



**HALCO – HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic (Ontario)**  
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Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y 1G7

**Telephone: 416-340-7790 / 1-888-705-8889**  
**website: [www.halco.org](http://www.halco.org)**

***Dignity. Equity. Justice.***

***Serving People with HIV/AIDS through Legal Advocacy.***

HALCO welcomes two new contract staff:  
**Kevin Wong** (*Staff Lawyer*) and  
**Karishma Golani**, (*Fundraising & Volunteer  
Management Assistant*) – please see page 2.

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## **HALCO Board of Directors:**

Our skilled and dedicated volunteer Board members, the majority of whom are people living with HIV, are vital to our governance. Our current Board members are **Mark Blans** (Vice-Chair), **Michael Capp** (Secretary/Treasurer), **Anne Marie DiCenso**, **Peter Gross**, **Gary Logie**, **Martha Mackinnon** (Chair), and **Robert Watkin**. We also sincerely thank former Board members **Irene Mlambo** and **Jessica Whitbread** for their contributions and we wish them well. For more information about our Board and Board Committees, please contact us.

## **HALCO Staff:**

In early 2011, we were delighted to welcome two new contract staff:

- **Kevin Wong** is our new Staff Lawyer and is now the first contact for new immigration inquiries. Kevin brings legal clinic experience which has already been very useful.
- **Karishma Golani** is our new part-time Fundraising and Volunteer Management Assistant. Her fundraising and event management experience is proving to be most helpful.

**Alex Mann**, our articling student for the 2010/2011 year, has been working extremely hard providing exceptional service to HALCO clients. Her dedication, knowledge and easy-going manner have made her a valued member of our team. We will really miss her when she finishes here in May 2011 and we wish her every success. Thanks Alex!

## **Our staff are [in alphabetical order]:**

- **Karishma Golani**, Fundraising & Volunteer Management Assistant
- **Renée Lang**, Staff Lawyer
- **Rick Lobodzinski**, Administrative Assistant
- **Jill McNall**, Community Legal Worker
- **Bill Merryweather**, Director of Administration
- **John Nelson**, Staff Lawyer
- **John Norquay**, Staff Lawyer
- **Ryan Peck**, Executive Director/Lawyer
- **Amy Wah**, Staff Lawyer
- **Kevin Wong**, Staff Lawyer



## **2011 Kreppner Awards – Call for Nominations**

HALCO established the Kreppner Awards in 2010 to honour the late **James Kreppner**. Up to two awards may be given each year to recognize unparalleled achievement in advocating on behalf of or bettering the lives of people living with HIV or people co-infected with HIV and Hepatitis C. The awards are given in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in either the public domain or the private domain – i.e. an “unsung hero”. More information is available by calling HALCO or on the “What’s New” page of our website: [www.halco.org/new.html](http://www.halco.org/new.html)

## **HALCO Fundraising News**

In the second year of implementing our fundraising strategy, HALCO has been very successful, raising more than \$60,000 from a variety of different sources. A couple of highlights from the past year:



On November 20, 2010 our second annual fundraising bowl-a-thon raised **\$11,000!** Thanks to all who raised funds, shopped at our silent auction and bowled the night away! And special thanks to **Jesse Kalyshov** who received the award for most funds raised by an individual, and to the **Funky Walkers, Dirty Talkers** team who received the award for most funds raised by a team.

Later in November, we received word that we were selected to receive a grant of \$40,000 from the **M-A-C AIDS Fund** for our new HALCO Intake Lawyer position. The **M-A-C AIDS Fund** supports people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide by donating every cent of the selling price of **M-A-C VIVA GLAM** lipstick and lipglass. Please consider purchasing one and supporting both the **M-A-C AIDS Fund** and **HALCO**.

Thanks to all of our fabulous fundraising volunteers who gave of their time and energies over the past year to make our fundraising program the great success it is!

