

Together for Justice **TFJ**

Immigrant & Newcomer Orientation Workshop Series





Facilitators

Facilitator: Geraldine Silva

TFJ Coordinator ~ Human Rights Specialist

Co-Facilitator: Sadia Asghar
Law Graduate



Welcome to the TFJ Workshop Series

Land Acknowledgement:

We respectfully acknowledge that the land and waters of Kawartha Lakes region is on the Treaty 20. Michi Saagiig Territory and Chippewa Nations known as the Williams Treaties First Nations. Haliburton Counties is traditional homeland of the Ojibway, the Huron/Wendat, the Mohawk, the Pottawatomi, and Metis Nations of Ontario



Introduction

What is (TFJ) Together for Justice: TFJ is a community-driven initiative delivered locally through the Kawartha Community Foundation, with support from The Law Foundation of Ontario and Community Foundations of Canada.

According to the **Vital Signs** research gathering, in 2021, about 7.9% of Kawartha Lakes residents were foreign-born, with non-permanent residents likely undercounted. However, recent data shows growth—over 500 newcomers arrived in 2023–2024, bringing the estimated immigrant population to over 6,000.

Context of the TFJ Workshop Series

Unique Initiative

- **Flexible & Accessible:** Option to participate in person or virtual online
- **Trust-based:** Inclusive, Respect for Rights and Dignity
- **Lived experience matters:** Immigrant Serving Organizations delivering program



Terms of Understanding

- ❑ **This is a respectful and inclusive space**
- ❑ **This not Legal advice or consultation for the Law or Justice matter**
- ❑ **This is an interactive session of learning and resource information sharing**
- ❑ **Share only what you are comfortable with in a public space**
- ❑ **This is an audio and video recorded session**

Workshop Objective

- **Understand how the Justice system works**
- **Learn about legal rights and responsibilities.**
- **Recognize the potential consequences of criminal involvement**
- **Explore how to navigate the Justice system**
- **Identify resources and support in particular for the low-income**

Getting to know you

Tell us **Your Name** ?

Ice Breaker Question

What would make someone feel safe or supported when dealing with police, the courts, or legal services?



Workshop Topic: Criminal Justice, Legal Rights & Responsibilities



Criminal Justice, understanding key parts of the justice system, legal rights and responsibilities, navigating through the Justice system

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Understanding

**CANADIAN
CHARTER**

**OF RIGHTS AND
FREEDOMS**



What is the Criminal Justice System?

- **A system of laws, courts, police, and correctional services.**
- **Designed to maintain public safety and uphold justice.**
- **Includes police, lawyers, judges, courts, and correctional institutions.**

Key Parts of the Justice System

- **Police Services** – investigate crimes and enforce laws.
- **Courts** – hear cases and make legal decisions.
- **Lawyers** – provide legal representation and advice.
- **Correctional Services** – probation, parole, custody, and rehabilitation.

Understanding Municipal By-Laws in Kawartha Lakes

What Is a Municipal By-Law?

- Local laws created by the municipality
- Passed by City Council under Ontario's Municipal Act, 2001

Help maintain:

- Safety
- Order
- Health
- Community standards

What By Law may Regulate

- Property standards
- Noise
- Parking
- Animal control
- Business licensing
- Waste disposal
- Zoning and land use

Why By-Laws Matter ?

By-Laws Purpose:

- Protect public safety
- Prevent conflicts between neighbors
- Maintain clean and safe communities
- Support environmental and health standards
- Regulate land and property use

Possible Consequences for Violations

Failure to follow a by-law may result in:

- Warnings
- Tickets or fines
- Orders to comply
- Property inspections
- Court proceedings

Important Distinction of By-Law

- Most by-law offences are **not criminal offences**
- They are usually municipal or provincial regulatory matters
- Serious or repeated violations can still lead to legal penalties

Common By-Laws in Kawartha Lakes

Property Standards

- **Rules** about:
- Yard maintenance
- Grass and weeds
- Garbage disposal
- Snow and ice removal
- Safe buildings

Noise By-Laws

- **Restrictions** may apply to:
- Loud music
- Parties
- Construction noise
- Excessive vehicle noise

Animal Control

- **Includes:**
- Dog licensing
- Leash requirements
- Dangerous animal rules
- Limits on number of pets

Parking & Traffic

- **Rules** for:
- Overnight parking
- Fire routes
- Snow removal periods
- Time-limited parking zones

Zoning and By-Law Enforcement

Zoning By-Laws

Zoning controls:

- Residential vs commercial use
- Home businesses
- Secondary suites
- Building types
- Farm and rural land use

Important:

Permits or approvals may be required before:

- Construction
- Renovations
- Starting a business activity

Legal Enforcement Process

- 1.Complaint received
- 2.Investigation by by-law officer
- 3.Warning or compliance notice
- 4.Opportunity to correct issue
- 5.Fine or court action if unresolved

Some matters may proceed through the Ontario Court of Justice

Rights, Responsibilities & Workshop Discussion

Your Rights During Enforcement

Residents generally have the right to:

- Understand the alleged violation
- Ask questions
- Request notices or orders
- Appeal certain decisions
- Seek legal advice
- Attend court if charged

Responsibilities of Residents

Residents are responsible for:

- Knowing local by-laws
- Maintaining their property
- Respecting neighbors
- Obtaining permits when required
- Following lawful municipal orders

Helpful Resources

- [City of Kawartha Lakes By-Laws and Enforcement](#)
- [Ontario Municipal Act, 2001](#)

TFJ Workshop Discussion Questions

- What happens if someone ignores a by-law notice?
- How can newcomers learn local rules more easily?
- What is the difference between a criminal offence and a by-law offence?
- When should someone seek legal help?
- How do by-laws affect landlords and tenants?

