Helping Client with Legal Problems: Sudbury Conference Agenda

Wednesday October 21, 2026 – Holiday Inn Sudbury

Time & Room	Activity	Speakers
8:30-9:00	**Registration and breakfast**	
9:00-9:20	**Indigenous Opening**	Elder Keith Chapman
9:20-9:30	**Welcome Remarks**	CLEO & SWEAC
9:30-11:00 **Georgian B**	**Housing Law and Supporting Unhoused Community Members** • Understanding the connections between poverty, homelessness, mental health and the justice system • Eviction prevention, housing rights, encampments, and accommodations • Navigating subsidized housing applications, waitlists and shelter programs	Hannah LeBlanc, Activist and Person with Lived Experience Lea Britt, Staff Lawyer, Sudbury Community Legal Clinic Julie Juhas, Client Navigator, City of Greater Sudbury
11:00-11:15	**Break and networking**	
11:15-12:45 **Georgian B**	**Criminal Law and Navigating the Ontario Criminal Justice System** • Understanding the difference between the Ontario criminal justice and mental health systems • Navigating the youth justice system • Indigenous Peoples Court, Gladue Principles and Gladue aftercare • Supporting clients' transition from custody to community	Amy Collins, Executive Director, Elizabeth Fry Society John Recoskie, Senior Duty Counsel, Legal Aid Ontario Margaret Linklater, IPC Court Worker and Professor at Laurentian University Michael Michel, Youth Defence Lawyer, Michel and Associates Law Pina Catalano, Program Coordinator, Sudbury District Restorative Justice
12:45-1:30	**LUNCH**	

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1:30-2:30 **Georgian B**	**Concurrent Session A: Supporting Clients with Disabilities, Brain Injuries and Mental Health Conditions in Legal Systems** • Overview of justice programs, mental health diversion and wellness court • Practical strategies for helping clients navigate legal processes • Understanding the impacts of disability, accessibility needs and the duty to accommodate • Supporting client advocacy and decision-making	Carla Vermeulen, Tenant Wellness Coordinator, March of Dimes Canada Charles Tossell, Activist and Person with Lived Experience Crystal Parent, Coordinator of Justice Services, Sudbury Community Service Centre Sandra Doucette, Service Manager and Regional Coordinator, March of Dimes Canada
1:30-2:30 **Georgian C**	**Concurrent Session B: The Intersections of Immigration Status and Other Legal Areas** • Explore how immigration status intersects with other areas of law including housing, employment, income assistance and family violence	J. Bianca Espinoza, Outreach and Program Coordinator, Newcomer Legal Clinic Robert St. Aubin, Staff Lawyer, Newcomer Legal Clinic
2:30-2:45	**Break and networking**	
2:45-3:45 **Georgian B**	**Concurrent Session C: Family Law and Navigating the Family Court** • Navigating Ontario's family court and family law processes • Child protection and supporting families through child welfare system • Understanding restraining orders and available legal protections	Richard Kirkham, Senior Counsel Northeast Region, Legal Aid Ontario
2:45-3:45 **Georgian C**	**Concurrent Session D: Elder Law** • Understanding wills and powers of attorney, considerations related to Robinson-Huron Treaty assets • Recognizing and supporting elders impacted by frauds, scams, and abuse	Megan Stuckey, Staff Lawyer, Advocacy North for Elders and Seniors
3:45-4:00	**Wrap up and closing, evaluations**	CLEO & SWEAC