If you are interested in being part of our dynamic fundraising team at HALCO, please contact **Bill Merryweather**, our Director of Administration: [merryww@lao.on.ca](mailto:merryww@lao.on.ca).



## **Volunteer Appreciation Evening**

On Friday, March 18, 2011, HALCO held its first-ever **Volunteer Appreciation Evening** to thank our amazing volunteers and to recognize their great work on behalf of the organization.

It was a wonderful evening! Fifteen volunteers joined HALCO staff and Board members to enjoy good food and drink, excellent music and great conversation. **Martha Mackinnon**, Chair of the HALCO Board of Directors, brought greetings and words of thanks from the Board.

Be sure to look for this event again next year!

## **Make a donation to HALCO**

The support of generous donors like you helps us provide free legal services for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS across Ontario. HALCO is a registered charity and issues tax receipts for donations of \$20 or more. Please consider making a donation. You can call us, write to us or donate on-line through the secure Canada Helps website – there is a “Donate Now” button on our website:

[www.halco.org/help.html](http://www.halco.org/help.html)

## **Third-Party Events**



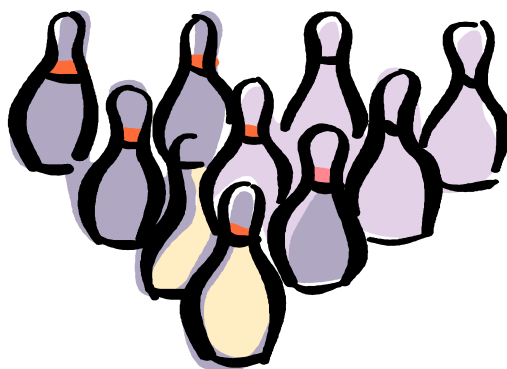
Ever thought about holding a fundraising event in support of HALCO? We are currently looking for people to hold events: yard sales, bake sales, dinner parties, pizza parties...

If you are interested in learning more about hosting a third-party fundraising event for HALCO, please contact **Karishma Golani**, our new Fundraising & Volunteer Management Assistant: [golanik@lao.on.ca](mailto:golanik@lao.on.ca)

## Welcome Karishma Golani!

We are very pleased to welcome **Karishma Golani** to the HALCO staff as our first-ever Fundraising and Volunteer Management Assistant. Before joining us, Karishma was employed at the Peel HIV/AIDS Network where she was responsible for the successful implementation of the 2010 AIDS Walk. Karishma's responsibilities at HALCO include providing support for fundraising events, developing third-party events, as well as recruiting, managing and recognizing volunteers.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual HALCO Fundraising Bowl-a-thon!



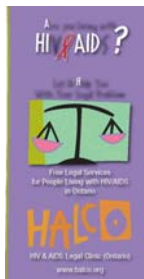
**Saturday, November 19, 2011**  
**from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.**

**Bathurst Bowlerama, 2788 Bathurst Street, Toronto**  
**(Bathurst & Glencairn)**

For more information, please contact either  
Bill Merryweather [merryww@lao.on.ca](mailto:merryww@lao.on.ca) or  
Karishma Golani [golanik@lao.on.ca](mailto:golanik@lao.on.ca)

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## New HALCO Pamphlet



Everyone at HALCO was very pleased to finalize and print our new HALCO information pamphlet in late 2010. Tremendous thanks are due to **Theresa Wojtasiewicz** whose expert design skills were instrumental in the look of the final pamphlet. We have distributed thousands of our new pamphlets to AIDS Service Organizations, public health units, health clinics, and agencies across Ontario. If you would like to order copies of our pamphlet, please contact us. If you would like to see what our new pamphlet *really* looks like, you can find it on the "Publications" page of our website: [www.halco.org/publications.html](http://www.halco.org/publications.html)

## Campaign for Prosecutorial Guidelines for HIV Non-Disclosure Allegations

Ontario's Attorney General has begun to heed the concerns of the over 1,000 organizations and individuals that have thus far endorsed the Ontario Working Group on Criminal Law and HIV Exposure (CLHE) "Call" for guidelines for Crown prosecutors handling allegations of HIV non-disclosure. In December 2010, the Ministry of the Attorney General informed CLHE that the Ministry is engaged in a process to develop guidance materials for Crown prosecutors in the area of HIV-related prosecutions. While CLHE applauds the Attorney General for taking this step, it is essential that meaningful consultation informs the development of the guidelines and that the guidelines are issued in a timely manner.



