



# **Annual Report 2017-2018**

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## **ARCH Disability Law Centre**


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** @ARCHDisabilityLawCentre**

** @ARCHDisability**

## **Vision**

A society in which laws, policies and legal systems ensure full participation, inclusion, dignity, and equal rights without discrimination for persons with disabilities.

## **Mission Statement**

ARCH Disability Law Centre, as a specialty legal clinic with a provincial mandate, undertakes to achieve this Vision by:

- Advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities, including the removal of systemic barriers;
- Promoting awareness and providing education on the rights of persons with disabilities;
- Addressing issues that have a particular impact on low income persons with disabilities;
- Ensuring that ARCH's work has Ontario-wide impact;
- Engaging in national disability rights work and influencing the realization of international disability rights norms in Canada and Ontario;
- Continuously developing and utilizing ARCH's expertise in local, provincial, national and international law as it affects persons with disabilities;
- Addressing the heightened disadvantage and discrimination faced by persons with disabilities, including as a result of other intersecting grounds of discrimination, including gender, race, age, language, place of origin, economic status, sexual orientation, and others.

## **Values and Principles**

ARCH is guided by the following set of core values:

- The dignity and worth of all persons with disabilities must be respected;
- Persons with disabilities have the right to dignity, equality, self-determination, disability-related supports and full participation in a barrier-free inclusive society;
- Persons with disabilities themselves are in the best position to determine their own priorities;
- All persons have a common responsibility to create inclusive communities accessible to all persons with disabilities.

Additionally, ARCH is guided by the following set of core organizational principles:

- ARCH operates in accordance with the above core values;
- ARCH is a community-based organization, governed by a Board of Directors composed of a majority of persons with disabilities;
- ARCH is accountable to persons with disabilities in Ontario, its members and its funders.

**Adopted by the ARCH Board of Directors on March 27, 2018**

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# A Message from the President

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This has been both a sweet year with some unfortunate bitterness. The Board has been very active throughout the year, and particularly significant is the adoption, through an extensive process, of a new strategic plan, which will direct ARCH's priorities and work for the next five years. The four objectives established are:

- 1) To strengthen good governance of the Board of Directors and enhance and maximize its efficiencies and effectiveness.
- 2) To ensure that ARCH is best positioned to continue providing the highest quality professional legal services to persons with disabilities and to achieve impactful systemic outcomes in ARCH's areas of practice.
- 3) To advance positive change in identified systemic legal issues of importance to disability communities across Ontario.
- 4) To ensure that ARCH continues to be responsive to issues of greatest concern to disability communities, from a cross-disability perspective, from intersectional identities, and in under-represented communities.

The Executive Committee has commenced planning for how to implement goal number one and monitor the three other goals as implemented by ARCH's highly dedicated staff.

ARCH has come through a couple of years of transition, with a move to new offices in a co-op setting, to staffing changes, and systems changes, to a place of greater stability and clearly demonstrated resilience.

Despite these changes, ARCH has maintained its productivity and professionalism, always representing persons with disabilities as its first priority. This can be seen in the high-level representations ARCH undertakes to seek systemic change, often in alliance with key partner organizations who serve persons with disabilities. In fact, ARCH continues to play a significant role at the international level, building on our work on the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, we have partnered on a significant education research study on inclusive education in Ontario, and we produced a detailed analysis of the new federal accessibility bill to assist our communities in their advocacy efforts. ARCH continues to be a leader in providing high level law reform submissions on disability issues and resources to the private bar and other legal

clinics on disability human rights. Through its new strategic plan, ARCH has sharpened its focus on test-case litigation that has the potential to make systemic change for the community of persons with disabilities.

It has been a bitter year for the Board in the tragic loss of our President Teresa Daw. Her illness and passing came as a significant shock to the Board. We miss Teresa's dedication and boundless energy for ARCH and her steadfast leadership. We have strived to further her legacy by implementing policies aimed at furthering the Board's professional governance and adopting the strategic plan that she had a major hand in creating.

I would like to thank all our board members for their dedication and significant time contributions in serving on the Board and its committees, to assuring ARCH's policies, finances and management are in place for the continued service of ARCH's mission. Particularly, I want to thank our outgoing board member Manjusri Welikala, for his years of dedicated service to ARCH.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without our wonderful staff and particularly the leadership of our Executive Director Robert Lattanzio.

Lastly, I express thanks to all our volunteers, funders, donors and community partners and members, who make up our community. Specifically, acknowledgment is due to Legal Aid Ontario, our principle funder, whose mandate and resources make it possible for ARCH to continue to advance the rights of persons with disabilities in Ontario.

We look forward to ARCH's continued success in the upcoming year.

