

# Annual Report 2016-2017



INCOME SECURITY ADVOCACY CENTRE  
Centre d'action pour la sécurité du revenu

[www.incomesecurity.org](http://www.incomesecurity.org)

## Our Mission

To work with the community to advocate for and seek legal remedies to address systemic issues and improve income security for people in Ontario

## Who We Are and What We Do

The Income Security Advocacy Centre is a specialty legal clinic within the community legal clinic system in Ontario. We are funded by Legal Aid Ontario to advance the rights, interests and systemic concerns of low-income Ontarians in terms of their income security, which encompasses both income benefit programs and employment protections. Founded in 2001, we are the only legal clinic in Ontario wholly devoted to systemic advocacy on income security issues.

We do our work using four primary strategies: undertaking test case litigation, advocating on policy and law reform directly with government, empowering the voices of low-income Ontarians through community organizing, and creating and distributing public education materials and trainings.

We are governed by a community Board of Directors with representation from all regions of Ontario. Our Board includes legal clinic caseworkers and people who identify as low-income as well as academics and advocates, and has representation from Indigenous communities, racialized communities, people with disabilities and recipients of income support benefit programs.

We work closely with the more than 60 community legal clinics, both local and those with a provincial mandate, who work every day with the challenges faced by low-income people in Ontario. We also work in coalition with other advocacy groups and organizations. Our analysis and recommendations are informed by ongoing consultation with and information provided by low-income Ontarians, our partners and others in the anti-poverty sector.

## Message from the Board Chair

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the ISAC staff and Board of Directors, on behalf of all low income Ontarians, for making positive changes in their lives. The staff know the needs of clients, have much empathy, and are prepared to provide access to justice.



This year marks another great year of success and, as ISAC expands into the area of employment law, we are well situated to tackle many of the challenges that low-income Ontarians face. Along with this expansion comes a growing staff team. We have hired two new team members this year – a staff lawyer and a workers’ rights organizer. And I’m proud to say that we have outstanding co-directors that are leading the expansion, as well as regular daily operations, in a very professional way.

I’m saddened to say that this fall we are losing three of our very valued board members: H  l  ne M  nard, Julie Ellery, and Vinay Jain. This has also been my last year as Chair, and I wish my successor all the best. During my tenure the board and staff have been very supportive, in particular H  l  ne M  nard, who was my vice-chair until March of this year.

In closing, I must say that Team ISAC has become an icon in the province and will continue to be, and that status is a reflection of the leadership of our great co-directors and their team of expert staff. Well done Team ISAC!

Larry Woolley  
Chair, ISAC Board of Directors

## Message from the Co-Directors

The past year has been a time of growth and expansion at ISAC, but also a time where we saw many years of work come to fruition.



On the growth side, we are happy to report that our expansion into employment law is well under way. With a new staff lawyer and a worker’s rights organizer, both of whom have strong backgrounds in their areas of work, we have had the opportunity to lead a number of trainings and provide advice and expertise to the clinic system, and are in the beginning stages of a class action lawsuit. This is an exciting time in employment law, and we are happy to be able to advocate for and serve this segment of our community that we did not serve in the past.

We’ve also seen progress this year on a number of issues in many of our regular areas of work – from provincial income security policy reform to wins at courts and tribunals on access to benefits and access to justice, increasing movement into federal policy debates, and great strides in our community organizing work. We encourage you to read this report for all the details.

Finally, we want to extend our gratitude to and acknowledge our Board of Directors for their tremendous contributions, our community partners for their insights, our staff team for their energy, creativity and dedication, and Legal Aid Ontario for their funding and support.

Lily Manea  
Director of  
Administration

Mary Marrone  
Director of Advocacy  
& Legal Services

# Our Key Achievements 2016-2017

## Employment Law

ISAC launched our employment law services this year. With new investments from the Ministry of the Attorney General, the community legal clinic system has created several new regional and local initiatives providing front-line employment law services. Our service delivery model is to co-counsel with clinics on employment law test cases, provide strategic advice to clinic caseworkers, and deliver regional training and litigation supports, to increase litigation capacity within the clinic system. We also act as a provincial coordinator for policy and organizing in the clinic system around employment law issues.

We have hired two new staff to support this work – a staff lawyer and a workers’ rights organizer. Our lawyer has provided training to clinic caseworkers at regional clinic events, as well as advice and support to clinics around the province that are bringing actions in Small Claims Court and the Superior Court of Ontario. Our organizer is currently focused on working with other advocates and legal clinics to help ensure government’s plans to amend employment-related legislation result in the best possible outcome for workers in Ontario.