From March to May, CLHE engaged in a province-wide consultation involving people living with HIV, communities affected by HIV, legal, public health and scientific experts, health care providers, and AIDS service organizations. For more information or to endorse the CLHE campaign, please visit: [www.ontarioaidsnetwork.on.ca/clhe/](http://www.ontarioaidsnetwork.on.ca/clhe/)

**If you have questions about criminalization issues, or if you know someone facing HIV-related criminal charges, please contact HALCO.**

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## HALCO involved in landmark sex work case

The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network (Legal Network) and the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS (BC-CfE) have been granted intervener status in a landmark case before the Ontario Court of Appeal aimed at protecting the health and human rights of sex workers. **Renée Lang** (staff lawyer at HALCO) and **Jonathan Shime** (partner and lawyer at Cooper & Sandler LLP) are representing the Legal Network and BC-CfE.

The Legal Network and BC-CfE will support **Terri Jean Bedford**, **Amy Lebovitch** and **Valerie Scott** in resisting the Government of Canada's attempt to overturn a lower court decision that could open the door to decriminalizing sex work.

Sex work itself is not illegal in Canada, but *Criminal Code* provisions on communicating, procuring, bawdy houses and living off the avails of prostitution make it all but impossible to engage in sex work without running afoul of the criminal law. In September 2010, an Ontario trial court found that some of these provisions force sex workers into more dangerous situations and contribute to a greater risk of violence and other threats to their health and safety. The Ontario trial court found the *Criminal Code* provisions to be unconstitutional. However, the law remains in place until the Ontario Court of Appeal hears the federal Government's appeal.

The Legal Network and BC-CfE will argue that the current laws create legal prohibitions on the necessary conditions required for sex work to be conducted in a safe and secure setting, including limiting the ability to negotiate condom use, and, that the laws severely hinder sex workers' access to adequate health care. The appeal is scheduled to be heard in June 2011



## Proposed Increase to Pardon Application Fees

To be eligible to apply for a pardon, a person who was convicted of a criminal offence has to have completed their sentence and demonstrated 'law-abiding behaviour' over a specific period of time. A pardon does not erase the criminal record, but information about the criminal conviction is taken out of the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) and may not be disclosed without permission from the Minister of Public Safety Canada.



On February 2, 2011, federal Public Safety Minister Vic Toews proposed that the pardon application fee be increased from the current \$150 to \$631. According to government materials, the proposed fee increase will mean that the person applying for the pardon pays the full costs of processing the pardon application.

The Parole Board of Canada held consultations on the proposal from February 10 to 27, 2011, but has not released its report yet. You can find more information in the *User Fees and Service Standards For the Processing of Pardon Applications Discussion Paper*.

[www.pbc-clcc.gc.ca/infocntr/factsh/pardon-disc-eng.shtml](http://www.pbc-clcc.gc.ca/infocntr/factsh/pardon-disc-eng.shtml)

The pardon application fee was previously increased from \$50 to \$150 on December 29, 2010, which was the first fee increase since the fee was introduced about 16 years ago.