What Happens After an Arrest?

- Police may arrest or release a person.
- A person may attend a bail hearing.
- Court appearances follow.
- Possible outcomes: charges withdrawn, plea agreement, trial, sentencing.

Potential Consequences of a Criminal Conviction

- Criminal records may affect employment, housing, immigration, and travel.
- Fines, probation, community service, or jail time.
- Emotional and family impacts.
- Long-term social and financial consequences.

Rights

To remain silent

To speak to Lawyer

**To be treated fairly and
without discrimination**

**To know the charges
against you**

**Rights protected under
Canadian Charter of
Rights & Freedoms**

Responsibilities

Obeying Canadian Laws

**Attending Court when
required**

**Following Bail or
Probation conditions**

**Respecting the Rights &
Safety of others**

Navigating the Justice System

- ✓ Stay informed about court dates and legal documents.
- ✓ Seek legal advice early.
- ✓ Keep copies of important paperwork.
- ✓ Ask questions if you do not understand the process.
- ✓ Use interpretation or accessibility services if needed.

Barriers with the System Navigation

- ❖ **Cost Factor:** Legal Fees, Transportation cost, missing to follow up with legal proceeding, court appearance
- ❖ **Language barrier:** Communication Problem in the Official Language, Understanding Court Documents, Legal terminologies
- ❖ **Fear :** Mistrust of people in uniform and authorities, consequences of coming forward, past experience / history of trauma and internalized oppression
- ❖ **Lack of Knowledge:** Canadian Legal system, current legislations, criminal justice and court system, legal procedures
- ❖ **Limited Access to Support Services:** Obtaining legal aid, language interpreter/translation, mental health supports, community advocacy services.

Legal Aid & Support Services

- Legal Aid Ontario for low-income individuals.
- Duty Counsel available at many courthouses.
- Community legal clinics.
- Victim support services and mental health resources.
- Settlement and newcomer support organizations.

Community Resources

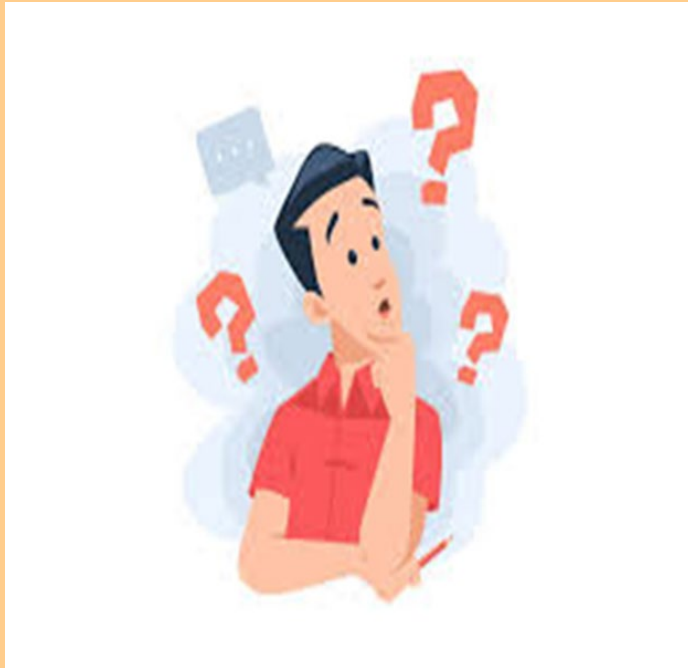
- Free legal information workshops
- Youth justice and diversion programs
- Employment and reintegration support
- Counselling and rehabilitation services
- Advocacy and anti-racism support organizations

How TFJ can Help ?



- Provide education and awareness
- Connect individuals with community resources
- Promote empowerment and informed decision-making
- Encourage community dialogue and support

General Discussion: How to address issues?



Resources

John Howard Society of Kawarthas
<https://johnhoward.on.ca/kawartha/>

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**Elizabeth Fry Society of
Peterborough**
<https://efryptbo.org/>

Community Legal Clinic -Simcoe
Haliburton Kawartha Lakes. (Kent
Place Mall, Lindsay) 189 Kent St, W.
Suite # 214
Phone: 1-800 - 461- 8953

Student Legal Services Organization
SLSO (Affiliated with Ontario Law
Schools and Legal Aid)
Downtown Legal Services (Toronto)
Queen's Legal Aid (Kingston)
Legal Aid Ontario: 1-800-668-8258

Law Society of Ontario. Referral
Service (Free Consultation)
Toll-free (Ontario): 1-855-947-5255
Toronto / GTA: 416-947-5255

Legal Aid Ontario
1- 800 – 668- 8258

**Peterborough Community Legal
Centre**
705-749-9355



References

<https://ccrweb.ca/sites/ccrweb.ca/files/criminality-practical-resource.pdf>

<https://www.kawarthalakes.ca/government-administration/by-law-enforcement/>

<https://www.kawarthafoundation.ca/vitalsigns>

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/>

<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

<https://youtu.be/bGu9ZExFNWs?si=iqQXJQI-pQOEuheP>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/how-rights-protected/guide-canadian-charter-rights-freedoms.html>



Feedback / Evaluation Form


<https://forms.gle/rc9mgSrumWZY8nbJ8>



Thank You

FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

 program@klhiisa.org

 **705 - 212 - 2345**