A large part of our efforts is focused on our continuing involvement in the Fight for \$15 & Fairness campaign, which is leading this work provincially with the Workers’ Action Centre and Parkdale Community Legal Services. We are supporting a number of legal clinics to become similarly involved.

We’ve also made written submissions on the government’s proposed changes to the Employment Standards Act and the Labour Relations Act and increases to the minimum wage, and assisted partner groups, such as Migrant Workers Alliance for Change, with their own submissions.

We continue to be very active in the community legal clinic system’s Workers’ Rights Action Group, which provides centralized strategy and support for clinics involved in employment law.

Along with nine local legal clinics, we have begun organizing with dozens of workers who have not been paid for work they have carried out for a company that provides translation services. We’ve also taken

the first steps to develop a class action lawsuit that could assist up to 3,600 workers in this situation, in partnership with a private firm that is a leader on class actions, and have requested funding from Legal Aid Ontario’s test case committee. If it moves forward, this will be one of the first class actions in Ontario on behalf of independent contractors. Working in partnership with a private firm will also build the expertise of ISAC lawyers to consider class actions as a strategy in the future.

## Provincial Income Security Reform

This year has seen a number of positive outcomes from years of advocacy by ISAC and the community legal clinic system on improving and potentially transforming Ontario Works and the Ontario Disability Support Program.

ISAC staff and other clinic advocates, health care providers and persons with lived experience have been working with government through the Disability Adjudication Working Group to create new ministry processes that are improving the way decisions are made about whether or not an ODSP applicant meets the definition of disability to be eligible for benefits. The first result of this work is a new streamlined process for ODSP medical reviews that was launched this year. The process was based on recommendations developed by ISAC and the clinic system’s provincial Steering Committee on Social Assistance.

One outcome of the new process is that many persons receiving ODSP who go through a medical review are being found to still be eligible for benefits without having to provide more medical information. This significantly reduces the burden on them, their legal clinic advocates and the health care system. And a very high number of those who are required to provide more information are being found eligible without the need for an appeal.

This work has also begun to have an impact on the quality of overall decision-making at the Disability Adjudication Unit, which decides on whether or not an applicant qualifies for ODSP benefits by meeting the program’s definition of disability. The number of



ISAC staff at a strategy meeting of the Fight for \$15 and Fairness campaign, which is fighting for decent work, a higher minimum wage, and stronger laws to protect workers.

people being found eligible when they initially apply to ODSP has increased, which means we are finally making progress on reducing the number of appeals to the Social Benefits Tribunal. ISAC continues to participate in the Disability Adjudication Working Group to ensure further improvements to the quality of adjudication are made.

A number of other long-standing areas of our advocacy also met with success this year with several positive OW and ODSP rule changes, including a full exemption of child support, significant increases to asset and gift exemptions, and better rapid reinstatement rules. We continue to pressure government on a number of other changes, and are continuing to work with a coalition of groups to exempt arts grants from ODSP.

This year government also began to pursue positive transformative change to Ontario's income security landscape. ISAC's Director of Advocacy & Legal Services was invited to participate on the Ministry of Community and Social Services' Income Security Reform Working Group (ISRWG), together with people with lived experience, other advocates, health care professionals, and service managers. In conjunction with a First Nations working group and an urban Indigenous working group, the ISRWG recently delivered recommendations for a ten-year roadmap for reforming Ontario's income security programs, for implementation beginning in 2018. The report is expected to be released this fall with an opportunity for public feedback thereafter.

# Submissions and Letters by ISAC 2016-2017

## Provincial

- Submission to the Special Advisors on the Changing Workplaces Review interim report
- Pre-Budget 2017 submission to the Ontario Legislature's Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs / Ontario Minister of Finance on social assistance
- Pre-Budget 2017 submission to the Ontario Legislature's Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs / Ontario Minister of Finance on employment standards
- Joint partners letter to the Minister of Community and Social Services on the MSN travel mileage rate
- Submission to the Ministry of Community and Social Services on the Ontario government's Basic Income Pilot Project
- Submission to the Ontario Legislature's Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs on the *Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017* (Bill 148)

