



# News Release Communiqué

For immediate release

## **ONTARIO LEGAL AID CLINIC AND TORONTO HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE WIN 2007 AWARDS FOR ACTION ON HIV/AIDS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

**TORONTO, June 10, 2007** — A not-for-profit, community-based legal clinic serving low income people with HIV/AIDS in Ontario and its former executive director are the recipients of the 2007 Awards for Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights, the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network announced today.

HALCO, the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic (Ontario), and Ruth Carey accepted the institutional and individual awards, respectively, at a luncheon ceremony held today in Toronto. The Awards highlight outstanding individuals and organizations that protect the rights and dignity of those infected with HIV and affected by HIV and AIDS.

“Ruth Carey is a hero to thousands of people affected by HIV/AIDS in Ontario whose lives have been touched by her work,” said Joanne Csete, Executive Director. “As a result of her dedication, and that of all HALCO staff and board members since its foundation in 1995, HALCO has had an impact not only provincially, but also nationally and internationally.”

Founded in Toronto, HALCO provides free services, including representation and summary advice, to clients whose legal problem falls within its areas of practice, such as human rights, social assistance, income support, and housing. It is also an influential advocate for law reform that will help people living with HIV/AIDS, notably in relation to disability income, health care and medications, privacy, and human rights legislation. To this day, it remains the only such legal clinic in Canada.

Ruth Carey was executive director of HALCO from 1996 to 2007. A lawyer by training, Ruth served on the Legal Network's board of directors for many years. She also held two successive appointments to the Ontario Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS (OACHA) and has served on a number of boards including the Prisoners' HIV/AIDS Support Action Network (PASAN) and Pro Bono Law Ontario.

The Awards for Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights were established in 2002 by the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network and Human Rights Watch to recognize excellence and long-term commitment to work that has a direct impact on HIV/AIDS and human rights issues — particularly work of direct relevance to marginalized individuals and communities. The Awards are presented annually.

For more information on the Awards, please visit [www.aidslaw.ca/awards](http://www.aidslaw.ca/awards).

**About the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network**

The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network ([www.aidslaw.ca](http://www.aidslaw.ca)) promotes the human rights of people living with and vulnerable to HIV/AIDS, in Canada and internationally, through research, legal and policy analysis, education, and community mobilization. The Legal Network is Canada’s leading advocacy organization working on the legal and human rights issues raised by HIV/AIDS.

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