

INCOME SECURITY ADVOCACY CENTRE

Strategic Plan 2013-2016

The Income Security Advocacy Centre is a specialty clinic within the community legal clinic system of Ontario funded by Legal Aid Ontario. We have a provincial mandate to improve the income security of people living in Ontario through test case litigation, policy development and advocacy, and community organizing.

We are governed by an elected Board of Directors that includes members of the low-income community from across the province, as well as academics, legal experts and service providers. We have representation from members of First Nations and racialized communities. We work closely with local community legal clinics who practise income security law, and in coalition with other advocacy and community organizations who share our goals.

ISAC's board and staff have developed this strategic plan to guide our work over the next three years.

Strategic Priorities:

- Participate in Legislative/regulatory reform opportunities at the provincial and federal level, particularly the transformation process for social assistance.
- Advocate for improvements within existing programs through more generous statutory interpretation at appellate courts.
- Advocate for improved access to disability benefits and improved disability adjudication.
- Participate in opportunities to improve access to justice at provincial and federal Tribunals.
- Develop ISAC's economic literacy to better engage in advocating for investments in income security programs.
- Continue to develop equity lens on income security for historically disadvantaged groups: Aboriginal communities, immigrants and newcomers with temporary immigration status, persons with disabilities, racialized communities, seniors, women and other marginalized genders.
- Build on ISAC's leadership role in the clinic system and work with our clinic colleagues to implement the ACLCO strategic plan.
- Continue to develop ISAC's approach to delivering French language services in partnerships.
- Continuous improvement of ISAC's governance process including its ability to evaluate programs.

Strategies

- **Litigation:** Undertake appellate and systemic cases through direct representation, co-counselling with partners, and interventions.
- **Policy advocacy:** Link policy development with our community organizing work and other policy experts.
- **Community organizing:** Develop appropriate partnerships so ISAC can maintain a provincial focus.
- **Working with partners:** Leverage our resources in each of litigation, policy advocacy and organizing; build coalitions to advance our policy advocacy and organizing; share expertise.
- **Convening:** Bring together a range of expertise, particularly to explore emerging or controversial issues.
- **Increased use of technology:** Broaden the reach of our public legal education and training.