

# HALCO

HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario

# news

- HALCO provides free legal services to people living with HIV in Ontario -

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# HALCO Fundraising News

## HALCO Games Night – April 2, 2012

HALCO's first-ever **FUN**draising Games Night was held on Tuesday April 3, 2012, at **Factory Girl Restaurant and Bar** (193 Danforth Avenue) where a group of enthusiastic Gamers spent the evening testing their skills and abilities.



The evening was a great success and all proceeds from the event will support our legal services for people living with HIV.

Thanks to our hard-working and creative Fundraising Events Sub-Committee: **Michelle Bader, Lizz Bryce, Senay Johnson, Danielle Mihok** and **Matt Stanley**.

Our special thanks go to the **Factory Girl Restaurant and Bar**, including **George** (Manager) and **Brandi** for their generous support.

## Pride and Remembrance Run – June 30, 2012

HALCO is very pleased to have been chosen as one of the beneficiaries of the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Toronto Pride and Remembrance Run, being held in downtown Toronto on June 30, 2012 (for more information please see page 3).

Funds received from the Run will be used to support our Articling Student program. The Articling Student provides direct legal services to people living with HIV/AIDS.

As a beneficiary, we will be providing a number of volunteers to assist with the Run. Volunteers are needed from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to assist with such tasks as course marshalling, registration and running of water stations. All volunteers receive a very cool volunteer t-shirt.

If you like to run, please consider running with HALCO's own Pride Run team "the HALCO Legal Briefs".

Volunteers and runners are invited to help celebrate the event's success at the party after the Run.

If you would like to be part of this fun and fabulous event either as a volunteer or running with our HALCO team, please contact **Bill Merryweather** at [merryww@lao.on.ca](mailto:merryww@lao.on.ca) or 416-340-7790, extension 42.

## Support HALCO with your Donation

Please consider making a donation to HALCO now. Tax receipts are issued for donations of \$20 or more. To make a donation you can call us at 1-888-705-8889 or simply click on the **DONATE** button on our website [www.halco.org](http://www.halco.org) to make an on-line donation through **Canada Helps**.

**Thank you for your support!**

# HALCO Chosen as 2012 Pride and Remembrance Run Beneficiary!

HALCO is delighted to have been chosen as one of two beneficiaries for the **2012 Pride & Remembrance Run** taking place on June 30, 2012. Proceeds from the 2012 Run will support our full-time articling (law) student program, allowing us to provide additional ongoing support to the community.

Here is a statement from the Pride & Remembrance Association:

“The Pride and Remembrance Association has PROUDLY announced the beneficiaries for the 17th annual Pride Run being held on Saturday, June 30th, 2012. This year's run proceeds will benefit the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO) and the LGBT Youth Line.

The Pride and Remembrance Run is the largest event of its kind in Canada and is one of the most popular running events in the Toronto area.

The Run has raised over seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars for more than a dozen charities and has attracted support from major organizations such as BMO and The Bay. We invite you to come out and run, walk, fundraise, and support your friends and family in this signature event during Toronto's Pride weekend! It promises to be a lot of fun and provides a wonderful opportunity to give back and support charities in the LGBT community.

The Pride and Remembrance Association is a 100% volunteer-run not-for-profit organization that owns and operates the Pride and Remembrance Run. Its mandate is to provide financial support to registered charities that benefit the LGBT community and make a significant and sustainable long-term social impact, while promoting and fostering community spirit, goodwill, volunteerism and sportsmanship in the LGBT community.

For more information, please visit the Pride Run website: [www.priderun.org](http://www.priderun.org)  
You can also find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.”



## HALCO Board of Directors

HALCO relies on its skilled and dedicated volunteer Board members to oversee our governance.

### Our HALCO Board members are:

- **Mark Blans** (Vice-Chair)
- **Michael Capp** (Secretary/Treasurer)
- **Eric Cashmore**
- **Frederique Chabot**
- **Peter Gross**
- **Martha Mackinnon** (Chair)
- **John McCallum**
- **Eric Mykhalovskiy**, and
- **Robert Watkin**.

