



THE EMPOWERMENT COUNCIL A Voice for the Clients of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

EC ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE LAST 10 YEARS

- The EC Partnered with CAMH to:
Create the **CAMH Bill of Client Rights** – *the highest standard of hospital based mental health rights in Canada to date*. DVD and Centre wide education conducted by EC and CAMH. Award for EC and CAMH from the Ontario Association of Patient Councils.
Develop the **Least Restraint Initiative** - *substantially reducing CAMH restraint use*.
- Four **Deputations and Submissions to Senate Committees**: on Discrimination, Advocacy, the Forensic System and proposed changes to the Criminal Code of Canada
- Two **Deputations and Submissions to Federal Standing Committee** on Proposed Changes to the Criminal Code (*EC referenced in report to the House of Commons on the change to the law allowing for the release of some “Unfit” accused.*)
- **EC Standing at 3 inquests**: Vass, James and GA
Juries adopted the majority of EC recommendations for preventing future deaths
- **Intervened successfully in two Supreme Court cases**:
SCC ruling that provincial Human Rights Code applies to all provincial legislation
SCC ruling that people with addictions have a right to Disability Support
Supported Mental Health Legal Advocacy Coalition in 3 other successful cases.
- **EC Education** has covered a multitude of topics for clients, from Mad About Rights to Harm Reduction, while also educating CAMH staff on client rights, the prevention of restraint, advocacy at CAMH etc. EC regularly provides the client perspective on CAMH policies, and educational materials. EC staff have written articles and book chapters.
- EC has facilitated numerous CAMH and governmental **consultations and focus groups** with mental health and addiction clients, and represented the client voice on many LHIN and CAMH committees.
- EC partnered with Urban Alliance on Race Relations to author “**Saving Lives – Alternatives to the Use of Lethal Force by Police**”. EC has successfully advocated for input into police training and an open and transparent Police Services Board committee on mental health