Douglas Waxman

President  
ARCH Disability Law Center

# A Message from the Executive Director

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On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, it is my privilege and honour to report the accomplishments of ARCH Disability Law Centre for the period of September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018.

ARCH continues to strive for excellence in its service delivery to persons with disabilities across Ontario and maintains its focus on systems, and removing barriers that those systems create.

This past year, ARCH has provided leadership and support throughout Ontario, while also continuing to make contributions on the national and international stage. This report highlights select work that ARCH has initiated and undertaken throughout this past year.

In January 2018, our Board President, Teresa Daw, tragically passed away after a short battle with cancer. This organization suffered a tremendous and unexpected loss. Teresa was an invaluable asset and her dedication, commitment, wisdom and support were vital to the growth and successes that we are experiencing both at the Board and staff team level. We lost an exceptional leader and a close friend.

ARCH adopted a new Strategic Plan for 2018 – 2023 in March 2018. Teresa was a driving force for our new plan. Our new Strategic Plan focuses on increased accountability, and the development of processes to ensure more strategic, proactive and calculated approaches to larger systemic work. Our plan keeps us grounded in maintaining the highest quality standard of service and ongoing communication with our communities, and encourages increased responsiveness to emerging community needs.

In addition to our ongoing programs that provide direct legal services to persons with disabilities across Ontario, ARCH has conducted a number of substantial projects, test cases and initiatives. ARCH, with partners, launched an important research study about barriers that students with disabilities face accessing public education. A final report summarizing our findings was released in June 2018. ARCH has been working closely with disability organizations across the country regarding federal accessibility legislation and we produced a comprehensive analysis of the draft legislation for our communities. ARCH continues to conduct test case litigation at all levels of courts and tribunals, and has appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada twice this year. ARCH is also grateful to have been granted funding stemming from the *Dolmage v Ontario* class action settlement that will support and grow our innovative Respecting Rights program.

ARCH is in the process of developing a new fully accessible website, a re-branding of our materials, and the development of new public legal education

materials. These steps improve how we communicate with our communities and help us achieve the highest level of accessibility in every facet of our work.

ARCH continues to undertake a steady increase in work, which would not be possible without a passionate, dedicated and talented staff team. I am exceptionally proud of all our team members, and moreover, of how this team works together. They have shown an exceptional commitment to our organization and our communities. We are fortunate to have added Jessica DeMarinis to our legal team on a permanent basis. She is a brilliant and hard-working lawyer and has made a significant impact on our team and on the delivery of our services. Tess Sheldon, who has been with ARCH in different capacities for many years, has accepted an academic position at the University of Windsor and we wish her the very best in her new endeavor. I wish to thank Tess for all her countless contributions and her ongoing commitment to the work of ARCH. I also wish to thank Doreen Way and Kerri Joffe for their efforts in filling in as acting management for the duration of my leave.

ARCH's Board of Directors continues to provide strong governance and leadership that maintain our organizational health and relevance. Most importantly, our Board keeps us rooted and responsive to the communities we are mandated to serve. I am grateful to each of them for this guidance and for their unwavering commitment to the mission of ARCH. Our Board members volunteer their time and expertise, and bring a level of commitment and dedication that is unmatched. In particular, I wish to thank Douglas Waxman who took over the leadership role that was left vacant with Teresa's passing. It was an incredibly difficult time for all of us, and Douglas provided strength and leadership at a much needed time. I also wish to thank our outgoing board member Manjusri Welikala for his dedication and contributions during his longstanding tenure as a member of our Board.

Lastly, I wish to thank our funders without whom we would be unable to take on this important work. I wish to begin by thanking our primary funder, Legal Aid Ontario, and our additional funders all listed in this report. I wish to acknowledge the contributions of all our stakeholders, partners, supporters, and extend my gratitude to all those who have contributed this year including, students, volunteers, funders, donors, our membership and community partners.

Roberto Lattanzio  
Executive Director  
**ARCH Disability Law Centre**

# Remembering Teresa Daw

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Photo courtesy of the Law Society of Ontario

Teresa joined our board because she was a natural leader, compassionate and committed to addressing the injustices that she observed. She wanted to make a difference in the lives of persons with disabilities. Teresa came to us having extensive and impressive experience in social justice and disability rights, on the international, national and local level. With a sophisticated policy lens, extensive advocacy experience, and lived experience as a person with a disability, Teresa quickly became a leader of our Board.

She was a true inspiration to us all. She was an ardent advocate; brilliant, thoughtful and compassionate.

Teresa had an excellent ability to truly connect with people, and develop meaningful, positive and sometimes life changing relationships. She impacted all of us, Board members, staff, and our communities. She connected with everyone. Any opportunity to meet and speak with members of our community and discuss their experiences – she was the first to volunteer.

