

CSALC: An Overview

PRESENTATION TO TORONTO HSIJCC

CHINESE AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEGAL CLINIC

MAY 6, 2021



CSALC

CHINESE AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN
LEGAL CLINIC

華越東寮法律援助中心

Trung Tâm Hướng Dẫn Luật Pháp Hoa-Việt-Khmer-Lào

ក្រុមការងារសហគមន៍ចិន វៀតណាម ខ្មែរ និងឡាវ

Who We Are

Background

- Established in 1987
- Staff of 9: 4 lawyers, including CD; 4 community legal workers; and office manager

Community-based legal clinic funded by LAO

Free services to:

- Low-income
- Non-English-speaking
- Members of the Chinese, Vietnamese, Laotian, and Cambodian Communities in Ontario

Office location

- 123 Edward Street, Suite 505, Toronto

Satellite offices

- **Scarborough** at Centre for Immigrant and Community Services (CICS)
- **Mississauga** at the Cross-Cultural Community Services Association (TCCSA)



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What we do

Intakes (phone and in-person)

- Referrals
- Summary advice

Public legal education

- With community partners (e.g. CCNCTO, Butterfly)
- Frontline workers' training (annually in November)
- Webinars

Direct representation

- Courts, administrative tribunals, CBSA, etc...

Law reform

- Test case litigation
- Advocacy campaigns
- Submissions to all levels of government and to UN bodies

Areas of Law

Housing and Tenants' Rights

- Landlord and Tenant Board
- Social Housing

Social Assistance

- Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program
- Social Benefits Tribunal
- Internal Reviews

Income Maintenance

- CPP, EI, Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement, Canada Child Benefit
- Social Security Tribunal of Canada
 - OAS, GIS, EI, CPP



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Areas of Law: Continued

Immigration

- Permanent Residency: family class sponsorships (spousal, PGPs), H&C grounds
- Retaining PR status: inadmissibility
- Other: stay of removal, temporary status, work permits

Employment and Workers' Rights

- *Employment Standards Act* claims at Ministry of Labour
- Appeals and mediation before the Ontario Labour Relations Board
- Appeals to Divisional Court

Constitutional Challenges

- As parties and intervenors before the FC, FCA, ONCA, SCC
 - E.g. Canada Child Benefit (*Yao et al.*), Parents and Grandparents Sponsorship (*Begum*), *Boudreault*, *Wong*, *Morris*, *Le*



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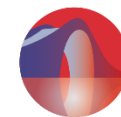
Recent Activities

COVID-19

- Webinars on Federal and Provincial Supports (e.g. CERB, CRB, EI updates, eviction moratorium)
- Continue phone intake and select in-person appointments
- Technical support for virtual hearings
- Public legal education materials on new benefits

Anti-Asian Racism

- Joint report with CCNCSJ and CCNCTO on incidents of racists attacks across Canada
 - March 2021: <https://www.covidr Racism.ca/>
- Media
 - Newspaper interviews, op-eds
 - TV and radio news programs
 - <https://csalc.ca/>



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Thank you!



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Q&A