For more information about our Board and Board Committees, please contact us or visit

**Get Involved** on our website:

[www.halco.org/get-involved](http://www.halco.org/get-involved)

## HALCO Students

We are very fortunate to have the assistance of some dedicated and enthusiastic law students.

**Jennifer Goodfellow** was our very hard-working articling student for the 2011 to 2012 year. We miss her already and we wish her all the best!

**Marcus McCann**, who volunteered along with **Matt Oh** to run our Spousal Sponsorship Clinic as part of a project with Pro Bono Students Canada, is continuing to volunteer with us throughout the summer. We appreciate their fine work on behalf of our clients!

**Megan Andrews** is a law student who is working with us on immigration issues this summer. Her work with us is supported by the Donner Canadian Foundation.

**Lesley Freiberg**, our articling student for the 2012 to 2013 year, will be joining us in July. Welcome Lesley!

## HALCO Staff

- **Renée Lang** (Staff Lawyer)
- **Rhonda Major** (Admin. Assistant)
- **Bill Merryweather** (Director of Admin.)
- **John Norquay** (Staff Lawyer)
- **Amy Wah** (Staff Lawyer)
- **Rick Lobodzinski** (Admin. Assistant)
- **Jill McNall** (Community Legal Worker)
- **John Nelson** (Staff Lawyer)
- **Ryan Peck** (Executive Director/Lawyer)
- **Kevin Wong** (Staff Lawyer)

# “Rasouli” Consent to Treatment Appeal at the Supreme Court

The HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO) and the Mental Health Legal Committee (MHLC) are pleased to have been granted intervener status in the upcoming appeal in *Brian Cuthbertson, et al. v. Hassan Rasouli (Rasouli)* to be heard by the Supreme Court of Canada in December 2012. Canada’s highest court will be deciding whether a doctor can unilaterally withdraw life support. As interveners, we will be able to provide the Court with our communities’ perspectives on the implications of this vital matter. HALCO and the MHLC strongly believe that consent must be at the heart of all treatment decisions.

Mr. Hassan Rasouli tragically fell into a coma in October 2010 as a result of an infection following surgery. He is being kept alive by a mechanical ventilator and feeding tube at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto. In recent weeks, Mr. Rasouli has been clearly communicating to his family members – even giving the “thumbs up” signal. His wife, Mrs. Rasouli, is Mr. Rasouli’s substitute decision maker and therefore makes health care decisions for him when he is unable to do so himself.

Mr. Rasouli’s physicians determined that he is in a persistent vegetative state, that medical recovery is not possible, and that ongoing mechanical intervention provides no medical benefit. As such, it was their legal position that life support can be withdrawn without consent of the substitute decision maker.

This matter went to a trial court in Ontario and the judge determined that consent must be obtained from Mrs. Rasouli, the substitute decision maker, in order for the physicians to withdraw life support. The physicians appealed the decision, and Ontario’s Court of Appeal held that consent must be obtained because the withdrawal of life support is inseparable from palliative care, for which consent is required.

Although Mr. Rasouli’s family asked the Supreme Court to dismiss the appeal because Mr. Rasouli is able to clearly communicate with his family, the Supreme Court will be considering the matter in December 2012. The Supreme Court’s decision will have profound implications for all medical treatment, not only treatment at the end of life. It is imperative to maintain the principle of no treatment without consent. Doctors should not be allowed to unilaterally make life and death decisions.

HALCO and the MHLC will be further communicating with our communities as the hearing approaches.

# Important Immigration Law Updates

## [Bill C-31 - Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act](#)

Bill C-31 (*Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act*) is currently before Parliament and will pass by the end of June 2012. Bill C-31 makes major changes to Canada's Immigration and Refugee law and will have significant consequences for people living with HIV. Here is a link to Bill C-31 on the government of Canada website:

[www.parl.gc.ca/LegisInfo/BillDetails.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&billId=5383493](http://www.parl.gc.ca/LegisInfo/BillDetails.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&billId=5383493)

## [Bill C-31 - Changes to Humanitarian and Compassionate Applications](#)

Bill C-31 will greatly restrict applications for Permanent Residence on Humanitarian and Compassionate (H&C) grounds.