Teresa inspired everyone at ARCH to be better, work harder as a team, and set a higher standard for ourselves. Her goal was for us to have more impact, make more significant systemic change, and empower marginalized communities to find their voice. She always reminded us to remain accountable to the people that really need us. Her vision began taking shape very quickly as she began a thorough policy review and quickly identified areas that we needed to strengthen and focus on in our future planning. This work culminated in the review of all of



ARCH's policies and the development of needed ones. Her influence at ARCH was significant. All of this led to the adoption of our Strategic Plan; Teresa being the driving force.

Her strength of character was inspiring. She had an ability to use the challenges that she faced and overcame with strength and grace, as a way to help others, often with timely insight.

One of Teresa's aims was to establish a legacy fund and bequest policy for ARCH. That policy has now been adopted and sadly, she will now be the first to have a legacy fund in her name. Her generosity and dedication was always unparalleled. Teresa bequeathed a significant amount of funds to ARCH to help us continue important work in areas that she was passionate about. More details will come about the programs that will be supported by Teresa's Legacy Fund and the charitable donations that ARCH received in her name.

ARCH board and staff miss her guidance and vision. The communities she helped and advocated for will miss her voice for change. She has made ARCH a much better organization and all of us better advocates and people. Her impact and legacy will live on.



## **ARCH Board of Directors 2017 - 2018**

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Teresa Daw	President (September to December)
Douglas Waxman	President (January to present)
Wade Poziomka	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President
Bonnie Quesnel	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President
Monica Ackermann	Treasurer
Roxanne Mykitiuk	Secretary
Sandi Bell	Director
Sandy Gdyczynski	Director
Effie Prattas	Director
Yvonne Simpson	Director
Laura Upans	Director
Manjusri Welikala	Director
Roberto Lattanzio	<i>Ex Officio</i> member

## **ARCH Staff**

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Roberto Lattanzio	Executive Director
Jessica DeMarinis	Staff Lawyer
Mary Hanson	Librarian
Kerri Joffe	Staff Lawyer
Lila Refaie	Staff Lawyer
Luke Reid	Staff Lawyer
Theresa Sciberras	Program and Litigation Assistant
Mariam Shanouda	Staff Lawyer
Yangtzee Tamang	Operations and Litigation Assistant
Amanda Ward	Information/Referral Worker
Doreen Way	Office Manager
Dianne Wintermute	Staff Lawyer
Yedida Zalik	Staff Lawyer (on leave)

# Highlights

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ARCH provided direct legal services to over 2,000 persons with disabilities across Ontario.

ARCH launched a new Blog for lawyers, paralegals and advocates that covers a variety of topics about disability rights.

ARCH and partners launched a comprehensive research report about inclusive education.

Respecting Rights has presented workshops to almost 900 attendees across the province.

ARCH's publications reached nearly 18,000 individuals provincially, nationally, and internationally.

ARCH produced a detailed analysis of Bill C-81 – *Accessible Canada Act* and launched a consultation with our communities.

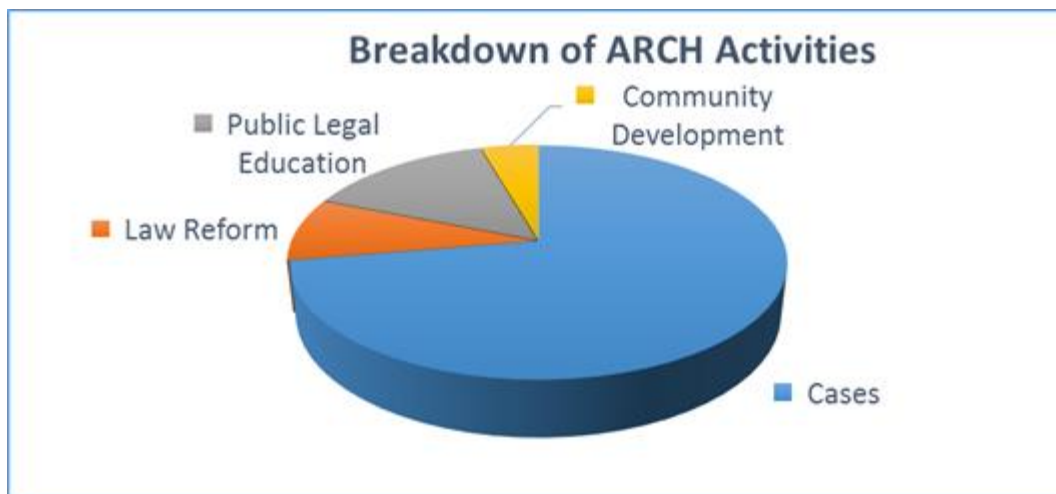
ARCH underwent rebranding of our materials, social media and is developing a new website.