## Federal

- Submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities (HUMA) Review of Poverty Reduction Strategies
- Submission to the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development on a Canada Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Submission to KPMG on the EI Appeals Process in its review of the Social Security Tribunal of Canada, with the Inter-Clinic EI Working Group
- Letter with 34 joint partners to the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development on the Employment Insurance Appeal Process in the Review of the SST
- Submission to KPMG on the CPP Appeals Process in its Review of the Social Security Tribunal of Canada, with the Inter-Clinic CPP Working Group
- Letter with the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario to the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development on the CPP-D application process

## International

- Shadow Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Consideration of Canada's Initial Report

## Assistance Provided to Other Groups

- ODSP Action Coalition Pre-Budget 2017 submission to the Ontario Legislature's Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs / Ontario Minister of Finance
- Kinna-aweya Legal Clinic submission on a Canada Poverty Reduction Strategy
- ODSP Action Coalition submission on a Canada Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Migrant Workers' Alliance for Change submission on the *Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017*

The government has also started a Basic Income pilot project in three areas of the province. ISAC has been providing informal advice to senior government officials on various policy and technical issues. We have also been working with local legal clinics in the pilot areas to ensure they have necessary information to provide their clients and are included as local partners to advise the pilot team. ISAC will be monitoring this pilot to explore the opportunities it may create for unconditional income supports to low-income people, and to work with partners to ensure continuation of the broad range of other services and supports that low income people also need.

## Improving Access to Benefits

A primary part of ISAC's mandate is to ensure that income security benefits are accessible to those who need them and that the policies and regulations that govern benefit programs are given the most generous interpretation by administrators, tribunals and the courts. A number of projects this year have contributed to this work.

After successfully challenging the ODSP medical travel mileage rate amount at Divisional Court for a client with extensive medical travel requirements, we were also able to convince the Minister to change the overall policy, which was made retroactive to the Court's October 2016 decision. All OW and ODSP clients can now receive 42 cents per kilometre, instead of the previous 18 cents, with a small increment for those in the North.

We also worked with West End Legal Services in Ottawa to take on established case law saying that individuals who are fired because of their addiction have committed misconduct and can therefore be denied Employment Insurance (EI) benefits. The Social Security Tribunal agreed with our expert evidence about addiction and ruled in our client's favour. This case is a first step toward establishing a new approach to the way addictions are treated for EI benefit eligibility.

We are co-counselling with Community Legal Assistance Sarnia and the Community Advocacy & Legal Centre on two challenges to the ODSP Board and Lodge Rate at the Social Benefits Tribunal, which hears appeals of decisions around provincial social assistance benefits. The Board and Lodge Rate is a significantly lower benefit rate applied to people living in situations where the landlord provides both a room and meals. The lower rate discriminates against people with more serious disabilities who live in these kinds of arrangements because they need the additional support services, such as housekeeping and assistance with medications, that such living arrangements provide. These cases will go forward in the next several months.

## Challenges launched over disability benefit rate

BY GABRIELLE GIRODAY  
Law Times

Legal clinics have launched human rights challenges regarding the disability benefit rate two clients are receiving.

The challenges relate to the monthly amount received by two disabled men who get both their meals and room from their landlord through the Ontario Disability Support Program.

The legal clinics say the men are receiving reduced ODSP rates as "board and lodgers" and are being discriminated against, contrary to the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Each man is being "economically disadvantaged by receiving less money than he would be receiving had his disabilities permitted him to live independently," they say.

"Our argument is that this reduction of benefits discriminates against social assistance recipients whose disabilities are a barrier for them in residing on their own," says Niiti Simmonds, a staff lawyer at the Income Security Advocacy Centre.

Simmonds says if a single person rents an apartment on their own, they receive an ODSP benefit amount of about \$1,128 per month.



Niiti Simmonds says a reduction in benefits given to disabled people who get both their meals and room from their landlord is discriminatory.

man rights arguments" in each case.

In one case brought forward to the Social Benefits Tribunal by Community Legal Assistance Sarnia and ISAC, the client — a 63-year-old man with an acquired brain injury — was hospitalized in 2014 and was unable to return home after his medical care team determined it would not be safe.

The clinics say the client was put on a wait list for a place in a long-term care facility and moved to a retirement residence.

Prior to his hospitalization, they say, the client was receiv-

ing and overall declining health render him unable to reside in a rental apartment on his own or purchase and prepare meals as he once was able to.

They say he is "adversely affected by an assumption that his living costs are decreased because he receives board and lodging from the same source."

