

# Allies in Addressing Water for First Nations

## *The Canadian Environmental Law Association*

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Kerrie Blaise, Northern Services Counsel

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With thanks to  
the Assembly of  
First Nations for  
the invitation



# About Us

[www.cela.ca](http://www.cela.ca)

- Public interest law organization, funded by Legal Aid Ontario
- Founded in 1970 – **CELA turns 50 in 2020!**
- Core mandate is to provide access to justice, use and improve laws that protect human health and the environment

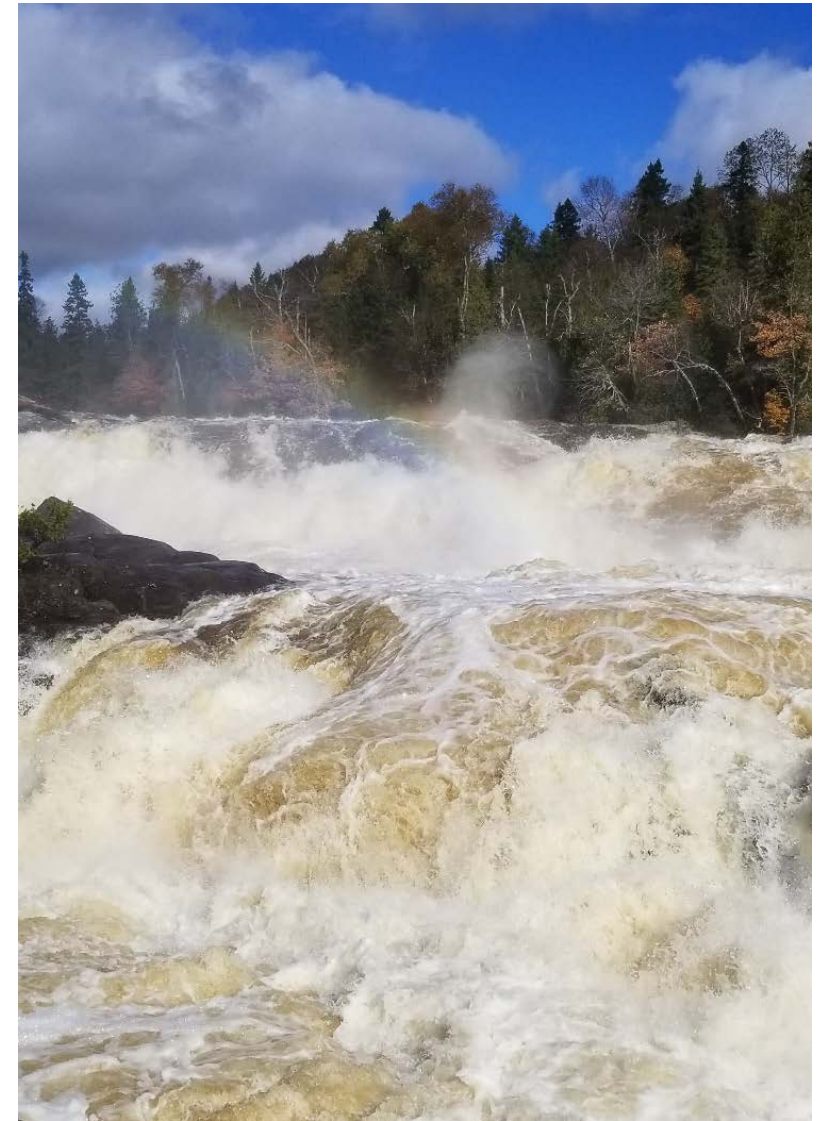
# Regional Services

Increase reach in historically underserved areas, including remote and fly-in communities

Collaborate with communities, residents, non-profits and other community legal aid clinics to:

- Identify emerging issues affecting human health and environmental protection
- Advance public participation in decision-making

Advocate for those lacking access to justice



# Our Priorities

## **1. Access to Environmental Justice**

CELA places high priority on cases and law reform work aimed at ensuring access to environmental justice; and

## **2. Pollution Prevention and Public Health and Safety**

CELA places high priority on cases and law reform work aimed at ensuring safe, healthy and livable communities.

# The Principle of Environmental Justice

The principle that environmental benefits and burdens should be equitably distributed among all persons, rather than allowing the majority of adverse impacts to be unfairly imposed upon poor people, visible minorities, or marginalized communities.