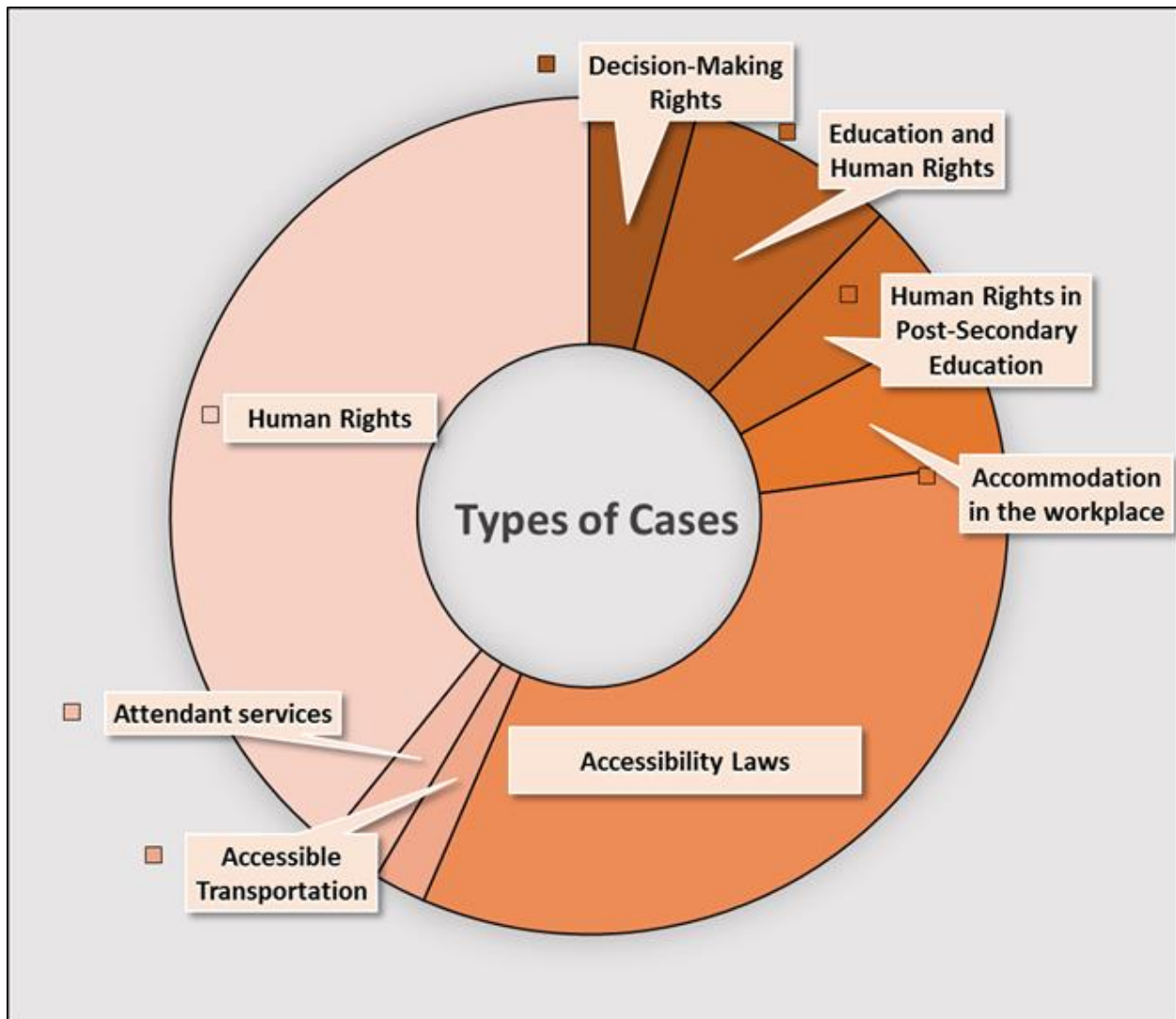
ARCH's presence and activity on social media increased with over 1100 followers on Twitter and over 500 followers on Facebook.

# Providing Legal Services across Ontario

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ARCH provides direct legal services to persons with disabilities across Ontario. During this reporting period of September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018, ARCH provided a range of legal services in over 2,000 matters on behalf of Ontarians with disabilities. ARCH is mandated to pursue systemic change. Advancing precedent setting test cases is one important way that we fulfill our mandate for systemic change. We also provide legal assistance in a range of areas of law through other services such as our Summary Advice and Referral program.





