



Chief Justice speaking with PBSC and KBCLS Staff and Students, Photo Tim Maxwell

THE VISIT OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF CANADA TO KENSINGTON-BELLWOODS COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES **Elsie Dickson, Director of Legal Services**

Kensington-Bellwoods Community Legal Services was very honoured to welcome the Chief Justice of Canada, Right. Hon. Richard Wagner, to the clinic on November 29, 2024. The event was co-hosted with Pro Bono Students Canada (PBSC), an organization that provides law students nationwide, with opportunities to engage in pro bono legal work in partnership with community organizations and supervising lawyers. KBCLS and PBSC have a very successful partnership which enables the clinic to provide increased access to justice to our community, and also provides law students with a rich learning experience in social justice work. This year, KBCLS has 26 law students from University of Toronto Law School and Toronto Metropolitan University's Lincoln Alexander Law School, working on 4 projects –

1. Client Intake;
2. Tenant Applications at the Landlord and Tenant Board;
3. International Students and Immigration Research and Public Legal Education; and
4. ODSP Appeals Project.

Chief Justice Wagner is a very strong supporter of students' pro bono work. During the visit to the clinic, he observed the projects in action. He also interacted with students and staff of the legal clinic, and answered questions on the importance of access to justice during a fireside chat moderated by the Director of Legal Services, Elsie Dickson. Chief Justice Wagner reiterated the importance of the work done by legal clinics and PBSC student volunteers in reducing the barriers to access to justice and repeated his commitment to making the justice system more transparent and accessible.

The event was attended by Bill Sinclair, President and CEO of TNG, Rono Khan, member of the TNG Board's Legal Advisory Committee, Kim Patel, VP Employment, Training and Legal Services, PBSC National Director, Dana Rotenberg and other staff of PBSC, PBSC Chapter Coordinators and students, as well as volunteers and staff of the clinic and TNG.



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