If you are currently eligible for a pardon, we suggest that you consider applying soon to avoid any future increase in the pardon application fee. The Parole Board of Canada website makes clear that you do not need a lawyer or representative to apply for a pardon. You can find more pardon information and the pardon application on the Parole Board of Canada website:

<http://pbc-clcc.gc.ca/infocntr/factsh/pardon-eng.shtml>

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## Canada Pension Plan Retirement Pension Changes

Canada Pension Plan (CPP) Retirement Pension rules are changing. The changes will take effect gradually and will be fully in effect in 2016. The main changes are:



- Your CPP retirement pension will **increase** by a larger percentage if you take it **after** age 65.
- Your CPP retirement pension will **decrease** by a larger percentage if you take it **before** age 65.
- If you are under 65 and you work while receiving your CPP retirement pension, you and your employer will have to make CPP contributions and the contributions will increase your CPP retirement benefits.
- If you are age 65 to 70 and you work while receiving your CPP retirement pension, you can choose to make CPP contributions and the contributions will increase your CPP retirement benefits.
- The number of years of low or zero earnings that are automatically dropped from the calculation of your CPP pension will increase.
- You do not have to stop work to be able to begin receiving your CPP retirement pension.

For more information, you can visit the CPP website: [www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/oas-cpp/index.shtml](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/oas-cpp/index.shtml)

## **Immigration Law Update**

In June 2010, the Canadian government made important changes to some of Canada's immigration laws. The changes concern the process for refugee claims, pre-removal risk assessments, humanitarian and compassionate grounds applications, and deportations.

The changes will not affect citizens, permanent residents, or anyone who is already accepted as a refugee.

Most of the final details of the changes are not yet known. However, the government will be making announcements about the details in the coming months, and has stated that the changes will likely be in effect by December 2011. When the final details are known, we will post detailed information on HALCO's website and publish an explanation in our next newsletter. We will also send information to AIDS service organizations.



One change to the way decisions are made in humanitarian and compassionate ("H&C") grounds applications took effect in June 2010. If you are living with HIV and you made an "H&C" application on or after June 29, 2010, please call HALCO to see if that change affects you.

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## **"60s Scoop" Class Action - First Nations children placed for adoption or fostering in Ontario between 1965 and 1984**

"Brown and Commanda and Canada" is a class action lawsuit which has been certified against the government of Canada. Marsha Brown and Robert Commanda are suing Canada on behalf of themselves and possibly 16,000 other Aboriginal/First Nations persons. The lawsuit has become known as the "60s Scoop" class action.

As the representative plaintiffs, Brown and Commanda are arguing that a wrongful act was committed between the years 1965 and 1984, and that Canada did not comply with its duty to preserve Aboriginal/First Nations cultural identity for all of the Aboriginal/First Nations children in Ontario who were placed in non-aboriginal homes for adoption or as crown wards or foster children. They argue that in consequence of what Canada did or did not do, they lost their cultural identity and this has caused them much pain and suffering. More information is available on the Class Action website:

[www.sixtiesscoopclaim.ca](http://www.sixtiesscoopclaim.ca)

Eligible individuals can register to be claimants in the class action. To be eligible for the class action:

- a. the individual must have been placed for adoption, as a crown ward or in a foster home in Ontario;
- b. the placement must have occurred between January 1, 1965, and December 31, 1984;
- c. the individual placed for adoption or in a foster home must be Canadian Aboriginal/First Nations (including status, non-status, Metis); and,
- d. the placement must have involved placement in a non-Aboriginal/non-First Nations environment.

Eligible individuals can register:

- on the website: [www.sixtiesscoopclaim.ca](http://www.sixtiesscoopclaim.ca)
- by contacting Alex Hamilton at the law firm of Wilson Christen:  
[ahamilton@wilsonchristen.com](mailto:ahamilton@wilsonchristen.com) or phone 416-956-5631.

## **Two Health Information Privacy Issues in Ontario**

This is a summary of our ***Important Health Information Privacy Issues in Ontario*** Information Sheet about the release of personal medical information related to laboratory test information and prescription drug claim histories in Ontario.