The following are samples of our casework this past year:

## ARCH intervened in two matters before the Supreme Court of Canada

ARCH represented the intervener Council of Canadians with Disabilities in the appeal of **CHRC v Canada**. Known as the Matson and Andrews case, this Appeal began as complaints to the Canadian Human Rights Commission challenging discriminatory provisions in the *Indian Act* that deal with “Indian Status,” and who is allowed to pass that Status to their children. The Supreme Court of Canada’s decision says that the *Canadian Human Rights Act* cannot be used to challenge discrimination that results directly from the wording of a federal law. Instead, these cases will have to be brought before the courts as *Charter* challenges. The decision may limit access to human rights justice for equity seeking communities, including persons with disabilities.

ARCH intervened on behalf of our client the Council of Canadians with Disabilities to the Supreme Court of Canada in the matter of ***S.A. v Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation***. This appeal challenges the use of Henson trusts (discretionary trusts) in social benefit schemes. A decision has not yet been rendered by the Supreme Court.

## **Disability related Accommodations in Ontario and Federal Prisons**

Last year, ARCH settled a breach of settlement application on behalf of our client regarding provincial correctional services. The parties agreed on terms of settlement that included individual and systemic remedies. Since then ARCH and the Respondent have been working together to execute the terms of the settlement, which include a poster that tells people how to access accommodations and medical services while in prison in English, French and Braille. These posters have now been distributed to provincial correctional facilities across the Province.

ARCH represented a client who had lodged a human rights complaint against Correctional Services Canada regarding a failure to accommodate. The parties were able to reach a settlement.

## **Terminated employment due to addictions disability**

ARCH represented a complainant at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal who alleged that his federally-regulated employer terminated him due to an addictions disability. ARCH negotiated a settlement that was to the satisfaction of both parties. This case is significant because it was the first case about an addictions disability that ARCH has litigated since intervening at the Supreme Court of Canada on *Stewart v. Elk Valley Coal Corp.*, 2017 SCC 30. It raised a number of important systemic issues, including the interpretation and application of that decision.

## **Accommodations in Recreational Programming**

ARCH represented a minor before the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario who was effectively prevented from participating in a recreational program because of his disability-related needs. ARCH negotiated a settlement with the service provider that was satisfactory to all parties which included systemic remedies.

## **Human Rights and Inclusive Education**

ARCH settled an application at the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario that dealt with the failure to accommodate a child with complex intellectual and physical disabilities. The child

had been out of school for approximately 7 months due to the School Board's inability to provide the necessary accommodations. The matter was very close to a hearing, having had numerous failed mediation attempts.

ARCH settled a Human Rights Application in a case that involved a school board not accommodating our client whose disability-related needs required specific classroom modifications. The parties were prepared to proceed to a hearing but after lengthy negotiations, a settlement was reached.

## **Getting Compensation from the Human Rights Tribunal**

ARCH and Income Security Advocacy Centre (ISAC) represented the Intervenor, Council of Canadians with Disabilities, ODSP Action Coalition and ISAC in the matter of ***Abbey v. Ontario*** at the Ontario Divisional Court. The issue before the Divisional Court was whether the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario was right to refuse to award damages for injury to dignity because the Government cannot be held responsible if it applied a law that it thought was legal. ARCH argued that the limits of the remedial scope of the *Charter* should not apply to Ontario's *Human Rights Code*. The Divisional Court upheld this part of the ruling. Unfortunately, this could mean that people who complain of discrimination against the government and bring a case before the HRTO may find that they will not be awarded any compensation for injury to dignity.

## **Coroner's Inquest**

ARCH was granted standing as a party in the Inquest into the death of Mr. Blight. Mr. Blight was a person with a mental health disability and also a person with a temporary physical disability. In July 2015, Mr. Blight was driving his vehicle in the city of Sudbury, when he was involved in a fatal accident. The inquest was held in order to determine whether any steps could be taken in the future by police officers, doctors, or the Ministry of Transportation to prevent similar deaths from happening. Although Mr. Blight's mental health disability was not a factor in the accident, it became an issue at the Inquest. ARCH represented the perspective of persons with mental health disabilities to ensure that no policies were recommended that would adversely affect drivers with a mental health disability. ARCH made submissions on the dangers of mental health profiling, as well as the importance of individualized assessments of drivers regardless of their disability.

## **Privacy Rights**

ARCH, in coalition with HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO) and Income Security Advocacy Centre (ISAC), intervened before the Superior Court in the matter of ***Toronto Star v Ontario***. This is a case about privacy and freedom of expression, and the



applicability of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to administrative tribunals. The Court released its decision and found a breach of section 2 (b) of the *Charter* which means that the Government will have one year to make changes to the law. ARCH's concern is that the decision may have a direct impact on privacy and confidentiality of persons with disabilities who bring matters before an administrative tribunal. The Government has decided not to appeal.

