PARKDALE COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES

2024–2025 Annual Report

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Messages

Message from the Board Co-Chairs
Danielle Bisnar & Sarah Robicheau

The Board of Directors is proud to be part of an organization with a long history of being rooted in the community. Parkdale Community Legal Services (PCLS) plays a pivotal role in helping to build and mobilize an ever increasing community movement for social change and to create the social and economic conditions to eradicate poverty and oppression. PCLS continues to pursue rights to financial stability, decent work, affordable housing, freedom of movement, and to access safety and security for oneself and their family.

We thank the talented staff, the dynamic law students of the Poverty Law Intensive Program at Osgoode Hall Law School, and the always supportive Academic Directors. We, as the Co-Chairs, are also grateful to our fellow Directors who volunteer their time and expertise to ensure good governance of our organization.

We also remember the work of people in PCLS' past, such as our founding Director Frederick Zemans and our former Academic Director Shelley Gavigan. Without them, we would not be the organization that we are today.

We are grateful to our funders, including Legal Aid Ontario, Osgoode Hall Law School, and individual donors

Lastly, we thank the members of the Parkdale community who come out to support our work and inspire us. Their strength and energy make social change possible.

Danielle is a former PCLS student caseworker and current partner with Cavalluzzo LLP. She came to law school from a background of community organizing with Filipinx migrant workers and their families in Vancouver. She practises in the areas of workers' rights, equality, health and Aboriginal law.

Sarah is a former PCLS student case worker and current public servant raising her young family in Parkdale. With an academic and professional background in environmental law and policy, Sarah has extensive experience in community engagement strategizing, collaborative policymaking, and policy/legal education and outreach.

Message from the Academic Directors
Fathima Cader & Amar Bhatia

"I want to tell you about the Sioux Uprising," writes the Oglala Lakota poet Layli Long Soldier, "but I don't know where to begin."

Much of the work we do at PCLS is symptomatic of the kind of mass violence—at once acute and chronic, both administrative and genocidal—that Long Soldier describes in this poem, titled "38". When she discusses the US government's theft of Dakota land, she writes, "I've had difficulty unraveling the terms of these treaties, given the legal speak and congressional language."

That struggle with the minutia of law's deathmaking is at the heart of the clinic's work. Our clients live at the frontiers of state violence. The manufactured conditions of their impoverishment are a direct consequence of Canadian, Ontario and Toronto laws, regulations, and policies that make housing precarious, work undignified, and food inaccessible. Through all this the border reverberates as a threat—the precarity of immigration status that many of our clients are subjected to heightens their vulnerability in other areas: from wage theft to social assistance denials, from criminalization to homelessness. These are the ongoing ravages of capitalism and colonisation.

That is why we studied Long Soldier's poem in the seminar this year, alongside a range of jurisprudence, statute, and literature. Each text represented our effort to ground the clinic's casework and campaign work in long trajectories of state violence and collective resistance. This includes the mass displacement of Indigenous peoples by and in Canada, as well as throughout the global south. Far from being an abstraction, these tensions are material, urgent, and intimate. For instance, Parkdale is home to the largest Tibetan community outside Tibet. This fact, in turn, has shaped the clinic's work and history.

None of this work is done in isolation. Systemic injustice requires a collective response. So much of the clinic's values and successes rests on its commitment to collectivizing struggle and resisting the isolationism of law.

Thus, we are proud that our students work together in teams, in each of their divisions, and that each of the divisions works with the others towards a holistic understanding of the

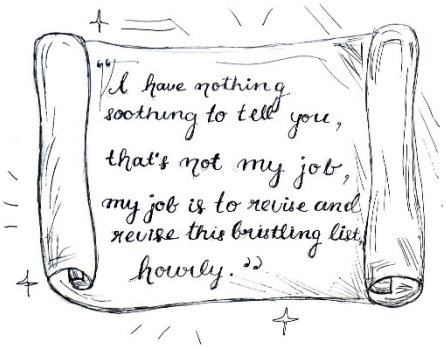
interlinked ways that different areas of law operate in tandem to subjugate and exploit our clients.

We are similarly grateful that our teaching was bolstered with guest lectures by clinic alumni and stalwarts Jessica Chandrashekar, Parmbir Gill, and Shin Imai.

We were also pleased that we got to direct the program together this year. This was the first time the clinic has had co-academic directors. Amar was a student in the then-Immigration Division years ago; later, Fathima later articled here. The clinic has been a touchstone of our friendship, which was further deepened by our sharing this role.