### **Ontario Laboratories Information System (OLIS)**

In January 2011, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care began the process of sharing laboratory test information with a broad range of health care providers through the Ontario Laboratories Information System (OLIS). You can request that all or a portion of your lab test information not be shared. At this point, it is unclear whether HIV-related lab test information will be shared. We therefore advise you to restrict your access immediately if you do not want your HIV-related lab test information to be shared. **To restrict access to your lab test information, call the OLIS information line at 1-800-291-1406 (TTY: 1-800-268-7095).**

### **Ontario Drug Benefit Program Drug Profile Viewer (DPV)**

If you are in receipt of benefits under the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program, your prescription drug claim history can be accessed by hospital health care providers through the Drug Profile Viewer (DPV) system.

The Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program provides drug coverage to the following Ontario residents who have valid Ontario Health Cards:

- Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program recipients;
- Trillium Drug Program registrants;
- people 65 years of age and older;
- residents of long-term care homes;
- residents of Homes for Special Care; and
- people receiving professional services under the Home Care program.

**You can stop your ODB prescription drug claim history from being shared by restricting access to ALL or PART of your claim history.**

To restrict access to your ODB prescription drug claim history, you must complete and submit a special form that you can find at:

[www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/forms/eda\\_fm.aspx](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/forms/eda_fm.aspx)



In April 2011, HALCO submitted a complaint, on behalf of the Ontario AIDS Network, about the above mentioned OLIS issue to the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario. We expect to submit a complaint about the drug claim history issue soon.

To learn more about both OLIS and the DPV, you can access our ***Important Health Information Privacy Issues in Ontario*** Information Sheet on the "Publications" page of our website:

[www.halco.org/publications.html](http://www.halco.org/publications.html)

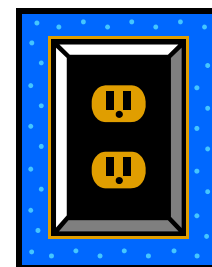
**If you are living with HIV and have concerns about your personal health information, please contact HALCO.**



## **New electricity customer service rules to help low-income consumers**

The Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) recently announced long-awaited customer service rules that are designed to help low-income households maintain their residential electricity service. The new rules are part of the OEB's Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP). LEAP is a comprehensive plan consisting of:

- emergency relief for consumers in short-term payment crisis;
- targeted energy conservation and demand management programs to reduce energy consumption and costs; and
- new flexible rules relating to security deposit and fee waivers, arrears payment plans, and disconnection notice periods.



"This is good news for low-income consumers who struggle to pay for rent, food, transportation and their basic energy needs," said Jennifer Lopinski, of the Low Income Energy Network (LIEN) Steering Committee. "When attempting to resolve their electricity arrears, low-income consumers will have real options to reduce financial hardship. We're also pleased that the OEB is consulting on implementing similar conditions of service rules for low-income natural gas customers."

LIEN actively participated in the OEB's proceeding which was initiated three years ago to develop the new customer service rules, and continues to advocate for the establishment of a permanent energy rate affordability program for low-income consumers that would proactively prevent households from falling into arrears.

The new low-income customer service rules will come into effect on October 1, 2011. For more details about the rules and eligibility, please see the OEB backgrounder:

[www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/OEB/Documents/Press+Releases/bckgrndr\\_lowincome.pdf](http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/OEB/Documents/Press+Releases/bckgrndr_lowincome.pdf)

More information about LIEN can be found at: [www.lowincomeenergy.ca/](http://www.lowincomeenergy.ca/)

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## **Bell Canada Customer Rebate**



Bell Canada customers who had an active home phone account as of August 31, 2010, in an urban area are eligible for a \$67.41 "Deferral Account Rebate". For more information, please see: [www.bell.ca/shopping/PrsShp\\_Rebate.page](http://www.bell.ca/shopping/PrsShp_Rebate.page)

The rebates were issued in March 2011. Only certain customer accounts received credits. In many cases, rebate cheques were sent out by mail. We have heard that some people did not open the envelopes because they thought it contained advertising or a promotion.

If you think that you may have been eligible for this rebate but you have not received a rebate cheque from Bell Canada, you can call 310-BELL (310-2355) from anywhere in Ontario.