"The board and lodge rate exacerbates [the client's] vulnerability and disadvantage as a person with a disability," says the statement.

The other challenge filed by ISAC and the Community Advocacy & Legal Centre in Belleville involves a second client, a 54-year-old man with depression, inadequate personality disorder, anxiety, chronic pain, asthma and migraines.

The clinics say he lived with his mother his entire adult life, until she died in 2011.

He now lives in a care home and assisted living facility because he is unable to live alone safely, they say, and gets 24-hour support.

According to the challenge, the client receives an ODSP board and lodge rate of \$863 per month, contrasted with the \$1,128 he would receive as a single renter.

"The essence of the Appellant's claim is that depriving him of the greater monthly

no money, so he lives in a four-ward bed in a rundown care home, he doesn't have a cell-phone, he doesn't have money for bus or taxi or any extras, toothbrush, shampoo, that kind of stuff," she says.

She says the social benefits tribunal can order individual

Telesco, said it would be inappropriate to comment on anything before the tribunal.

The challenge involving the 54-year-old man was filed in March 2016 and the tribunal made an interim decision in June 2017.

It is due to return to the tri-

We're finding with the aging population there's just more and more people who have nowhere else to reside.

Deirdre McDade

remedies, as it has in other cases.

"But that doesn't change the law at all; it just means those particular clients get more money," says McDade.

She says the human rights challenge is taking on the legislation.

"If we're successful, it will mean that this provision that pays people less money if they're disabled and reside in a care home will be struck down," says McDade.

"We're finding with the aging population there's just more and more people who have nowhere else to reside."

A spokeswoman for the province's Ministry of Community and Social Services, Kristen

bunal in December 2017 on human rights aspects of the case. In the 63-year-old man's case, the challenge was filed in February 2016 and the tribunal returned an interim decision in June 2016.

The next hearing date has not been determined yet.

Brian Killick, the staff lawyer at Community Legal Assistance Sarnia acting in the 63-year-old man's case, says the human rights challenge has important implications for his community.

"There's an innate sense that this situation is just unfair, people with these significant disabilities essentially receiving less for their greater needs," he says.

We made two submissions to the federal government this year on a national Poverty Reduction Strategy, emphasizing the importance of taking an equity approach to improving access to current federally-administered benefit programs for people in groups who have faced historical disadvantage and systemic inequity. Our submission outlined improvements that can and should be made to the Canada Child Benefit, OAS/GIS, CPP-D, and EI, as well as to the Canada Social Transfer, which is a primary source of funding for provincial social assistance benefits.

We are also preparing for both litigation and policy advocacy on improving eligibility for the Canada Child Benefit for parents who don't have regularized immigration status in Canada but are residents for the purposes of taxation. We are conducting research, strategizing in coalition with other legal clinics and advocacy organizations, and preparing advocacy materials to advance this work.

And we are in the final stages of a research project to assess the availability and quality of housing- and homelessness-related benefits that are now administered by municipalities through the Ministry of Housing's Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) but were formerly provided by the Community Start-Up and Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB). This research will provide the foundation for an advocacy and organizing strategy with local community clinic partners to ensure low-income Ontarians have access to funds to pay for first and last month's rent, utility deposits and arrears, furniture, and other necessary expenses.

## Ensuring Access to Justice

ISAC prioritizes work that ensures low-income Ontarians have access to fair and timely decision-making processes when they disagree with decisions made about their entitlement to benefits. We participated in a number of processes this year at provincial and federal tribunals, contributed to government consultations, and took this issue to court.

Through the Social Benefits Tribunal's Practice Advisory Committee, we worked to design a streamlined approach to their ODSP medical review appeals process. Their early resolution pilot project with local community legal clinics, which is resulting in a very high number of people being approved to

continue to receive benefits without a hearing, has now been expanded to clinics across the province. This new process is lessening the burden on people applying for ODSP by speeding up the decision-making process and eliminating stressful hearings.

We worked with the legal clinic system's inter-clinic EI and CPP Working Groups to make submissions to the federal government's recent third-party review of the Social Security Tribunal (SST), which hears appeals from decisions about federal income support programs like Employment Insurance and the Canada Pension Plan. We also led the creation of an Open Letter on issues related to EI appeals, which was signed by 34 coalition partners from across Canada. The review is now complete and we are awaiting the release of the report by the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development.