In her poem "Inventory," the Toronto poet Dionne Brand writes,

"happiness is not the point really, it's a marvel, / an accusation in our time." Reflecting on the US invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, among other massacres, she writes, **"I have nothing soothing to tell you, / that's not my job, / my job is to revise and revise this bristling list, / hourly."**



It is in that vein that we end this report from the previous year—not with easy answers or a glib happiness, but with a renewed commitment to collective struggle. Towards a future where a clinic like this one becomes obsolete, not because of funding cuts, but because its services are no longer needed. May we speak of our work here only in the past tense.

Message from the Interim Clinic Director
John No

Parkdale is a special community. Having grown up in South Korea and Etobicoke, I did not have much awareness of Parkdale when I was younger. My first real exposure to Parkdale was in 2005 when I had some time to waste before my interview at PCLS for an opportunity to be its law student caseworker.

I wish I could have recorded my eyes and ears so I could relive what I experienced in my walk around the neighbourhood twenty years ago. Interestingly, other than the fact that many of the businesses along Queen Street West have changed, I don't think the *feel* of the community has changed much since I went on that walk.

If you spend any decent amount of time in Parkdale, then you can feel the spirit and the personality of the place. Rebellious, creative, hardy, and proud.

I believe that PCLS is both a result and a reflection of these Parkdale traits. I hope you agree as you read about our work in the past year.

A few years ago, PCLS experienced an existential crisis due to our eviction from our space at 1266 Queen Street West and funding cuts. But our future looks bright. In the past year, we hired an articling student for the first time in 7 years. We also hired a second housing rights lawyer to expand our services. We are also in the midst of hiring a dedicated migrant rights community organizer, which is especially timely considering the rise of migrant scapegoating that we are experience presently.

Finally, PCLS wishes to remember and commemorate two giant figures in its history that we lost in 2025. Shelley Gavigan served four terms as PCLS' academic director. Frederick Zemans was the founding director of PCLS. We remain grateful for their immense contributions to PCLS.

Year in Review

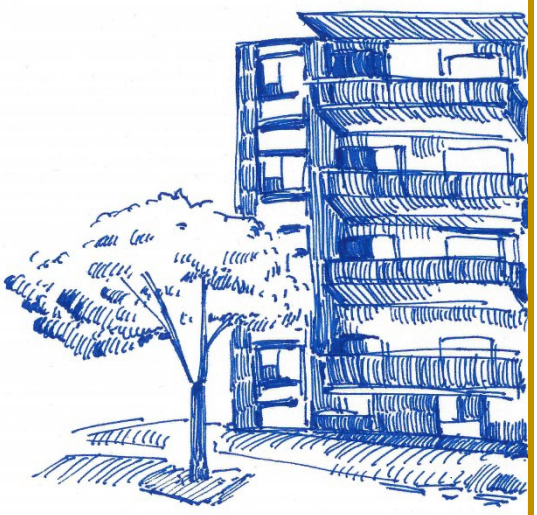
Housing Rights

The Housing Rights division serves Parkdale tenants with legal advice, brief services, representation, and support for tenant organizing. Over the past year, we opened 188 new casefiles and 567 brief services. We provided legal information and organizing support to over 1000 tenants in group meetings and door to door outreach. We also added a new position to our team, bringing in a second housing lawyer, which allowed us to broaden our case selection criteria and take on more tenant applications, appeals, and strategic litigation.

Casework and Brief Services

We defend tenants against eviction at the Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB) and Divisional Court, specializing in representing groups of organized tenants in cases where landlords try to evict multiple tenants for renovations, demolition, or conversion. These are some of our successes over the past year:

- We defended a group of tenants from eviction in a case where the landlord claimed it intended to convert the residential complex into a single-family home. The tenants organized and won their case at the LTB, which was upheld on review. The landlord has now filed a Divisional Court appeal and initiated new eviction proceedings against the tenants, which we will continue to defend the tenants against.
- We won a Divisional Court appeal where the landlord evicted a tenant in retaliation for complaining about disrepair and maintenance issues, claiming it wanted to want to move a family member into the tenant's unit. The LTB sided with the landlord and ordered eviction. We appealed, and the Divisional Court agreed with us and sent the case back to be re-heard at the LTB.
- We defended an elderly tenant who signed an agreement to terminate her tenancy because the landlord told her that the building would be demolished. We argued that the landlord misrepresented the situation to get the tenant to sign and evict her. The LTB agreed and dismissed the eviction.
- We stopped the eviction of a tenant living with disabilities who had her apartment taken over. The non-profit landlord tried to evict the tenant for alleged crimes that took place in her unit that she had no control over. The LTB found the tenant was not responsible and denied the eviction.
- We represented a single mother who lost her job and fell behind on her rent payments. We argued that the LTB should grant her relief from eviction and obtained a 15-year re-payment plan. This way, the tenant can pay off her arrears gradually while she and her daughter remain housed. The landlord appealed the decision, but we prevented the decision from being overturned.