## **Social Assistance Review:**

In January 2011, the Government of Ontario began a major review of Social Assistance in Ontario. The Ministry of Community and Social Services reports that more than 830,000 Ontarians currently receive social assistance benefits through either Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program. The review, which will finish in June 2012, is intended to help the Ontario government to develop an action plan to improve social assistance in Ontario. You can find more information about the Review on the Ministry website:

<http://news.ontario.ca/mcss/en/2010/11/ontarios-social-assistance-review.html>

The Income Security Advocacy Centre's Social Assistance Review website is:

<http://sareview.ca/>

### **People's Review Panel: Getting the Ontario Social Assistance Review issues straight from people with lived experiences of poverty (Caledon Institute Report)**

People with lived experience of poverty are working with Voices from the Street and the Daily Bread Food Bank to record, analyze and summarize the policy barriers that currently impede them:

[www.caledoninst.org/Publications/Detail/?ID=915](http://www.caledoninst.org/Publications/Detail/?ID=915)

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## **ODSP/OW Special Diet Allowance Changes:**

The Special Diet Allowance (SDA) is changing. The **existing "old" SDA** program is being replaced with a **new SDA** with new rules. If you are receiving an SDA now, you have to send in a new SDA application. The Ontario Disability Support Program "ODSP" must receive your new SDA application by July 31, 2011, because the old SDA ends July 31, 2011. If ODSP does not receive your new SDA application by ODSP by July 31, 2011, your SDA will end on July 31, 2011.



**You do *not* have to send in your new SDA application right away.** Your existing old SDA continues until July 31, 2011, or until your new SDA application is received by ODSP, whichever happens first.

**If your SDA will decrease or end** under the new SDA, you will be better off waiting until closer to the deadline of July 31, 2011, so that you continue to receive your existing old SDA until July 31, 2011.

**If your SDA will increase** under the new SDA, you will get the increase as of April 1, 2011, as long as ODSP receives your new SDA application form by July 31, 2011. You will receive any SDA increase retroactively back to April 1, 2011.

**If your Special Diet Allowance is cut or denied, or if you disagree with any ODSP decision, you have the right to request an Internal Review within 30 days. If you are living with HIV, please call HALCO right away for advice.**

We prepared an Information Sheet and letter for health professionals to explain the Special Diet Allowance changes and issues for people living with HIV, which are on our website:

<http://www.halco.org/publications.html>

## **HALCO's Public Legal Education Program**

We have now hosted three free Public Legal Education Workshop Series in our HALCO Boardroom. Six workshops were held in each series: Fall 2010, Winter 2011 and Spring 2011, for a total of 18 workshops. All were well-attended and well-received, and some had waiting lists. Our workshops at HALCO are free and open to anyone who is interested, but space is limited so advanced registration is required.

Planning is underway for our Fall 2011 Workshop Series. When our Fall 2011 workshop series is finalized, we will post information on our website, and send information by Email to HALCO members, AIDS Service Organizations, community legal clinics, and others who have expressed interest.

**As always, we continue to provide workshops for groups or organizations, or in other locations, upon request. Please contact us if you would like to request a workshop or our participation in an event.**

### **HALCO Workshop Topics**

Our workshop topics have included:

- Criminalization of HIV Non-Disclosure
- HIV & Privacy Law
- HIV Legal Issues Overview
- HIV & Immigration Law
- HIV & Employment Law
- HIV & Private Insurance
- Ontario Disability Support Program
- Introduction to Mental Health Law
- Children & Youth: Age-based Rights
- Powers of Attorney, Wills and "Living Wills"
- Introduction to Family Law & Family Law Legal Services
- Violence Against Women: Family Law Issues
- What Happens If You Are Arrested? An Introduction to the Criminal Law Process
- Introduction to Ontario's Human Rights System
- What Tenants Need to Know About the Law: An Introduction to Tenancy Law



## **HALCO – HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic (Ontario) provides free legal services for people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS in Ontario.**

We provide intake for new inquiries on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. We do not take new inquiries on Wednesdays.