We also took the issue of the Social Security Tribunal's jurisdiction to court in two separate cases. We won a case at Federal Court, which agreed with us that the Social Security Tribunal Appeals Division has the ability to consider all grounds of appeal raised in an application for leave, even if leave was granted on one ground. This clarifies the broad scope of appeal rights for people appealing EI and CPP decisions.

In another Federal Court case, an intervention we were pursuing about the SST's ability to allow public interventions was dismissed because the appeal in question had been resolved. However, the Federal Court made comments that supported ISAC's position that the SST did have jurisdiction. We shared the Court's comments and our legal arguments with the Chair of the SST and urged her to accept them. The Chair accepted our suggestions and publicly posted new procedural rules for groups who want to bring public interest interventions.

ISAC was also successful in obtaining intervenor status, in coalition with CSALC, HALCO, the Sudbury Legal Clinic and Community Legal Assistance Services (BC), in a case at the Supreme Court of Canada. The outcome of this case, which will be heard early next year, will affect the ability of people receiving federal income support benefits to access the protections of the Canadian Human Rights Act if they have experienced discrimination through legislation.

# Trainings, Webinars and Presentations by ISAC 2016-2017

Some of these events were co-presented with others. We thank and acknowledge all of our co-presenters.

## Legal Clinic System

- Advanced Advocacy Skills
- Advanced Written Advocacy
- Basic Income: What Is It and What Could it Mean for Social Assistance?
- The Canada Child Benefit and the Transitional Child Benefit
- The Changing Workforce and Issues it Raises for Clinics
- Dealing with Difficult Adjudicators
- Expert Affidavit on Barriers Faced by Indigenous Peoples in Accessing ODSP
- How to be an Effective Clinic Leader: New Executive Directors' Training
- Human Rights in Employment 101
- Negotiation Advocacy in Employment Law
- Negotiation Strategies and Other Advanced Employment Law Topics
- Rebuilding a Clinic Movement: OPICCO Organizing Forum 2017
- Residency Requirements for the Canada Child Benefit
- Social Assistance Policy and Law Update
- Working with Community and Equity-Seeking Partners

## Community

- Moving from Personal to Systemic Change
- Ontario's Basic Income Pilot: What Agencies and Clients Need to Know
- Ontario's Basic Income Pilot: What Low-Income Ontarians and their Allies Need to Know
- ODSP and Arts Grants: What Artists on ODSP Need to Know
- Policy Advocacy: Lessons from Social Assistance
- Social Assistance and Immigration: Issues Affecting Women Without Status

## Ontario Native Welfare Administrators Association

- Preparing Compelling ODSP Applications for Indigenous Persons: How to make the Self-Report Form a living document

## Ontario Court of Justice Judicial Training

- Impact of Court Orders on Social Assistance

## Ontario Bar and Trial Lawyers' Associations

- Expert Evidence: Using Experts at Adjudicative Tribunals
- Releases and Confidentiality Clauses in Long-Term Disability Cases

## Law Schools and Other Educational Institutions

- Policy Advocacy and Social Assistance
- Poverty and the Law: Issues of Racialization and Criminalization
- Strategies for Change: Lawyers and Litigating for Social Justice

## Health Care Organizations

- Collaborating to Improve Access to Social Benefits for Persons with Mental Illness and Addictions: An Interactive Workshop



ISAC staff participating in events to celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day in Toronto

## Building Relations on Indigenous Issues

The momentum created by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has created new opportunities to build our knowledge and ability to better serve Indigenous peoples.

The Ontario Native Welfare Administrators Association (ONWAA), which represents First Nations staff who administer Ontario Works on reserve, has been a key partner. ISAC has attended their bi-annual province-wide assemblies in the past. This year we partnered on the joint development of a workshop to help ONWAA caseworkers improve access to ODSP for First Nations members through strategic use of the ODSP self-report form. We have now co-presented the workshop in two locations across the province and are scheduled to present it at the ONWAA Fall Assembly in Toronto.

This work builds on our creation and distribution of expert evidence, authored by Dr. Chandrakant Shah, on the historical impact of colonization on the health of Indigenous people, which is being used by legal clinic caseworkers in appeals at the Social Benefits Tribunal.

We have also been building relationships with the clinic system's six Indigenous Justice Coordinators and have worked to ensure their formal representation on the executive of the Ontario Project for Interclinic Community Organizing (OPICCO), which supports local legal clinics in their community organizing work.

