

# **Finding Our Place: Expanding Access to Justice Through Community Partnerships**

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# Community Legal Services

- 150 students per year
- 1,000+ files per year
- 2,000+ notarials/brief services
- Areas of law:
  - Criminal
  - Civil (small claims)
  - Landlord/tenant
  - Wills/POAs
  - Mediation
  - Family law
  - Public legal education
  - Immigration
  - University appeals
  - Criminal injuries comp.
  - Human rights
  - Intellectual property



# Grand Re-Opening 2014

# Creating Partnerships: Talking

- Survey social agencies to identify unmet needs
- Created advisory committee from community
- Consult with local Legal Aid authorities
- Consult with judiciary



# Creating Partnerships: Looking Inside the Box

- Other university faculties
- Pro Bono Students Canada



# Making Partnerships Work

- Identify social agencies/organizations involved with client needs
- Identify courts or tribunals where parties have greatest need
- Develop relationships, cooperation, procedures, referrals

# Issues for Partnerships

- When: *regular office hours vs. on call*
- How: *legal representations vs. legal info*
- Where: *campus, satellite office, social agency*
- Who: *clinic students vs. lawyers or others*
- What: *services to be offered*



# Our Partners



- Public libraries
- Social agencies for homeless, mental health, food banks, addictions, youth, and others
- Courts
- Multicultural organizations
- High schools
- Public housing authorities



# Joint Projects with PBSC: Leverage

- Small Claims Court Project (held in library)
- High School Project
- Public Legal Education Program (for social agencies)
- Eviction Prevention Program
- Without cooperation, programs would not exist or would be smaller

# Other Partnership Examples



Canadian Mental Health Association - weekly office hours



Ontario Court of Justice – mediation services in peace bond court

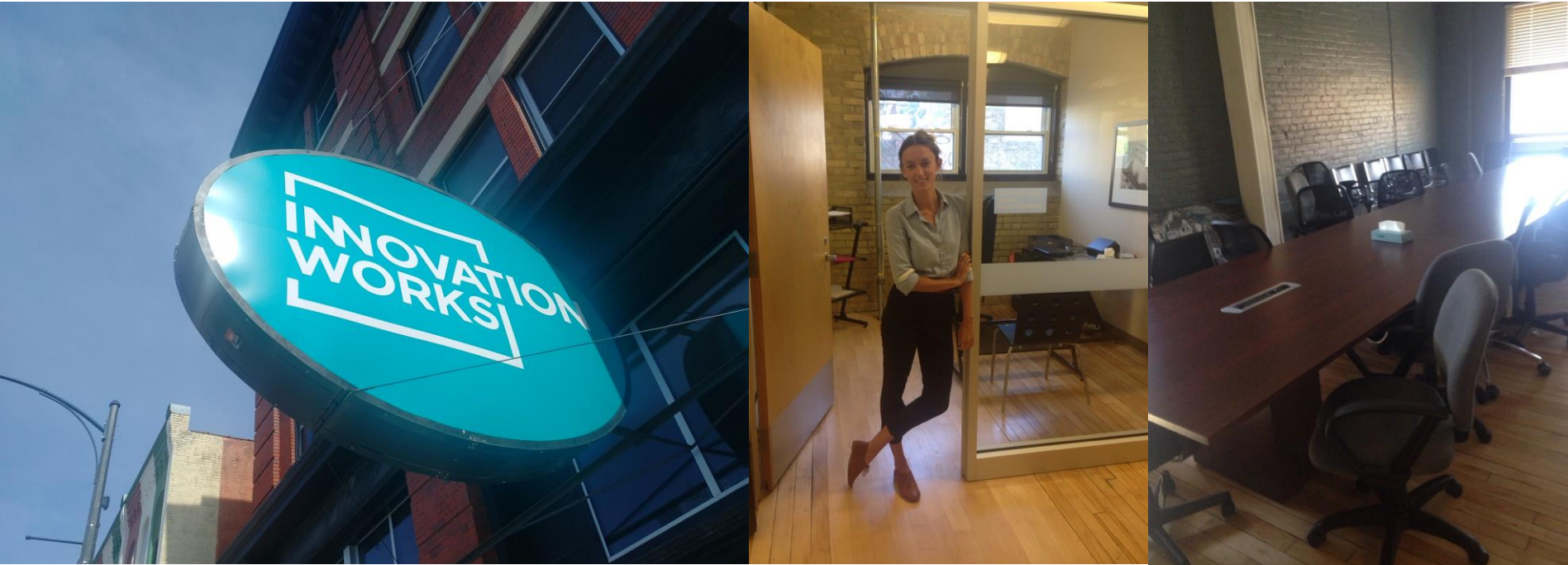


Youth Opportunities Unlimited – legal education and mediation



Legal Aid Ontario - Client referrals from family law duty counsel

# Our Newest Venture



# Lessons Learned

1. Look for partners who serve your potential clients
2. Build bridges and relationships
3. Keep in touch with partners
4. Training is essential
5. More than one path to justice
6. Look at using technology



# Questions?

**Thank you!**



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