HALCO is a scent-reduced environment so please avoid wearing scented products when coming to our offices. Help us to make HALCO more comfortable for everyone.



### **HALCO – HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic (Ontario)**

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**website:** [www.halco.org](http://www.halco.org)

HALCO is a registered charity, which is funded by Legal Aid Ontario, the AIDS Bureau of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and other sources including corporate, foundation and individual donors.

We welcome donations, and tax receipts are issued for donations of \$20 or more. If you would like to make a donation to support the work we do, you can call us at 416-340-7790 or you can make an on-line donation through CanadaHelps on our website at: [www.halco.org/help.html](http://www.halco.org/help.html)

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**HALCO news contains general information only and is not legal advice.**

**Laws, policies and practices can and often do change.**

**If you have a legal question or problem, please contact HALCO, your local legal clinic or a lawyer for advice.**



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*The views expressed in HALCO news may not reflect HALCO Board and/or staff views.*



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## HALCO Membership/Renewal Application

The primary goal of the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic (Ontario) is to provide legal services to persons living with HIV/AIDS in Ontario that are relevant to their well-being and that enable them to participate fully in the communities in which they live. To assist us in fulfilling our goal, we need the participation of people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Please offer your support by becoming a member of HALCO - the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic (Ontario). As a member of HALCO, you will be invited to join us at our Annual General Meeting, where you can participate in the business that helps to guide the clinic, including the election of our Board of Directors. *Membership takes effect when it is approved by the Board of Directors. Only members in good standing who have been members for at least 30 days before the meeting may vote at a membership meeting.*

There is no fee for HALCO membership and membership is renewed annually. To become a member, you must be a resident of Ontario who is 16 years of age or older and you must agree with our **Statement of Principles** [on the other side of this application]. Please complete this form and return it to our office. We regret that our budget cannot provide for return postage.

Your membership information will be used to inform you of our Annual General Meeting and to give you the opportunity to renew your membership annually. You can also choose to receive other HALCO information, including our Newsletter, by checking the box below. We do not share our membership list.

### **Declaration of my wish to become a HALCO member or to renew my HALCO membership:**

I agree with the Statement of Principles of the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic (Ontario) “HALCO”, I am a resident of Ontario, I am 16 years of age or older, and I would like to be a member of HALCO.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit/Apartment: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

May we leave phone messages? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us how you found out about HALCO: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be on our mailing list to receive our newsletter, etc.? No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_

May we send newsletters, etc., to you by E-Mail? No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for applying to be a member of HALCO!**

[HALCO news – Spring 2011]



# **Statement of Principles of the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic (Ontario)**

Adopted January 30, 2006, by the Board of Directors  
of the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic (Ontario).

It is agreed that:

1. People living with HIV and AIDS are confronted with unique legal problems of enormous proportions and complexity;
2. Those best equipped to make choices regarding HIV and AIDS issues and problems, are those individuals who are HIV positive themselves;
3. People living with HIV and AIDS must have control over their own lives.
4. The HIV and AIDS affected communities are very diverse and are confronted by overwhelming challenges derived from both their diversity and from their common experience as people living with HIV and AIDS.
5. It is necessary to create and foster a climate of understanding and mutual respect for the dignity and worth of people living with HIV and AIDS; and
6. The confidentiality, bodily security, autonomy and privacy of people living with AIDS and HIV must be respected, which includes but is not limited to:
  - a) the right of individuals to exercise control over their own medical treatment;
  - b) the right of individuals to exercise control over decisions concerning their own socio-economic position;
  - c) the right of all persons living with HIV or AIDS to be fully informed of all process and procedures in which their interests are in any way involved; and
  - d) the right of all persons living with HIV or AIDS to consent, or withhold their consent, in all matters affecting them.