- We successfully advocated with the City of Toronto to change their application for special priority Rent-Geared-to-Income Housing for victims of violence.
- We assisted more tenants with appeals and judicial reviews at Divisional Court, and we took on more tenant applications for illegal lockouts, landlord harassment, and breaches of the Human Rights Code.

We also provided advice, referrals, and brief services to tenants facing eviction for rent arrears and dealing with disrepair issues, landlord harassment, and illegal rent increases and lock outs.

We connected tenants in rent arrears with financial assistance programs, and we also negotiated repayment plans with landlords to prevent eviction cases going to hearings at the LTB. We also supported many tenants with their tenant applications to the LTB. As part of our brief services, we also wrote demand letters to landlords to address disrepair and harassment, helping tenants improve their housing conditions and housing security. Through letters, phone calls, and behind-the-scenes coaching, we successfully stopped many illegal lock outs that tenants have brought us.

Organizing

Tenants at a Parkdale mid-rise successfully organized to have the landlord waive retroactive rent arrears owing from an above guideline rent increase (AGI). The Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB) approved the landlord's AGI application more than two years after the landlord filed it. As a result, tenants who did not pay the above guideline portion of the rent increase before the LTB approved it in some cases owed several thousands of dollars in back rent. Tenants delivered a letter as a group to the landlord's office demanding the landlord waive the AGI arrears and followed up the demand delivery with phone calls and emails to the landlord. The landlord reached out, met with the tenants' committee, and agreed to waive the arrears.

Parkdale tenants renting above a storefront on Queen Street West received N13 eviction notices for extensive renovations. Tenants held a meeting and agreed to fight the evictions. When tenants did not move out, the landlord issued new eviction notices for alleged behavioral infractions. After tenants continued to hold their ground, the landlord refused to accept tenants rent and tenants soon received a new round of eviction notices, this time for non-payment of rent. Tenants' organizing has allowed them need to withstand the landlord's eviction tactics.

After an investor bought two adjacent 11-unit buildings through a numbered company, the landlord's agent went door to door in the building. The agent told tenants that the landlord planned to demolish the building and tenants would have to move out. He offered small sums of money to tenants who agreed to sign a document ending their tenancy. In response to the buy-out offers, tenants held a meeting. At the meeting, tenants committed to staying in their homes. They also agreed to collectively confront the landlord's agent if he came back to the building. Since the tenant meeting, there has been no more harassment.

Migrant Rights

Anti-immigrant scapegoating continued to be fueled by governments and the right during 2024-25. While we continued our campaign for a comprehensive regularization program for undocumented residents with demonstrations in the spring and fall, alliance building and meetings with the government, the tide had turned. Our proposal was one of the options taken to cabinet in the late summer, but the Ministers rejected human dignity and rights and chose division and racism by reneging on their mandate commitment for a broad regularization plan.

After decades of struggle for the right to come to Canada with permanent residency and their families, migrant care workers finally won status on arrival on June 3, 2024. Care workers fought for a comprehensive caregiver program that would enable the tens of thousands of migrant care workers who had fallen out of status to apply under the 2024-25 caregiver pilot project, but the government failed to listen. In March 2025, only 2,750 migrant care workers were able to submit their PR application during the 3 hours that the portal was open leaving 40,000 care workers unable to apply.

As the pathways for folks to remain in Canada become more and more limited, we remained very busy on the casework front during 2024-25. We continued to assist new and longstanding clients as they navigate Canada's unjust and discriminatory immigration system.

During the past year, we have successfully reunited families in Canada after long periods of separation; successfully represented several clients with their spousal sponsorship appeals before the Immigration Appeal Division; obtained open work permits for clients with unenforceable removal orders, as well as those on closed work permits tied to abusive employers; assisted clients with protected-person status in Canada to apply for permanent residency; and continued pushing forward many of our longstanding and complex immigration files.

