



# STEPS TO JUSTICE

## *EMPLOYMENT LAW*

An OJEN workshop demonstrating a CLEO  
public legal information resource.



**CLEO**

Community Legal Education Ontario  
Éducation juridique communautaire Ontario



## True or false?

1. If your job requires a uniform, your employer can make you pay for it.



## True or false?

**2.** I literally cannot function without caffeine. Good thing employers have to give coffee breaks!



## True or false?

**3.** I work at McFonalds © and I accidentally ruined 6 Big Facks © because I forgot the buns (lol). Good thing they can't make me pay for those!



## True or false?

4. I'M SOOOO TIIIRRRRRRED! It's November 10th. Good thing tomorrow is a guaranteed government holiday!



## True or false?

**5.** I work at Lulumelon, and they want me to only wear their clothes to work. Good thing they have to give me a discount!  
Goooo, yoga pants!



## Employment Law in Ontario: *What is covered?*

- Getting hired, fired and laid off
- Pay
- Hours of work
- Workers' rights
- Breaks and time off work
- Being safe and being injured at work
- Human rights and discrimination

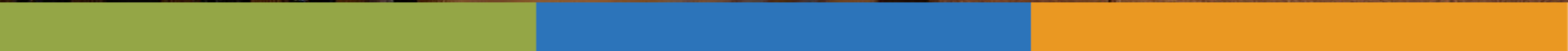
*Employment Standards Act (ESA); Occupational Health and Safety ACT (OHSA), Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC)*



# Real Life Legal Problems

## *Demonstration Scenario*

My boss told me that I need to work on Good Friday. He said that because I don't celebrate Easter he doesn't have to pay me any extra for working on a holiday like he does for the staff that do celebrate Easter. This doesn't seem fair.








# Human Rights in Employment

## Human Rights Laws

Protect Ontarians against discrimination on the basis of things like:

- **Age**
- **Sex**
- **Gender**
- **Disability**
- **Race and ethnicity**
- **Religion and belief**

They deal with five important areas of life:

- **Services, goods and facilities**
  - **Housing**
  - **Contracts**
  - **Employment**
  - **Membership in vocational associations and trade unions**
- 

# Steps to Justice



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Steps to Justice website. At the top left is the logo with the text "Steps to Justice" and "Your guide to law in Ontario". At the top right, there is a "HIDE THIS SITE" button, a language selector for "Français", and social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and RSS. Below the logo is a navigation menu with a search icon and links for "Legal Topics", "About Steps to Justice", "Latest Updates", and "Embed & Share". The main banner features a woman with a backpack and the text "Steps to Justice" in large orange letters, followed by "Step-by-step information about legal problems. Reliable, practical, and easy to understand." Below this is a search bar with the placeholder text "Tell us what you are looking for...". On the right side of the banner, there is a vertical stack of social media icons: Facebook, Twitter, Email, and a share icon. Below the banner is a "Legal Topics" section with a dark blue background and a list of topics: Abuse and Family Violence, Criminal Law, Debt and Consumer Rights, Employment and Work, Family Law, Health and Disability, Housing Law, Human Rights, Income Assistance, and Tribunals and Court. In the bottom right corner of the page, there is a "Live chat" button with the text "Live chat Mon-Fri 11am-1pm".

**Steps to Justice**  
Your guide to law in Ontario

HIDE THIS SITE

Français

Legal Topics

About Steps to Justice

Latest Updates

Embed & Share

## Steps to Justice

Step-by-step information about legal problems.  
Reliable, practical, and easy to understand.

Tell us what you are looking for...

### Legal Topics

- Abuse and Family Violence
- Criminal Law
- Debt and Consumer Rights
- Employment and Work
- Family Law
- Health and Disability
- Housing Law
- Human Rights
- Income Assistance
- Tribunals and Court

Live chat  
Mon-Fri 11am-1pm



 Using the  
Steps to Justice  
Website

My boss told me that I need to work on Good Friday. He said that because I don't celebrate Easter he doesn't have to pay me any extra for working on a holiday like he does for the staff that do celebrate Easter. This doesn't seem fair.

**Some questions:**

- In general can employers force their employees to work on public holidays?
- How much is "holiday pay"?
- What is the name of the law that covers most jobs in Ontario?
- What are some jobs that are not covered by this law?
- Is there a human rights issue in this scenario?



## Group Work

1. Navigate to the Steps to Justice website:  
<http://stepstojustice.ca>
2. Read your scenario with your group.
3. Try to identify the main legal issues.
4. Imagine that you are the person in the scenario. Use the Steps to Justice website to answer the questions on your handout.
5. As you browse, try to find out more about how the law would affect the person in your scenario. What does it say? What are their options?
6. Record your answers on the handout.

If you get stuck, ask for help!



# Large Group Scenario

## FOCUS AREAS:

- 1) Getting fired or laid off
- 2) Notice and compensation
- 3) Harassment and discrimination

I just got fired from a job at a garden store, where I had been working for about two months. When my boss first reviewed my work, he said I was doing a great job and I really liked working there.

After that though, he started to act differently towards me. He would often put his hands on my shoulders and hips or lean really close when he was talking to me. He said things about how he was sick of his relationship and that he wanted to be with other people. I never clearly told him to stop because I was worried he would fire me, but it made me really uncomfortable. Then he tried to kiss me and asked me to come over to his apartment after work. I refused and I said it was because I am in a serious relationship.

A few days later he fired me. He said there was no work for me, even though it was springtime and the store was really busy. I didn't get any notice or compensation, he just fired me on the spot and told me to go home. This all feels really wrong.

Can he do that? What should I do?