ISAC has also facilitated discussions between Indigenous Justice Coordinators from southwest clinics with the Social Justice Tribunal of Ontario, and has helped obtain an invitation for them to join the Ministry of Community and Social Service's Disability Adjudication Working Group. The goal is to

explore how to introduce information about the background of individual Indigenous persons so that the impacts of colonialism and historical trauma can be taken into account in decision-making by government and tribunals on benefit entitlement.

ISAC staff and Board are also engaged in training on Indigenous issues. This year, staff participated in a full-day Truth and Reconciliation workshop, part-day Cultural Competency trainings, and events for National Indigenous Peoples Day, and the Board participated in an Indigenous Cultural Awareness workshop.

## **Movement Building and Community Organizing**

ISAC has continued to focus this year on building a strong organizing base with a variety of communities, fostering and supporting the organizing capacity of local legal clinics, and developing tools and materials to help communities organize locally.

Building on the policy advocacy work of the ODSP Action Coalition, we are helping the Coalition develop campaigns that will not only put income security on the radar in local communities but also continue to build a base of organized and committed community

members. Four community assemblies will take place this fall across the province to bring people with disabilities and their allies together to set the stage for more campaigning and movement-building in the new year.

We are also helping the Coalition coordinate with Raise the Rates on actions around income inadequacy for all social assistance recipients, with a rally and march on October 17. And the Coalition's cross-campaign organizing work with injured workers continues to highlight the systemic problems in WSIB that reduce employer responsibility, as workers are forced to rely on ODSP.

Similarly, we're helping support organizing in the legal clinic system in a number of ways, as organizing is a critical tool to achieve systemic law reform. We're helping clinics plug in to different local campaigns and build their skills through our work with OPICCO. We're involved in joint work between OPICCO, the Association of Community Legal Clinics of Ontario, and Legal Aid Ontario to find ways for community organizing to be better supported in the clinic system. And we're also involved with the clinic system's Learning and Training Committee to ensure that clinics get the training they need to support local organizing.



Members of the ODSP Action Coalition, working to push for improvements to ODSP so that people with disabilities can live with justice and dignity

# Income Security Advocacy Centre

## Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2017

	General Fund \$	Legal Disburse- ments Fund \$	Capital Fund \$	OPICCO Fund \$	SCSA Fund \$	FISWG Fund \$	Non-LAO Fund \$	TOTAL \$
<b>ASSETS</b>								
Current Assets								
Cash	577,359	70,682	-	16,045	-	-	-	664,086
HST recoverable	12,343	67	-	286	-	-	-	12,696
Prepaid expenses	22,117	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,117
	611,819	70,749	-	16,331	-	-	-	698,899
Capital assets	-	-	15,644	-	-	-	-	15,644
Total assets	611,819	70,749	15,644	16,331	-	-	-	714,543
<b>LIABILITIES</b>								
Current Liabilities								
Accounts payable	58,766	-	-	-	-	-	-	58,766
Inter-Fund payable (receivable)	51,527	(32,641)	-	-	(3,653)	(1,300)	(13,933)	-
	110,293	(32,641)	-	-	(3,653)	(1,300)	(13,933)	58,766
<b>FUNDS BALANCE</b>	501,526	103,390	15,644	16,331	3,653	1,300	13,933	655,777
Total liabilities and funds balance	611,819	70,749	15,644	16,331	-	-	-	714,543

NOTE: This information is a condensed financial statement consistent with and derived from the audited financial statements of the Income Security Advocacy Centre as at March 31, 2017. Audited financial statements were prepared by Hilborn LLP Chartered Professional Accountants in accordance with the Canadian generally accepted standards and who expressed an unqualified opinion on these financial statements in their report dated September 23, 2017. To obtain a better understanding of the organization's financial position and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year in question, the condensed financial statements should be read in light of the relevant audited financial statements, which are available upon request.

