekan and Tseten Tekan



Charitable Registration No. 1078 14972 RR0001