# Our Services

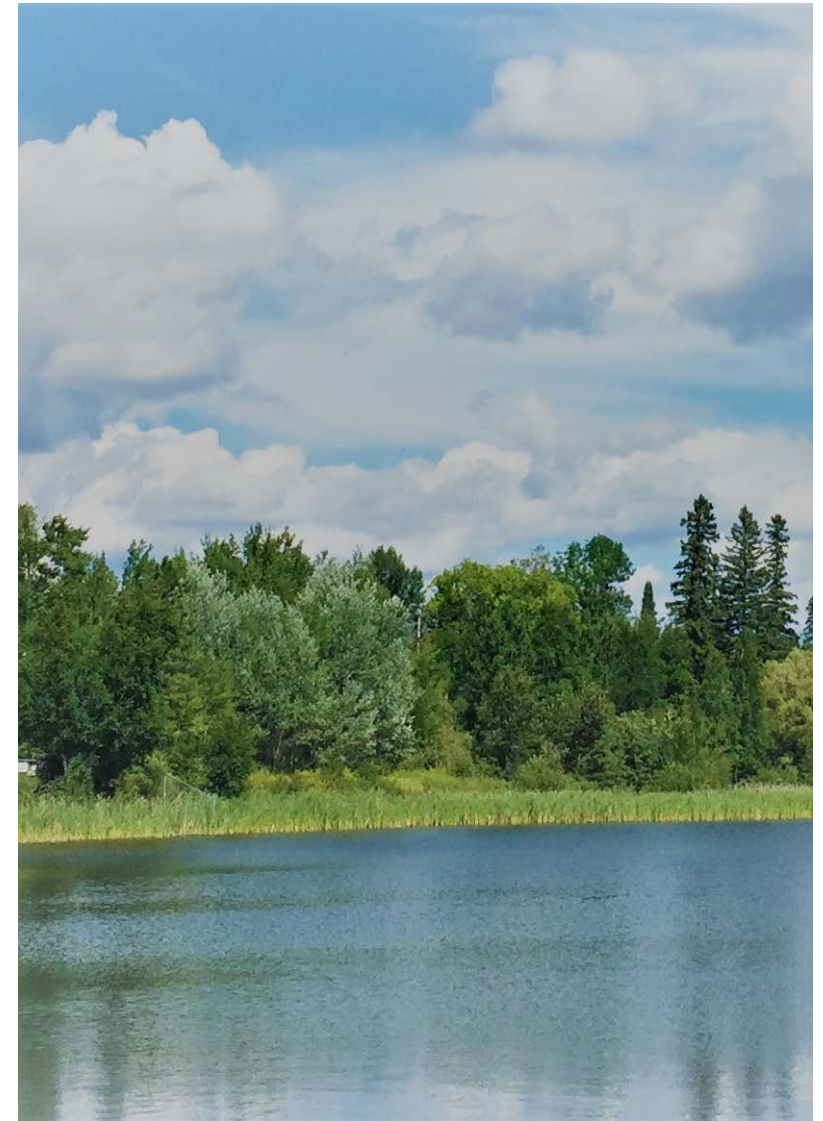
1. Direct representation of eligible clients in proceedings in trial or appellate courts and before administrative tribunals
2. Test cases
3. Summary advice, including brief services and referrals
4. Public legal education and outreach
5. Law reform

We are Ontario's only clinic providing environmental law legal aid services across Ontario.

The specific allocation of time each year is dictated largely by needs of our client Community

# Law Reform

1. Proactively initiate law reform
2. Support law reform activities at federal, provincial and municipal levels of government
3. Actively link our law reform recommendations to our casework and environmental jurisprudence



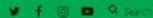
UN special  
rapporteur on  
human rights and  
toxics reports in  
June 2019 that  
“Canada’s inaction  
on toxic exposure a  
disturbing sign of  
discrimination: UN  
expert”

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24680&LangID=E>





Welcome to our new website! Please be patient with finding content. The re-build will continue for several weeks.

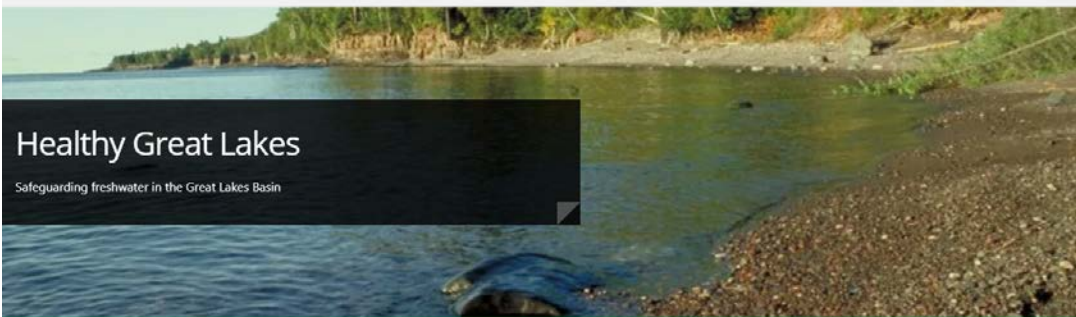


Our Legal Services  
How can we help?

Public Legal Education  
Learn about the law

Advancing Environmental  
Law  
Action on environmental  
justice

Home | Who We Are | Blogs | Media Releases | CELA News | CELA Says | Donate



## Healthy Great Lakes

Safeguarding freshwater in the Great Lakes Basin

CELA is a non-profit specialty legal aid clinic funded by Legal Aid Ontario. We work to protect human health and our environment by seeking justice for those harmed by pollution and by working to change policies to prevent such problems in the first place.



## Canadian Environmental Law Foundation

Reflecting and Cataloguing the Environmental History of Canada

HOME | THE LIBRARY | SEARCH OUR CATALOGUE | ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY PROGRAM



## Discover our Resources

Search our online catalogue for a vast collection on topics and subjects of interest. You can then view the material(s) in person. We are a free service, open to the public.

# Thank you!

[www.cela.ca](http://www.cela.ca)

[www.celafoundation.ca](http://www.celafoundation.ca)