# Income Security Advocacy Centre

## Statement of Operations and Funds Balance

Year Ended  
March 31, 2017

	General Fund \$	Legal Disburse- ments Fund \$	Capital Fund \$	OPICCO Fund \$	SCSA Fund \$	FISWG Fund \$	Non-LAO Fund \$	TOTAL \$
<b>REVENUES</b>								
Legal Aid Ontario								
- direct receipts	1,375,439	21,802	-	-	-	-	-	1,397,241
- indirect receipts	11,124	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,124
ACLCO	-	-	-	19,796	7,400	1,300	-	28,496
Other Income	2,775	85	-	5	-	-	590	3,455
	<u>1,389,338</u>	<u>21,887</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,801</u>	<u>7,400</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>590</u>	<u>1,440,316</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>								
Salaries	814,315	-	-	-	-	-	-	814,315
Benefits	128,533	-	-	-	-	-	-	128,533
Professional dues	9,240	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,240
Travel	38,349	-	-	-	-	-	-	38,349
Communications	6,941	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,941
Accommodations	49,712	-	-	-	-	-	-	49,712
Equipment	3,379	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,379
Library	11,191	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,191
Supplies and services	31,807	-	-	-	-	-	-	31,807
Audit fees	3,451	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,451
Indirect payments	11,124	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,124
Legal disbursements	-	19,090	-	-	-	-	-	19,090
Project expenses	-	-	-	7,700	7,611	-	281	15,592
Co-op expense	85,208	-	-	-	-	-	-	85,208
Amortization	-	-	12,599	-	-	-	-	12,599
	<u>1,193,250</u>	<u>19,090</u>	<u>12,599</u>	<u>7,700</u>	<u>7,611</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>281</u>	<u>1,240,531</u>
Excess of revenues over expenses (expenses over revenues)	196,088	2,797	(12,599)	12,101	(211)	1,300	309	199,785
Transfer to Capital Fund	(1,550)	-	1,550	-	-	-	-	-
Return of funding to ACLCO	-	-	-	-	(1,021)	-	-	(1,021)
Funds balance, beginning of year	306,988	100,593	26,693	4,230	4,885	-	13,624	457,013
Funds balance, end of year	<u>501,526</u>	<u>103,390</u>	<u>15,644</u>	<u>16,331</u>	<u>3,653</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>13,933</u>	<u>655,777</u>

# Our Team 2016-2017

## Board of Directors

### Community Members

Larry Woolley  
(Chair)  
Jess Rueger  
(Vice Chair)  
Jan Richardson  
(Secretary)  
Sandi Bell  
Virginia Goulais  
Hélène Ménard  
Sandra Parker  
Opal Sparks



### Regional Clinic Reps

Julie Ellery  
(Treasurer)  
Donna Eaton  
Kimberly Hurt  
Vinay Jain  
Norma MacKenzie

## Staff



David Bush, Workers' Rights Organizer  
Marie Chen, Staff Lawyer  
Jackie Esmonde, Staff Lawyer  
Jennefer Laidley, Research & Policy Analyst  
Lily Manea, Director of Administration  
Mary Marrone, Director of Advocacy & Legal Services

Lorna Martin, Receptionist & Administrative Assistant  
Leandra Matthie, Legal Secretary  
Dan Rohde, Staff Lawyer  
Niiti Simmonds, Staff Lawyer  
Liz Walker, Provincial Organizer

# Our Strategic Plan

ISAC's board and staff have developed this strategic plan to guide our work. We will be embarking on another strategic planning process in 2018.

## 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.

## Key Partners

We deeply appreciate our partnerships with and the support of:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| All the clinics we've co-counselled with in 2016-2017                           | Campaign 2000 and Ontario Campaign 2000                                |
| Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO)                                      | Canada Social Research Newsletter (Gilles Séguin)                      |
| Clinic Learning and Training Committee (CLTC)                                   | Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – National and Ontario offices |
| Clinic Resource Office (CRO)  | Collaborative Mental Health Care Working Group, University of Toronto  |
| Co-operative of Specialty Community Legal Clinics of Ontario                    | Colour of Poverty / Colour of Change Coalition                         |
| EI and CPP-D Working Groups   | Community Legal Assistance Society (Vancouver)                         |
| Ontario Project for Inter-Clinic Community Organizing (OPICCO)                  | Fight for \$15 & Fairness  |
| Regional Income Maintenance Study Groups and Social Assistance Action Committee | Good Jobs for All Coalition  |
| Steering Committee on Social Assistance (SCSA)                                  | Migrant Workers Alliance for Change                                    |
| Steps to Justice, a project of CLEO   | ODSP Action Coalition recipient members & member organizations         |
| Workers Rights' Action Group  | ODSP and Arts Grants Coalition   |
| Your Legal Rights, a project of CLEO  | Open Policy Ontario  |
|   | Partner organizations from the 25in5 Network for Poverty Reduction     |
|   | WSIB / ODSP Research Working Group                                     |

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