Currently, an H&C application is the most common way that someone with HIV who is unsuccessful in a refugee claim is able to stay permanently in Canada. Most H&C applications are made very soon after a negative decision in a refugee claim. H&C applications can succeed if a person can show that he or she will face a very serious hardship in their country (like inadequate health care for HIV) or if there is some other very sympathetic reason why they should be permitted to remain in Canada.

Under the current system, refugee claimants are permitted to make H&C applications while their refugee claim is still in process, or soon after they receive their negative refugee claim decision.

When Bill C-31 is passed, which we expect to occur by June 20, 2012, people will not be permitted to make an H&C application while their refugee claim is pending or during the 12 months after receiving a final negative refugee decision.

There are no exceptions to the rule that disallows the filing of concurrent refugee claims and H&C applications. However, refused refugee claimants who are from a country where their life is at risk because of inadequate health care or who have children who will be negatively impacted if their H&C were not accepted do not have to wait 12 months to file an H&C application.

**If you are currently a refugee claimant, or if your refugee claim was recently refused, you should get legal advice as soon as possible.** If you are living with HIV in Ontario, call HALCO right away for free legal advice (HALCO contact information is on page 14). When you call HALCO, please say that you are calling for advice about an H&C application.

If you have already received legal advice about filing an H&C application, you should send your H&C application to Citizenship and Immigration Canada no later than June 15, 2012, to ensure it is received in time. If you send your application by courier or registered mail, you can prove when you sent it and you can ask for proof of delivery.

*(Immigration Law Updates continue on page 7)*

## Bill C-31 – Changes to Canada’s Refugee Determination Process

In previous newsletters, we reported on the changes to refugee and immigration laws that will be introduced through Bill C-31 (the *Protecting Canada’s Immigration System Act*). Bill C-31 will likely be passed by the end of June 2012. Some changes will take effect immediately after Bill C-31 is passed, such as the bar on simultaneous H&C and refugee applications described on page 6. Other changes won’t come into effect until later this year on a date that has not yet been announced.

HALCO believes that almost all of the changes will be negative and will restrict the ability of many refugee claimants to obtain status in Canada.

The major changes in Bill C-31 that will affect HALCO’s clients are:

- People would no longer be able to have both a refugee claim and an application on H&C grounds in process at the same time (see page 6). This change will come into effect as soon as Bill C-31 passes.
- People would not be permitted to file applications on H&C grounds for ONE YEAR after their negative refugee claim decision. Exceptions to the one year rule would be given to people who face a risk to life in their country because of inadequate health care, or who have children whose best interests need to be taken into account. This change comes into effect as soon as Bill C-31 passes.
- Some Pre-Removal Risk Assessment (PRRA) applications that are currently in process will be automatically terminated. If your refugee claim was refused in the last 12 months, and you have not received your PRRA decision yet, your PRRA application will be terminated as soon as Bill C-31 passes. If your PRRA application was made more than 12 months ago, your PRRA may also be affected by Bill C-31. **If you have made a PRRA application and have not received a decision, please contact HALCO for legal advice right away.**
- A new “Basis of Claim” document will replace the “Personal Information Form” (PIF) that is given to all refugee claimants when they make their claim. Refugee claimants would have as little as 15 days instead of the current 28 days to complete and submit this extremely important and complex document.
- Refugee hearings will be held very quickly: within 60, 45, or even 30 days after making the refugee claim.
- The new Refugee Appeal Decision (RAD) process that was passed in 2010, but is not yet in place, was only available to certain refugee claimants. Under Bill C-31, even fewer refugee claimants will have access to the RAD. For example, applicants from Designated Countries of Origin (DCOs, discussed below) are among those who will not have access to the RAD.
- The Minister of Immigration will be able to designate certain countries as “Designated Countries of Origin” (DCOs) without any need to consult human rights experts. The refugee process for claimants from those countries will be as short as 30 days from beginning to end.

*(Immigration Law Updates continue on page 8)*

## **Bill C-31** *(continued from page 7)*

Bill C-31 includes many other proposed changes.

