

NATIONAL ADDICTIONS AWARENESS WEEK



1 IN 5

Canadians experiences a mental health or addiction problem in any given year

Addiction is a **TREATABLE CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITION** that affects individuals, families and communities



3X TO 4X MORE LIKELY for Canadians in the lowest income group to report poor to fair mental health than those in the highest income group



Because of negative attitudes and stereotypes, people with addictions face **CHALLENGES WHEN RENTING A HOME**



\$5 BILLION Estimated annual cost in Ontario of alcohol-related health care, law enforcement, corrections, lost productivity, and other problems



Individuals with a mental illness are **MUCH LESS LIKELY TO BE EMPLOYED**

SEEMINGLY MINOR LEGAL ISSUES CAN TRIGGER GREATER PROBLEMS



A history of police contact or offences creates a barrier to employment, supportive housing and treatment programs, travel, and education



DRUG TREATMENT COURTS

in Canada began as a response to large numbers of offenders being incarcerated for drug-related offences and continuing to re-offend due to underlying drug dependency

DEC 1998

The first drug treatment court was established in Toronto, bringing together the criminal justice system and treatment services more effectively with drug-addicted offenders

LEGAL AID ONTARIO'S MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGY

EXPANDED LEGAL ELIGIBILITY

and coverage for people with mental health and addiction issues



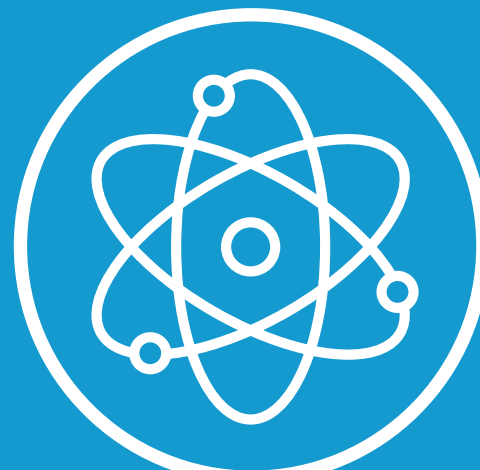
LAWYERS CAN HELP

with guardianship disputes, challenge health care decisions made by substitute decision makers, and step in to represent someone with no prior criminal record



DIRECT REFERRALS

to local mental health and addiction services when calling LAO



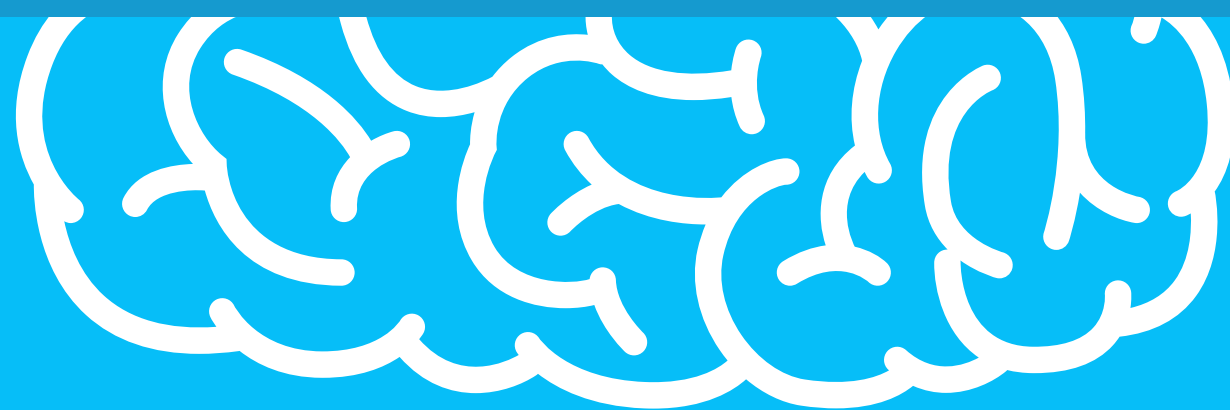
EXPANSION OF FACE-TO-FACE LEGAL SERVICES

at familiar community settings like community health centres, drop-ins and shelters



MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING PROGRAM

to help specialists gain a better understanding of promoting, protecting and expanding patient rights



legalaid.on.ca/mhs

SOURCES:

Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Ontario Human Rights Commission
Department of Justice