



The Social Planning Council of Peel

“Promoting social justice and citizen participation in the community”

Meeting Invitation

RE: Motherisk Commission: Important Community Outreach and Information Meeting

9:30A.M. Tuesday, 11 October 2016

1275 Mississauga Valley Blvd, Mississauga Valley Community Center

Mississauga, ON L5A 3R8

Programme Room No. 1

Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to invite your agency’s participation in an important community information session on **Tuesday, 11 October 2016** convened jointly by the Social Planning Council of Peel and the Social Planning Network of Ontario on behalf of the Motherisk Commission. <http://motheriskcommission.ca/en/>

The Motherisk Commission was established on January 15, 2016 by the Government of Ontario in response to a report which found that the Motherisk laboratory at the Hospital for Sick Children had performed hair tests for drug and alcohol use in child protection and criminal cases that were inadequate and unreliable. These laboratory test findings were used by Children’s Aid Societies across the province in family court cases, which contributed in many cases to judgments that removed children from their families.

The Commission’s two-year mandate is to offer appropriate support and assistance to persons affected by the Motherisk test results. The Commission has established a Review and Resource Centre which will offer information, counselling, legal advice, alternative dispute resolution and other support to individuals who may have been affected by cases brought to court by Children’s Aid Societies as a result of flawed Motherisk tests between 1990 and 2015.

The Commission’s challenge is to reach and identify people who were victims of flawed test results in the courts, mostly from low income and racialized communities. The Social Planning Network of Ontario and its local social planning council members are facilitating part of this outreach by organizing community information sessions led by the Commission’s legal counsel.



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We are inviting community agencies working with low income individuals and families and racialized communities to attend these sessions in order to:

- 1) Become informed about the Motherisk Commission’s mandate and work and the resources that it can provide to victims of flawed lab tests;
- 2) Answer any questions that the community may have about the Commission and its process to identify and support the people affected;
- 3) Discuss how agencies and workers in your community can help identify individuals and families who might be eligible to apply to the Commission for counseling, legal advice, or other support.

The agenda for the community information session on **October 11** is attached.

We strongly urge that you attend the information session or send a representative of your agency and would greatly appreciate it if you could **RSVP your attendance to:**

Ritika Shrimali: rshrimali@spcpeel.com , phone number: 905-629-3044 Extn. 228 by **30 September 2016, 5pm.**

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Srimanta Mohanty

Executive Director

Social Planning Council of Peel

Peter Clutterbuck

Senior Community Planning Consultant

Social Planning Network of Ontario



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- 9:15 AM Arrival & Registration
- 9:45 Welcome, Introductions & Overview of Objectives and Agenda
- 10:00 Motherisk Commission’s Mandate, Focus of Outreach, Resource Centre
and Work to Date – presented by Motherisk Commission Legal Staff
- 10:20 Questions/Discussion
- 10:40 Outreach Strategies (resources and ideas)
- Review use of the Commission’s print and communications materials for agencies, communities and clients
 - Use of web site and social media
 - Collect participant ideas/suggestions
 - Opportunities for additional community meetings
- 11:00 Summary and Conclusion
- Video interview with Commissioner Judith C. Beaman
 - Respond to any final questions
 - Evaluation of information meeting
- 11:30 Thank You & Follow-up