## **Accessible Transit**

ARCH represented a person with a vision disability at the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) against a transportation provider. The applicant was awarded a number of systemic remedies, namely, that the transportation provider ensure that an automated stop announcement (ASA) system be installed on every bus operating in the City of Windsor. During times when the ASA system is unavailable, the drivers are required to call each and every stop on every route out loud in order to accommodate persons with vision disabilities. The CTA also agreed with the Applicant's request that it be held responsible for monitoring the respondent to ensure it is complying with the CTA's orders and implementing the remedies.

# Law and Policy Reform

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## Setting groundwork for effective Federal Accessibility Legislation

ARCH released an initial report on Bill C-81 (the *Accessible Canada Act*) and a companion accessible summary in plain language. Our initial report provides a legal analysis and initial recommendations for the bill. Disability rights lawyers from across the country contributed to the report. Following the release of the initial report, ARCH consulted with our communities, and incorporated the feedback from the consultations into a final report. ARCH is also developing a set of recommendations for strengthening the bill. ARCH is working closely with disability organizations across Canada and our communities.

ARCH attended a meeting regarding the federal accessibility legislation, with Hon. Kirsty Duncan, who was then the Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities, as well as a number of other disability organizations.



Photo from Left: Robert Lattanzio, Minister K. Duncan, Kerri Joffe

## Advancing Inclusive Education in Ontario

In partnership with Brock University, Western University, Community Living Ontario, Inclusive Education Canada, and Brockville and District Association for Community Living, ARCH conducted extensive research on the barriers to meaningful and inclusive education from K to 12 in Ontario. The final report, titled 'If Inclusion Means Everyone, Why Not Me?', was released in English and French in May 2018 during a panel presentation hosted by Ryerson University. Some of the barriers identified in the Report include:

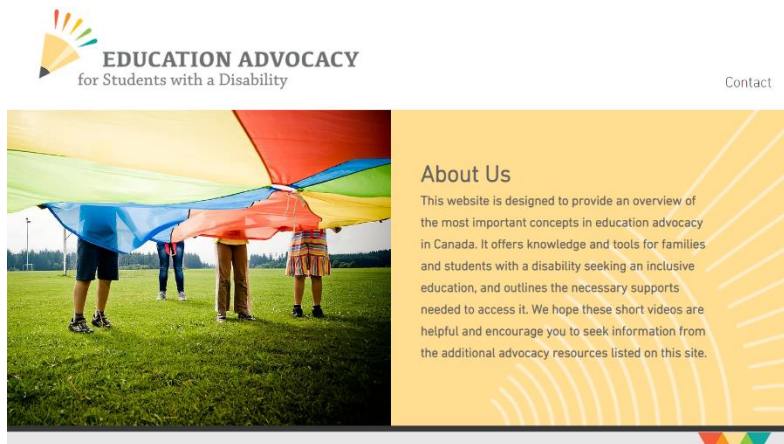


- Students with disabilities routinely denied access to school and/or classroom;
- Limited access to appropriate accommodations;
- High levels of conflict between educational staff and families, with limited recourse to dispute resolution mechanisms; and

- Limited data on disability-related barriers in the education system.

ARCH, with our partners, also released a series of comprehensive advocacy tools and modules on human rights and education. It is aimed at parents, advocates, and students with disabilities in primary and secondary school.

[www.advocacyforinclusion.com](http://www.advocacyforinclusion.com)



## **Advocating for Safeguards in Medical Assistance in Dying**

ARCH staff continue to be advisors to the Vulnerable Persons Standard (VPS) and co-drafted a submission to the Federal Government on the proposed Regulations for Monitoring of Medical Assistance in Dying on behalf of VPS. ARCH also wrote an open letter to the Federal Minister of Health urging for strong monitoring measures.

## **Unjust fees levied on survivors of institutional abuse**

ARCH contacted the Ontario Ombudsman regarding legal fees that the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee charged persons who made claims for compensation under the Huronia, Rideau and Southwestern class action settlements. We conducted research, compiled evidence of these charges and asked the Ombudsman's office to investigate the issue. The Ombudsman's office investigated and is pursuing the issue with the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee and class counsel.

## **Supported Decision Making**

ARCH completed its paper on supported decision making in the mental health legislative context. The paper was part of a larger project that ARCH partnered on and was funded by the Federal Government (the Office for Disability Issues). ARCH's paper

explores the extent to which mental health laws in some provinces comply with the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. , Our paper has been accepted by the 2019 International Congress on Law and Mental Health in Rome. The abstract was titled 'Involuntary Detention and Involuntary Treatment Through the Lens of Sections 7 and 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.'

