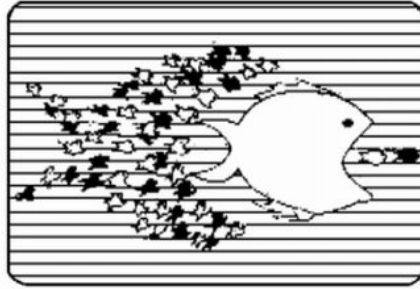


The British Columbia Public Interest Advocacy Centre

208-1090 West Pender Street
Vancouver, BC V6E 2N7
Coast Salish Territory
Tel: (604) 687-3063 Fax: (604) 682-7896
email: bcpiac@bcpiac.com
<http://www.bcpiac.com>



Sarah Khan
James L. Quail
Ros Salvador
Leigha Worth
Barristers & Solicitors

Jodie Gauthier

Articled Student

BCPIAC is a non-profit law firm with a focus on anti-poverty work. For example, we have worked on several court and human rights cases against the provincial welfare ministry. See www.bcpiac.com

We rely on community workers and advocates around BC to let us know concerns their clients are facing that need legal action, either on individual cases or recurring problems. As our workload permits, we also provide legal support and advice to community workers and advocates to support their own work on a particular case.

Community workers and advocates can contact BCPIAC when:

1. **Judicial Review:** Your client has had an unfair welfare tribunal, residential tenancy, or other tribunal decision that puts their housing or financial security at serious risk and your client is interested in going to court.
2. **Recurring Unfairness:** You notice a recurring problem in how clients whose financial security is at risk are treated by government (eg. unfair laws or rules, denied important services or benefits, treated unfairly in the administration of services or benefits) and you would like us to take action generally or to address the issue for a particular client.
3. **Legal Support for Your Welfare Work:** You need legal support to help you help your client with a welfare-related problem and you have not been able to get the information you need from PovNet (see below).
4. **Client Being Sued by Welfare:** Your client is being sued for an “overpayment”.
5. **Urgent Legal Problem:** You have a client with a serious legal problem that is not covered by legal aid, the situation is urgent, and you don't have anywhere else to turn (see CASL below).

Note: You are welcome to call us collect. We work with clients in conjunction with community workers and advocates; please do not have your clients call us directly.

Other Resources:

- PovNet hosts a number of closed email lists for community workers around BC to share information and ideas as well as a web site and online courses on PovNetU. Contact 604-876-8638.
- CASL: The Community Advocates Support Line (1-877-601-6066) gives legal support and advice to advocates and community workers who need legal guidance to help them assist their clients. CASL can help with a wide range of issues including income assistance, consumer contracts, debt collection and bankruptcy, employment insurance, family law, Canada Pension Plan benefits, residential tenancy and other housing issues, and foreclosures. CASL provides brief case consultations but cannot represent clients in court.
- CLAS: The Community Legal Assistance Society (1-888-685-6222) provides advice and representation on legal issues including residential tenancy disputes; welfare appeals; judicial reviews of residential tenancy and welfare decisions; debtor/creditor matters; and consumer protection issues.

We would like to acknowledge funding from the Law Foundation of British Columbia