A snapshot of our casework successes:

- We succeeded in having a client's refugee claim reopened after it was declared abandoned by the Refugee Protection Division. We received the positive decision only one day before the client was to be removed from Canada. Happily, this success has allowed them to remain in Canada with their spouse and infant child.
- We successfully defended a client against the government's cessation application, which sought to strip them of their protected person status. Subsequently, the client's application for permanent residence was finalized and they were landed as a PR in Canada.
- We succeeded in having a client and her family reunited in Canada after six years of separation. The client came to Canada as a live-in caregiver, and after several challenging years, her and her family's application for permanent residence has now been finalized.
- We represented a client at their Pre-Removal Risk Assessment hearing. Despite their long and complicated immigration history, and prior refusals at the RPD and RAD, their application succeeded. They are now a protected person in Canada, able to access vital health and social services.
- We filed a number of applications for judicial review at Federal Court to challenge unreasonable IRCC and CBSA decisions, several of which were settled by the DOJ based on our written arguments. These included refused applications for temporary resident status renewal in Canada, as well as a patently unreasonable decision by CBSA to try to enforce a $15,000 performance bond signed by our client.
- We also filed a number of *mandamus* applications in Federal Court to compel IRCC to make decisions on client applications that had been delayed for many years without explanation. As a result of one *mandamus* application, our client's family sponsorship application was finally approved; their spouse and children arrived in Canada after a six-year legal battle, and even more years of separation.
- We assisted with two successful spousal sponsorship appeals. Following initial refusals and successful appeals at the Immigration Appeal Division, our clients and their spouses were reunited in Canada after six and nine years of separation, respectively.
- We were able to secure an "Open Work Permit for Vulnerable Workers" for a client who came to Canada on an employer-specific work permit, but was forced to quit their job due to abusive and unsafe working conditions.

Workers' Rights

PCLS partners with the Workers' Action Centre (WAC) in campaigns to improve wages and working conditions. In 2024, we increased organizing against wage theft. With the provincial government's decline in employment standards enforcement, employers are increasingly confident that they can steal workers' wages and get away with it.

Throughout the year, we targeted employers that owed wages to many of its employees. One fast food restaurant chain with 19 outlets owed workers over $100,000 in unpaid wages. We conducted a survey of over 500 workers to map the nature of wage theft and worked with WAC members to develop strategies and demands for the government to stop wage theft. The policy report was released in the fall, 2025.

The U.S. government's actions on trade and tariffs created economic instability in Canada beyond sectors targeted by tariffs. This was taking place in the context of increasing unemployment and job instability alongside the crisis in the cost of living. The government responded with substantial supports for business but nothing for workers. We developed a campaign called "No one left behind: Organizing a workers-first agenda to address the tariff crisis". We called for governments at all levels to take action to provide income supports that are adequate, widely accessible, and structured to avoid costly and punitive clawback measures against workers.

In the casework side of our work, we obtained $564,189.47 in unpaid wages, wrongful dismissal damages, human rights damages, and other entitlements on behalf of our clients. Some of our successes include:

- Significant settlements for three app-based drivers, who had independent contractor/employee misclassification claims.
- A favourable Canada Revenue Agency decision on an independent contractor/employee misclassification issue.
- Six settled human rights claims, with settlements ranging from $5,700 to $33,000.
- Fourteen concluded Small Claims Court actions, with judgments or settlements up to $20,000.
- One settled Superior Court action for $39,000.
- Eleven concluded ESA claims, all of which resulted in Orders to Pay issued or favourable settlements, highest of which was $39,075.

One of our more noteworthy cases was *Martin Ramos Estrada v 6978991 Canada Inc. o/a Niva Services*, 2024 CanLII 46368 (ON LRB).

Martin Ramos Estrada is a Mexican national, who was recruited by truck repair and maintenance company to work as a mechanic. Martin obtained a two-year closed work permit for his employment in Canada. The closed work permit prohibited Martin from working for any other employer than Niva Services.

Soon after Martin's arrival in Canada, his employer and recruiter told him and a co-worker – also a recent employee from Mexico – that they would be returning a portion of their wages to their employer. Martin balked at the scheme, and he insisted that if the employer wished to pay them less than the rate that they initially agreed upon, then the employer should draft a new written employment contract and remit proper taxes to the government.

