

Getting Connected: CLEONet and OPICCO

CLEONet and OPICCO are both websites dedicated to the promotion of resources, materials and information to help community workers and advocates who work with low-income and marginalized communities.

CLEONet: www.cleonet.ca

OPICCO: www.opicco.org

1. How is www.opicco.org different from www.cleonet.ca?

OPICCO's website is dedicated to promoting and sharing community development activities, tools and resources. The site focuses on current campaigns and law reform activities, and resources and tools that can be used for community development, such as media tip sheets and manuals on tenant organizing. The site also provides links to other social justice and advocacy groups engaged in community organizing in low-income communities.

The legal information and news and events that you find on OPICCO's website are actually CLEONet links or automatic feeds from CLEONet.

CLEONet's focus is much more extensive than community development and includes public legal education and resources, news on legal issues and law reform campaigns, and community events.

2. Do you have a resource that should be on OPICCO?

OPICCO is interested in content promoting current campaigns and law reform activities, but not one-time events, policy reports or research. For example, information about a new campaign would be suitable for OPICCO's website. But if the campaign is holding a press conference or organizing a rally, that is more an event or news story so should be forwarded to CLEONet. The information will appear on OPICCO's website as part of CLEONet's regularly updated news and events feeds.

While OPICCO realizes that reports and public legal education fact sheets can be helpful in community organizing, these resources are a key focus of CLEONet. So, rather than duplicating content, OPICCO asks that all reports and public legal education materials be forwarded to CLEONet. CLEONet materials can be accessed from OPICCO's website through "Legal Information". Recent additions will also be highlighted in the CLEONet feeds on OPICCO's website.

If materials are designed to encourage people to "take action", however, OPICCO is interested. For example, the ODSP Action Coalition produced a pamphlet explaining changes to the special diet allowance that included a section asking people to lobby the Minister of Community and Social Services to change the new rules. This encourages community organizing directly so is a good fit for the OPICCO website. In this example, the pamphlet would be added as a law reform activity.

OPICCO is also interested in all community development tools, which include everything from media and lobbying tip sheets to board development, meeting facilitation and campaign organizing guidelines. OPICCO is also interested in templates – for elections materials, ombudsman complaints, event flyers, etc. Basically anything that people might use in their community development. When forwarding these kinds of materials, please include a paragraph explaining that the material is meant as a template that can be revised and used by others.

The OPICCO website includes a "Social Justice Links" section that includes links to organizations that produce materials, resources, campaigns, training workshops, etc. that are relevant for systemic community development work. Organizations focusing on individual advocacy and casework are not a focus of the OPICCO website and should not be added to the "Social Justice Links" section.

3. Do you have a resource that belongs on CLEONet?

The resources on CLEONet are produced primarily by community organizations and legal clinics that help low-income and disadvantaged communities understand and exercise their legal rights. The following are examples of the types of resources included on CLEONet:

- materials in a variety of formats that explain how a law or regulatory system works, what people's rights are, and what to do if a right is violated
- materials that support community legal education activities such as workshop materials or templates, and advocates' manuals.

4. Forwarding material to OPICCO and CLEONet

To forward material to OPICCO, email: info@opicco.org. Please attach all documents in either word or PDF format and include a text summary of not more than 100 words.

To forward content to CLEONet go to:

http://www.cleonet.ca/contact_us

or contact Fiona MacCool, CLEONet Project Manager at:

416-408-4420 ext 29

fionamaccool@cleonet.ca