



## Plainfield Community Homes

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# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO, February 9, 2004** - Plainfield Community Homes, with funding from Ontario's Community Inclusion Project "*It Takes a Village ... Where All People Belong*" will host a **Forum on Citizenship Rights** at the Ramada Inn on the Bay, on February 19, 2004 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The Hastings-Prince Edward region is about to break some new ground in promoting the exercise of citizen rights by people with intellectual disabilities. An Area Rights Commission is being founded to act as a resource to individuals with a developmental disability, their families and support networks. The mandate of the Rights Commission is "to safeguard and support the personal and citizenship rights of individuals with a developmental disability." The Commission is envisioned as a pool of knowledgeable, independent volunteers from all parts of the community, who will be engaged at many different levels. Public awareness, research, information-sharing and policy advice are some. The Commission will also provide a forum for due process to review specific personal rights issues at the instance of individuals or support agencies. Volunteers might be involved in whichever aspects of the Commission that fit their interest and experience.

This introductory workshop aims to introduce this vision to people who might wish to learn about or contribute to some aspect of its development, and perhaps to become members of the Commission as it takes form. Our speakers are:

**GORDON CONNORS**, on Faculty at Loyalist College and Chair of the Campbellford Community Living Rights Committee, who can speak from direct experience working with a Rights Commission.

**ORVILLE ENDICOTT**, legal counsel for Community Living Ontario, who will talk about the current state of rights issues and due process practice in Ontario.

**DAVE SHANNON**, Counsel, Department of Justice, Canada, former member of the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal and former Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Council of Ontario and recipient of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal.

To register, please call Plainfield Community Homes at (613) 969-7407 by **Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>**. Space is limited, but all efforts will be made to accommodate any interested party.

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### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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**Plainfield Community Homes**  
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