A few days after Martin's refusal to return a portion of his wages, the recruiter who arranged the employment threatened to send Martin and his co-worker back to Mexico if they continued to resist their employer. When Martin and his co-worker continued to refuse, Niva Services fired him.

We represented Martin at the Ontario Labour Relations Board, and the Board agreed that Niva Services fired Martin for asserting his rights under the *Employment Standards Act*. As a remedy, the Board awarded him 96 weeks of lost wages, along with pain and suffering damages.

Social Assistance, Anti-Violence, and Health (SAVAH)

During the 2024-25 year, the SAVAH team has been highly engaged in working with the Parkdale and Swansea communities to continue battling the may daily injustices faced by low-income Ontarians who receive social benefits such as Ontario Works ("OW"), Ontario Disability Support Program ("ODSP") as well as other disability related programs such as Canada Pension Plan Disability, the Disability Tax Credit and senior benefits such as Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement. We have also begun reviewing and training to prepare as the Canada Disability Benefit came into place over the summer, and in anticipation of the potential legal issues we may see arise in the coming months.

We have continued to see a steady number of cases coming in where clients have applied for OW benefits and been denied based on not having regularized immigration status, which has been a new issue over the last couple of years. We are of course aware that the social assistance definition of eligibility is exclusionary and does not contemplate or require official immigration status. All it requires is that an applicant not be a visitor or tourist, in the plain meaning of those words, and that an applicant not have an enforceable removal order against them. These definitions have further been clarified by the Social Benefits Tribunal. We continue to appeal these kinds of cases to help ensure that our clients can access financial supports for the first time or have their supports reinstated in the instances where their benefits were placed on hold. We were previously able to settle some of these cases and presently have additional cases like this awaiting hearing and we hope to be able to settle these as well.

We continued to do our "bread and butter" work advising and representing clients in ODSP benefit denial cases, where we saw much success with assisting clients to present their benefit eligibility cases. This is noteworthy for all clients, and particularly so in the vast majority of cases where clients are OW recipients before they become eligible for ODSP. The benefit rate for an individual recipient on OW has been capped at a maximum amount of $733/month for the last seven years, whereas the current maximum individual rate on ODSP is $1408, with this benefit now being indexed to inflation. Transitioning from OW to ODSP is a significant jump in income, which is noteworthy for Parkdale and Swansea-area residents, as

the cost of living in Toronto continues to skyrocket in all areas, including rent and grocery costs.

We have also noted an increase in OW and ODSP overpayment matters incoming to the SAVAH team. Overpayments occur when social assistance recipients are said to have received more money than they were entitled and may occur for a few reasons. Some of the most common reasons we see are when recipients receive income from another source (such as employment or other benefits, such as Canada Pension Plan Disability benefits) and are unaware of the responsibility to report or how to do so; changes to a recipient's amount of rent, or material changes to the composition of the benefit unit. These cases are complex and involved and can be somewhat intrusive in the financial lives of our clients, although most client are good sports about it. We continue to strive for making the process as seamless as possible for clients and to ensure fair outcomes from this rigorous process.

In terms of case highlights, we have had some new and interesting case files come across our desks in SAVAH this year.

- We submitted a reconsideration on a denial at the Social Benefits Tribunal ("SBT") in relation to an OW denial based on immigration status. The reconsideration request was based on the SBT's misapplication of law in the case. The reconsideration was granted and a new hearing has been scheduled for an upcoming date.
- We submitted a reconsideration to the SBT regarding a procedural fairness issue in the decision in an ODSP medical eligibility matter, where the hearing was a paper hearing. We are awaiting a decision on the reconsideration request.
- We attended our first HRTO mediation in relation to goods and services and we able to obtain a settlement for our client in advance of the scheduled hearing.
- We negotiated settlements and represented clients in several social assistance overpayment cases, where we were successful in getting repayments deferred or reduced to monthly amounts that were significantly more manageable for our clients. For example, we represented a client with a $20,954.10 ODSP overpayment; we were able to get the overpayment reduced to $6,618. 55 on review, with the SBT granting the appeal in part and reducing the amount owing by a further 20 per cent (to $5294.84) based on our financial hardship arguments.

Awards

Dorothy Leatch Award

Janice Walker

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 individuals who embody Dorothy`s own approach to community.

This year, we are extremely excited to honour Janice Walker.