In addition, on June 29, 2012, a law will come into effect that will prohibit the filing of a Pre-Removal Risk Assessment application for most people whose refugee claims were refused until it has been 12 months from the negative decision.

**If you are in any of the following situations, please contact us right away for free legal advice** (see page 14 for HALCO contact information):

- **You have made a refugee claim and are waiting for your hearing.**
- **Your refugee claim was refused within the last year.**
- **You are waiting for a decision on a Pre-Removal Risk Assessment application.**
- **You are thinking of making a refugee claim.**

We will post information on our website as we learn more:

[www.halco.org/areas-of-law/immigration-law](http://www.halco.org/areas-of-law/immigration-law)

For more information about Bill C-31, you can visit these websites:

- Canadian government: [www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/releases/2012/2012-02-16.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/releases/2012/2012-02-16.asp)
- Canadian Council for Refugees (a refugee advocacy organization): <http://ccrweb.ca/en/refugee-reform>
- Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers: [www.refugeelawyersgroup.ca/billc-31](http://www.refugeelawyersgroup.ca/billc-31)

Please contact us with any questions or concerns about the effects of Canada's immigration law changes for people living with HIV in Ontario (see page 14 for HALCO contact information).

## **HALCO and Bill C-31**

HALCO is very concerned about the impact that Bill C-31 will have on refugees and immigrants living with HIV.

As we learn more, HALCO will provide the community with additional information about Bill C-31. We are preparing written materials and we will also be doing a number of in-person workshops across the province.

For more information, or to arrange a workshop, please contact us.



*(Immigration Law Updates continue on page 9)*



## **Changes to the Interim Federal Health Program**

The Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP) provides health care coverage to refugee claimants and some refused refugees.

Effective June 30, 2012, the government will implement a number of significant changes to the IFHP. HIV medications, doctor's visits for HIV follow-up and blood work will continue to be covered under the new IFHP system. However, some important non-HIV related health care benefits currently covered by the IFHP will be eliminated

There will be two categories of IFPH coverage:

**Full IFHP coverage** (referred to as "health care coverage"):

- Refugee claimants waiting for a hearing or decision (unless they are from a "Designated Country of Origin," see below).
- Successful refugee claimants who are not yet eligible for OHIP.

**Reduced IFHP coverage** (referred to as "public health or public safety health care coverage"):

- Refused refugee claimants whose deportation order is not yet enforceable.
- Refugee claimants waiting for a hearing or decision and who are from a "Designated Country of Origin" (DCO). A DCO is a country that the Minister of Immigration has decided is generally a safe place to live. The DCO list has not yet been issued, but it will likely include most European countries, the USA, Australia and New Zealand. We will provide an update as soon as the DCO list is published.

While HIV medications and treatment are covered under both categories, some other significant benefits are also being eliminated.

Refugee claimants or refused refugee claimants who receive a drug card through the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) or Ontario Works (OW) will still be able to access prescription medications using their ODSP or OW drug card. It is the doctor's visits and hospital visits for issues other than HIV treatment that may be affected.



For more information about the changes to IFHP and people living with HIV, please contact us (see page 14 for HALCO contact information) or visit the **Immigration Law** section of our HALCO website at: [www.halco.org/areas-of-law/immigration-law](http://www.halco.org/areas-of-law/immigration-law)

In addition to HALCO, various groups of people including doctors, nurses, refugee claimants and lawyers are concerned about the IFH changes. For more information, you can visit: [www.doctorsforrefugeecare.ca](http://www.doctorsforrefugeecare.ca)

# HALCO makes submissions to Ontario Human Rights Review 2011-12

In 2008 the government of Ontario changed the Ontario human rights system.

Previously, people would make their human rights complaints to the Ontario Human Rights Commission (the Commission). Commission staff would guide the complainant through the complaint process then decide whether or not to take the complaint to the Human Rights Tribunal Ontario (HRTO) for a hearing.

