

DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY AND LEGAL SERVICES

A dynamic social justice organization, the Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO) is a legal clinic with a province-wide mandate to work with low income tenants, equity seeking groups, community organizations and legal clinics on housing and human rights issues. Our work includes broad based campaigns, test case litigation, extensive law reform advocacy, provision of duty counsel at the Landlord and Tenant Board, advocacy training and public legal education.

We are seeking an experienced lawyer with a passion for social justice and a demonstrated understanding of equity and housing issues as they impact low income tenants. The successful candidate will have leadership and communication skills to foster excellence, innovation and collaboration in heading up a multi-disciplinary staff team. This is a co-directorship where the executive functions are shared and coordinated with the Director of Administration.

Responsibilities include:

- Provide leadership in the development, prioritization and alignment of ACTO strategic directions across all service areas
- Develop and maintain a strong, dynamic organization that provides high-quality services in an equitable, collaborative, creative work environment
- Provide information and support to the Board of Directors in fulfilling their governance and accountability role
- Motivate and support the staff team by demonstrating excellent communication and team-building skills
- Provide leadership in planning and carrying out systemic legislative, litigation and campaign strategies on a wide variety of issues pertaining to housing, human rights and justice for low income tenants
- Develop advocacy trainings and materials on issues pertaining to justice for low income tenants
- Provide support and coordinate with Ontario's community legal clinics in regard to housing policies/legal issues that impact the housing security of low-income people, including the provision of tenant duty counsel services
- Develop and maintain effective workplace policies, procedures and practices and staff engagement, including the administration of a collective agreement
- Develop sustainable funding support for ACTO through Legal Aid Ontario, and identify other strategic partnership opportunities
- Ensure quality assurance for ACTO's legal services, including ensuring compliance with professional requirements

Requirements:

- Strong and collaborative leadership skills
- Effective communication skills
- Proven commitment to justice for low income equity seeking groups, particularly in relation to housing issues

- Extensive experience and demonstrated success in policy advocacy, law reform, litigation, and building relations with funders and government bodies
- Demonstrated strong writing, presentation and public speaking skills for a wide variety of audiences including legal decision-makers, professional colleagues, general public, media and those from equity seeking groups
- Knowledge and experience in measuring program impacts and recommending improvements in services
- Membership in the Law Society of Ontario
- Travel across Ontario as required
- Proficiency with computer programs

Assets:

- French language proficiency

Salary is based on experience and a full benefits package, including RRSP contributions, is provided. The salary range for this position is \$120,000 to \$160,000.

Please email your resume and covering letter to the attention of the Hiring Committee, Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario at thomsot@lao.on.ca on or before November 4, 2020.

For more information about ACTO, please go to our website at www.acto.ca

ACTO is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to establishing and maintaining a diverse and inclusive workplace, particularly for those who have been historically excluded from, and under-represented in the practice of law, including individuals who are identified by grounds under human rights legislation, such as: Indigenous peoples; people with disabilities; individuals from racialized groups; people of diverse faiths and creeds; gays, lesbians, transgendered people, and others with diverse sexual orientation; and women.