Janice Walker is a tenant at 130 Jameson Avenue, who successfully organized with her neighbours to beat her eviction. Over 35 years ago, Janice arrived in Canada, moved into her mother's Parkdale apartment, and has lived there ever since. In 2023, her mother, who was the sole leaseholder of their shared rental unit, passed away. Days later, her corporate landlord gave her legal notice of eviction on the grounds that she was an unauthorized occupant. Only after she and other tenants in her building organized and spoke out against her eviction in the media did the landlord back down.

Frederick H. Zemans Prize in Poverty Law
Sakeina Syed & Nikolai McLeod

The Zemans Prize was created to honour the contributions of Professor Fred Zemans, founding Clinic Director of Parkdale Community Legal Services. The prize is awarded to a law students who have performed at a high level of excellence in all aspects of the Program - legal work, community work, and academic work. This year, we have two worthy recipients.

Sakeina Syed was a case worker in the Workers' Rights division.

Sakeina was a student who understood that one cannot practice progressive law without understanding the broader context. Accordingly, Sakeina was creative in the development of legal strategy and was consistently able to recognize clients' motivations and propose approach to their case which prioritized the achievement of those unique goals. This was exemplified in her work with Uber drivers in their push to be recognized as employees, who would be protected by the *Employment Standards Act*.

Prior to attending law school, Sakeina studied public policy and creative writing at York University and worked as a journalist

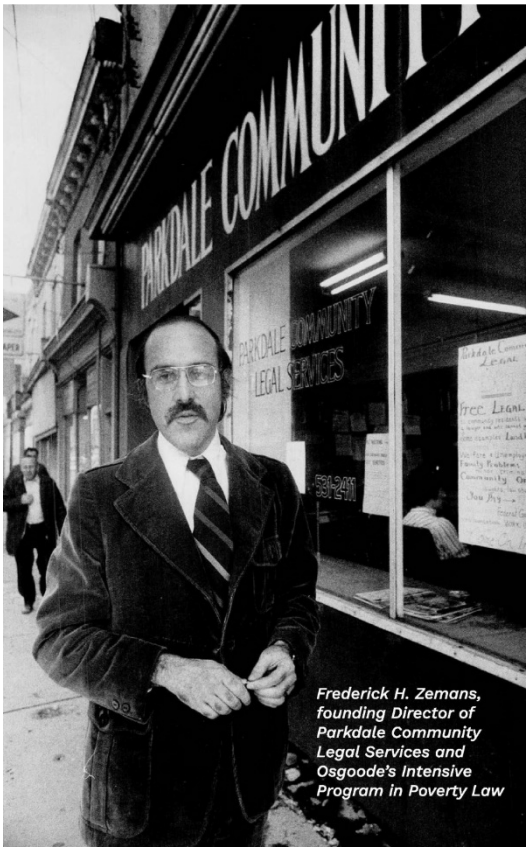
Nikolai McLeod was a caseworker in the Housing Rights Division.

Nikolai exemplified the principles of community lawyering. He fiercely pursued justice for his clients. He used his skills and knowledge to protect and advance his clients' tenant rights remaining focused and determined no matter how challenging the case. His diligence and collaborative approach strengthened the housing team. He consistently supported tenants to take collective action against evictions, rent increases, and unacceptable housing conditions.

Before attending Osgoode, Nikolai lived in Parkdale and, with the help of Parkdale Legal, he and his neighbours formed a tenant association and successfully resisted a renoviction attempt by their landlords. It was very meaningful for him to have a chance to work at the clinic, and he is grateful for the generosity and mentorship of the amazing staff, and the opportunity to work with many great clients.

In Memoriam

In Memoriam
Frederick Zemans, Founding Director of PCLS



Frederick H. Zemans, founding Director of Parkdale Community Legal Services and Osgoode's Intensive Program in Poverty Law

"The office is still very much in its infancy. The first six months were hectic, exciting and exhausting. During this period of time there was only one full-time lawyer who was also responsible for the academic input and supervision of sixteen law students. Much of the time was spent during the fall discussing the role of the office in the community and the type of relationship that should be developed with the community. The Director was also required to spend considerable time informing the profession with respect to the aims and objects of a community law office. At times the very existence of the office seemed to be threatened."

- *Professor Frederick Zemans, in his February 1972 Report to the federal Department of Health and Welfare*

Fred was the founding director of PCLS and a driving force behind its Intensive Program in Poverty Law. His work inspired generations of law students to pursue careers rooted in social justice and public service.