Since the Ontario's Human Rights system was changed in 2008, individual human rights complaints are now made directly to the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario (the Tribunal). The Human Rights Legal Support Centre was established to give information, advice and assistance to people making human rights complaints. The Commission no longer assists people in individual complaints and no longer decides whether complaints go to the Tribunal or not. Instead, the Commission's focus is human rights issues that affect groups of people. The Commission works to promote, protect and advance human rights through research, education and policy development.

The Ontario Human Rights Review 2011-2012 was established by the Ontario government to review Ontario's current human rights system and **Andrew Pinto** was appointed as Chair of the Review. Mr. Pinto asked for input from a number of organizations, including HALCO, about:

- how the Tribunal process is going,
- how the Human Rights Legal Support Centre is working, and
- how the Commission is doing at its new job.

HALCO made written submissions to the Review on March 1, 2012 and our submissions are available on our website: [www.halco.org/2012/news/halco-makes-submissions-to-ontario-human-rights-review](http://www.halco.org/2012/news/halco-makes-submissions-to-ontario-human-rights-review)

Here are links to information about Ontario's human rights system:

- Ontario Human Rights Review 2011-2012: [www.ontariohumanrightsreview.org](http://www.ontariohumanrightsreview.org)
- Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario: [www.hrto.ca](http://www.hrto.ca)
- Human Rights Legal Support Centre: [www.hrlsc.on.ca](http://www.hrlsc.on.ca)
- Ontario Human Rights Commission: [www.ohrc.on.ca](http://www.ohrc.on.ca)
- Human Rights information on HALCO website: [www.halco.org/areas-of-law/human-rights](http://www.halco.org/areas-of-law/human-rights)

**If you are living with HIV in Ontario, please contact us for free legal advice** (HALCO contact information on page 14).

# Decision in Landmark Sex Work Case

In our Spring 2011 newsletter we reported that the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network (Legal Network) and the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS (BC-CfE) had been granted intervener status in a landmark case before the Ontario Court of Appeal concerning three prostitution-related provisions in the Criminal Code.

We represented the Legal Network and the BC-CfE in their intervention at the Court of Appeal in June 2011. The focus of our arguments was the protection of the health, safety and human rights of sex workers. In March 2012 the Court of Appeal released its decision.

While sex work itself is not illegal in Canada, many of the provisions in Canada's *Criminal Code* make it all but impossible to engage in sex work without risk of prosecution. All five of the Ontario Court of Appeal judges recognized that the current provisions regarding sex work have serious and negative impacts on the security and liberty rights of sex workers by reducing the ability of individuals to take steps to conduct their work more safely and make more informed decisions to protect themselves from harm.

The Court decided to strike down the law that prohibits "bawdy houses" (another word for brothels). They changed the law that prohibits "living off the avails" of sex work so that it now only applies where there are "circumstances of exploitation."

Unfortunately, three of the five justices chose to uphold the provision concerning the criminalization of communicating for the purpose of prostitution. By upholding this communication prohibition, the law effectively makes it illegal to engage in outdoor sex work, despite the fact that sex work itself is not illegal in Canada. The communication law has serious implications for street-based sex workers' relationships with local law enforcement and deters sex workers from reporting crimes against them for fear of prosecution. Furthermore, the communication prohibition hinders sex workers' ability to negotiate safer sex with clients, effectively forcing them to work in unsafe conditions. This renders outdoor sex workers disproportionately vulnerable to violence, death and increased risk of contracting HIV and other communicable diseases.

The federal government has applied to the Supreme Court of Canada for leave to appeal the decision of the Ontario Court of Appeal.

The Legal Network and the BC-CfE are very concerned that the communication provision was upheld. Together with them, we will apply to the Supreme Court of Canada to intervene again, so that we can help fight for better and safer conditions for outside sex workers.

We will keep you updated on the progress of our efforts.

# New Legal Information Resource

## (in English and French/en français)

The African and Caribbean Council on HIV/AIDS in Ontario (ACCHO) and the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO) are very pleased to announce our new public legal education resource (available in English and French/en français):

### ***Planning for illness: legal information for people living with HIV in Ontario***

### ***Planification en cas de maladie : renseignements juridiques à l'intention des personnes vivant avec le VIH en Ontario***

Topics in the booklet include: powers of attorney, wills, planning for your children, your home, benefits, resources, services and more.