## **ARCH Submissions and Publications**

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- **Legal Analysis of Bill C-81, *An Act to ensure a barrier-free Canada*: Draft Report for Comment** - August, 2018
- **Submission on the Initial Recommendations for Review of the AODA Employment Accessibility Standard** - July 2018
- **If Inclusion Means Everyone, Why Not Me?** - May 2018
- **Involuntary Detention and Involuntary Treatment Through the Lens of Sections 7 and 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms** – March 2018
- **Towards a More Robust Monitoring Regime for Medical Assistance in Dying** Submitted to the Federal Minister of Health, prepared by the Advisors to the Vulnerable Persons Standard – February 2018
- **The Unpaved Road to Inclusive Education in Canada: It's Time for a Plan** – February 2018
- **Using legal services: tips for persons with disabilities** – January 2018
- **Tips on providing accessible legal services for persons with disabilities** – January 2018

### **ARCH Alert:**

- **ARCH Alert Volume 19 Issue 2** - July 2018
- **ARCH Alert Volume 19 Issue 1** - April 2018
- **ARCH Alert Volume 18 Issue 3** - November 2017

### **ARCH Blog:**

- **FOCUS: The Law of Service Animals in Ontario** - July 13, 2018
- **FOCUS: A More Contextual Approach to the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario's One-Year Limitation Period** - June 29, 2018

- **ARCH Celebrates National Indigenous Peoples Day - Highlights Work of BCANDS** - June 21, 2018
- **Accessible Practice: The Importance of Privacy for Clients with Disabilities** - June 15, 2018
- **New Federal Accessibility Legislation on the Horizon** - June 8, 2018
- **Accessible Practice: When Your Client Cannot Sign Documents** - June 1, 2018
- **Letter from the Executive Director: National AccessAbility Week** - May 28, 2018

# **ARCH Initiatives**

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## **Respecting Rights**

Respecting Rights continues to provide innovative rights education and build the capacity of self-advocates labelled with intellectual disabilities across Ontario. ARCH was awarded funding from the Special Projects Initiative which will be critical in supporting and expanding this program. These funds were made available because of the settlement agreement in the institutional abuse class action against the Government of Ontario regarding Huronia Regional Centre.

## **Disability Law Intensive – York University**

ARCH continues its exciting partnership with Osgoode Hall Law School at York University called the Disability Law Intensive. The purpose of this program is to introduce second and third year law students to the complex issues faced by persons with disabilities and to help them learn the most effective ways of delivering legal services to our communities, through law reform and policy work, and direct client centered work. This program is the first of its kind in Canada. Now in its sixth year, twelve students were selected to participate in the 2018-19 Disability Law Intensive at ARCH.

## **Student Proposed Internships - University of Ottawa**

ARCH continues to provide placements to students from the University of Ottawa through the Student Proposed Internship program. This is a program in which students gain experience working with lawyers on case file work.

## **Social Work Student program – York University**

Our social work student was involved in many facets of ARCH work, such as public legal education, community development, outreach, research, and writing.

## **Association for Human Rights Lawyers**

ARCH continues to host monthly meetings of the Association of Human Rights Lawyers. Lawyers in private practice, the Human Rights Legal Support Centre, Ontario Human Rights Commission and our colleagues in various legal clinics attend the meetings to discuss important decisions, Human Rights Tribunal procedures, and consult on ongoing cases.

## **ARCH Library**

ARCH endeavours to make as much disability and legal information available to the public as possible. To that end, we are continuously adding and updating the

information available in our library. The ARCH Library makes this material, including information on rights, available through its online catalogue which is accessible through our website. For items not available electronically, the public are welcome to view the print versions in the 15<sup>th</sup> floor Resource Centre and to use the computers with assistive technology made available for general use.







## **ARCH *Alert***

ARCH *Alert* is ARCH's quarterly newsletter. It provides timely information on proposed legislation, significant court decisions, government consultations, community initiatives, and other disability-related legal developments. ARCH *Alert* has over 4,000 subscribers who receive the newsletter directly, and additionally is available on our website free for anyone to access. Combined with our other publications, ARCH has reached nearly 18,000 individuals.

## **The ARCH Blog**

ARCH launched its very own blog in June 2018. The blog is geared towards other members in the legal profession, but is available and accessible for anyone to read. ARCH publishes a blog article every other Friday and explores issues related to disability rights, the legal profession and some matters that may fall in between. Since June 2018, ARCH has published posts on accessible practice, the history of National Access Awareness Week, featured an interview with an advocate from the Indigenous community speaking about disability issues, and published a post analyzing the judicial treatment of specific legal concepts (both procedural and substantive) by the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario.

