



### **Johanna Macdonald appointed Clinic Director of PCLS**

The Board of Directors of Parkdale Community Legal Services are thrilled to announce the appointment of Johanna Macdonald as our new Clinic Director effective November 6, 2017. Johanna has dedicated roots in the community legal clinic system and a depth of experience in clinical legal education.

“Johanna has a clear vision and passion for community legal work and commitment to community engagement and equity”, said Rich Haigh, Board Co-Chair.

Johanna was the first Program Lawyer for the Health Justice Initiative partnering St. Michael’s Hospital with legal clinics ARCH Disability Law Centre, Aboriginal Legal Services Toronto, HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario and Neighbourhood Legal Services. Prior to the Health Justice Initiative, she was the Street Youth Legal Services Lawyer at Justice for Children and Youth. She also worked internationally at the Khmer Institute of Democracy in Cambodia, with student legal clinics, and in the non profit sector. She received her LL.B. from the University of British Columbia, and her LL.M. from Osgoode Hall Law School, with particular focus on access to administrative justice.

Johanna is passionate about exploring new methods to improve access to justice and increase social and economic equality. A long-standing advocate for individuals and groups facing discrimination and marginalization, she encourages collective action for change. She is also committed to the educational mandate of the clinic, and looks forward to helping a new generation of progressive Osgoode law students learn community lawyering skills and critically reflect on the role of law in social justice.

A devoted Parkdale resident who lives in the neighbourhood with her spouse Linda, she comes to PCLS with a strong connection to our community. Johanna has personal experience defending the rights of individuals with disabilities, and values inclusivity and accessibility as a core component to legal clinic operations. She is keen to work with staff, community groups and members, volunteers, Osgoode students, our funders and partners in the clinic system and beyond to chart PCLS’s course of action in leading social change through anti-poverty law and excellence in clinical legal education.