Fred was also the Director of Clinical Education at Osgoode for many years and was one of the original faculty teaching in Osgoode's undergraduate and graduate programs in Alternative Dispute Resolution. His scholarship and teaching helped advance the field of ADR in Canada, and his work as a mediator and facilitator reflected his commitment to collaborative problem-solving.

In Memoriam

Shelley Gavigan, Former (4x) PCLS Academic Director, Professor, Associate Dean, Writer

"When I think of Parkdale I think of the students I have known, the clinic staff who have been my colleagues, my faculty colleagues, and the members of the community and the profession who have volunteered countless hours on the clinic's board of directors. I remember the occasional client who has had to deal with this academic director. I remember the enormous generosity and grace of every single Parkdale alumnae to whom I have turned for assistance or advice, and the fact that no one ever says no. And, when I do, inevitably the dynamic tension that is so much a part of the place and its history, gives way to an enormous sense of pride at what so many have given and accomplished."

- *Professor Shelley Gavigan, in her 1997 reflection of her time as a PCLS academic director*

Shelley joined Osgoode Hall Law School in the 1980s after practising criminal defence for First Nations and Métis clients in Saskatchewan, working in community legal clinics and serving as the first director of complaints and compliance for the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission.

Over the next three decades, she taught criminal, family and poverty law and was widely known for her commitment to legal education, social justice and feminist scholarship. She served twice as associate dean at Osgoode and held four terms as academic director of PCLS.

Later in her career, she shifted to legal history and the criminalization of Indigenous Peoples. That shift led to a doctorate in legal history and her 2012 book *Hunger, Horses, and Government Men: Criminal Law on the Aboriginal Plains, 1870–1905*. The book received several awards, including the Canadian Historical Association's CLIO Prize for The Prairies, and earned honourable mentions for the CHA's best book in Canadian history and the Canadian Law & Society Association's Annual Book Prize.

In Memoriam
Phil MacInnis, Housing Activist, 2018 Dorothy Leatch Award Winner

"Back in 2017, Phil and his neighbours beat renoviction by threatening to organize a boycott of their landlord's chain restaurant. After that, Phil encouraged other Parkdale tenants to fight eviction, especially other single guys living in rooming houses. We became buddies and he would drop by my work to shoot the shit. He loved to brag that since the eviction fight his landlord never once raised his rent. Phil struggled with alcoholism and mental illness. He often said that if his landlord had succeeded in evicting him, street homelessness would have killed him fast, and that organizing to stop the evictions at his building saved his life. I believe him. RIP."

- *Cole Webber, PCLS Housing Rights Community Legal Worker*

Board, Staff, and Students

Board

Danielle Bisnar
Parmbir Gill
Ian McKellar
Nadia Rajaram
Shari Robbins
Bruce Ryder
Andrea Vitopoulos
Emina Gamulin
Patricia McMahon
Austen Metcalfe
Nemica Raneethran
Sarah Robicheau
Sheryl Sarfin
Newsha Zargaran

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Mary Gellatly
Sheleca Henry
Kristen Lloyd
Diana McPherson
Vic Natola
Brianna Robinson
Cole Webber
Wendy Atkinson
Ahmad Ezzeddine
Butterfly Sabrina GoPaul
Lindsay Blair Holder
Samuel Mason
Rose Nabwire
John No
Tenzin Tekan

Academic director

Fathima Cader
Amar Bhatia

Cleaning Services

Irme Trotman

Student caseworkers

Housing Rights

Francisco Del Giudice
Ethan Feldman
Shabaz Khan
Nikolai McLeod
Tracey Yu
Geoffrey Vendeville
Aryaa Dubey
Marie Kelly
Cecilia Liu
Phillip Paschali
Jacob Wynperle

Migrant Rights

Manoor Babar
Omar El Sharkawy
Natasha Polis
Jordan Serieux
Hamza Syed
Yash Verma
Dairene Daman
Sanjam Panag
Sara Raoufi
Ryan Singh
Nicholas Tadros
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Dylan Moorhead
Yianni Patiniotis
Christina Rajkumar
Linda Wang
Sophia Khan Basu
Variam Manak
Arooba Muhammad
Leah Paton
Samyak Sharma

Workers Rights

Zubeir Ahmed
Priya Basra
Travis Dods
Dania Kassim
Emily Miranda
Sakeina Syed
Vincent Barzetti
Avery Cocchio
Rayan Kalo
Hazel Leung
Nemica Raneethran

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