# ARCH in the Media

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“Advocates question independence of provincial accessibility review” - The Toronto Star, March 8, 2018

« Droit de suspension du permis de conduire pour raison médicale : un jury délibère » – Radio Canada, April 12, 2018

“Activists push for independent enforcement of Ontario’s accessibility law” – The Toronto Star, April 18, 2018

“Ontario educational system failing students with intellectual disabilities: report” – The Toronto Star, May 4, 2018

«Trop d'obstacles dans les écoles ontariennes pour les jeunes handicapés intellectuels» – Radio Canada, May 4 2018

“City man files complaint after service dog denied access at dental office” – The Sarnia Journal, July 3, 2018

“People with disabilities face significant barriers in education, rights commission says” - Toronto Star, August 31, 2018

# National Access Awareness Week

## Access Awareness Event



ARCH co-hosted its annual Access Awareness event with the Law Society of Ontario on June 5, 2018. The theme of this year's event was privacy as it relates to persons with disabilities. The panel consisted of: Sunil Gurmukh from the Ontario Human Rights Commission, Mariam Shanouda, Staff Lawyer at ARCH, Maureen Haan, President & CEO of The Canadian Council on Rehabilitation

and Work, and moderated by Marian MacGregor, Law Society of Ontario.

Photo from Left: Robert Lattanzio, Sunil Gurmukh, Mariam Shanouda, Maureen Haan, Marian MacGregor

The panellists shared their expertise and provided practice tips for lawyers on how to respect the privacy rights of clients and colleagues with disabilities. Also discussed were developments in the case law relating to the privacy rights of persons with disabilities. Over 100 people attended the event and over 650 web streamed it live.

## ARCH at ReelAbilities

ARCH was invited to be a panelist at the screening of Defiant Lives at the ReelAbilities Film Festival in Toronto.



Photo from Left: Robert Lattanzio, Peter Park, Marissa Blake, Mika Hjørngaard, Sue Hutton

ARCH's activities for National AccessAbility week also included the launch of our Blog, an increased social media presence with daily posts regarding accessibility and inclusion on Twitter and Facebook, and a Lunch N' Learn session for community legal clinics regarding the forthcoming federal accessibility legislation.

# Financial Overview

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ARCH receives funding from various sources. ARCH wishes to acknowledge the on-going support of Legal Aid Ontario (LAO), our primary funder.

## **Additional Funders**

The City of Toronto has once again provided ARCH with a Community Service Partnership Grant that supports our education, information and referral program. These funds enable ARCH to employ administrative staff not funded by Legal Aid Ontario.

ARCH is licensed by the Ontario Lottery Corporation to participate in the Break Open Ticket program. Receipts from this initiative support our information and referral services, library purchases, disability accommodations, our website and staff training.

ARCH was granted funds through the Special Projects Initiative available pursuant to the class action settlement of *Dolmage v. Ontario*.

ARCH would like to thank the above funders for their support, and also thank members of the public for their ongoing support through their generous donations.

## ARCH DISABILITY LAW CENTRE

### Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2018

	LAO General Fund \$	LAO Legal Disbursements Fund \$	LAO Capital Fund \$	General Fund (note 4) \$	Break Open Ticket Fund \$	Total \$
<b>ASSETS</b>						
Current Assets						
Cash	81,020	8,613	-	176,446	95,174	361,253
Accounts receivable	-	-	-	285,489	4,212	289,701
HST recoverable	14,022	138	-	-	2,732	16,892
Prepaid expenses	15,202	-	-	-	-	15,202
	110,244	8,751	-	461,935	102,118	683,048
Capital assets (note 5)	-	-	7,791	-	-	7,791
Total assets	110,244	8,751	7,791	461,935	102,118	690,839
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
Current Liabilities						
Accounts payable	48,156	-	-	12,000	1,817	61,973
Inter-fund payable (receivable)	2,642	(136)	-	-	(2,506)	-
	50,798	(136)	-	12,000	(689)	61,973
<b>FUNDS BALANCE</b>						
	59,446	8,887	7,791	449,935	102,807	628,866
Total liabilities and funds balance	110,244	8,751	7,791	461,935	102,118	690,839

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

For a copy of the full audited statements please contact our office

# Thank you

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Jennifer Tattrie	Disability Law Intensive Student
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Kirsten Cirella	Disability Law Intensive Student
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Alicia Oliveri	Communications Intern, York University
Jessica Scifo	Student Proposed Internship program, University of Ottawa

**For more information about our ongoing work, please visit our website at [www.archdisabilitylaw.ca](http://www.archdisabilitylaw.ca) and subscribe to the ARCH Alert newsletter.**

**ARCH thanks our Supporters and Partners!**



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