The booklets are available in electronic format on the ACCHO, CATIE and HALCO websites:

[www.accho.ca](http://www.accho.ca), [www.catie.ca](http://www.catie.ca) and  
[www.halco.org](http://www.halco.org)

Print copies may be ordered from CATIE:

416-203-7122 or toll-free 1-800-263-1638, [www.catie.ca](http://www.catie.ca)

**If you are living with HIV in Ontario and you have legal questions, please contact HALCO for free legal advice.**

**If you would like to arrange a workshop, please contact HALCO.**

(see page 14 for HALCO contact information).



# HALCO's website: [www.halco.org](http://www.halco.org)

Our HALCO website has a lot of information:

- our **What's New** sidebar helps keep you up-to-date on current issues, announcements, events, and more.
- Our **Areas of Law** pages include information about many different legal topics: [www.halco.org/areas-of-law](http://www.halco.org/areas-of-law)



You can use our new website to apply to become a member of HALCO or to renew your HALCO membership: [www.halco.org/getinvolved/membership](http://www.halco.org/getinvolved/membership)

If you have any questions about our website, please contact us!

## HALCO's Public Legal Education Workshops

As always, our staff continue to provide legal education workshops for groups and organizations at events and conferences around the province.

Our sixth series of free **Public Legal Education Workshops** has been taking place in May and June 2012, and, we are starting to plan a seventh series for Fall 2012!

Please contact us or visit the **Public Legal Education** section of our website for more information about our workshops: [www.halco.org/our-services/public-legal-education](http://www.halco.org/our-services/public-legal-education)

**Our workshop legal topics include:**

- **Criminalization of HIV Non-Disclosure**
- **HIV Legal Issues Overview**
- **HIV & Immigration Law**
- **HIV & Privacy Law**
- **Government Sources of Income for Individuals and Families**
- **Ontario Disability Support Program**
- **Powers of Attorney & Advance Care Planning**
- **HIV & Private Insurance**
- **HIV & Employment Law**
- **Your Rights as a Tenant**

**Please contact us if you would like to request a workshop or our participation in an event.**

## HALCO provides free legal services for people living with HIV/AIDS in Ontario.

We provide intake for new inquiries on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (not Wednesdays). A HALCO caseworker is assigned to deal with all new inquiries each intake day.

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 is a registered charity 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 our work, you can call us toll-free at 1-888-705-8889 or make an on-line donation through **CanadaHelps** on our website:

[www.halco.org/get-involved/donate](http://www.halco.org/get-involved/donate)

*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.

*HALCO news is published by the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO) and is distributed free to our members, interested individuals, agencies and organizations.*

*Please contact HALCO if you want to reproduce or excerpt any part of HALCO news.*

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

(HALCO - 2012 June)

## HALCO Membership/Renewal Application

HALCO's primary goal is to provide free legal services to people living with HIV/AIDS in Ontario. To help us to fulfil our goal and to ensure that our services are relevant, we need the participation of people living with HIV/AIDS in Ontario, as well as those who are not living with HIV/AIDS.

Please offer your support by becoming a member of HALCO. As a member of HALCO, you have the right to participate in and vote at our General Meetings, and to stand for election to our volunteer Board of Directors. Membership takes effect when it is approved by the Board of Directors. HALCO reserves the right to deny Membership Applications/Renewals. 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 page 2 of this application).

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 will only share your membership information as required by law. You can also apply for or renew your HALCO membership on our website: [www.halco.org/getinvolved/membership](http://www.halco.org/getinvolved/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 am applying to:**

become a member of HALCO      or       renew my HALCO membership

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(please print)

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

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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ May we leave phone messages for you? Yes  No

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

To receive our newsletter, updates, etc., please choose mailings by: Email  Mail

If you are a new member, please tell us how you found out about HALCO:

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

# 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 the right of all persons living with HIV or AIDS to consent, or withhold their consent, in all matters affecting them.