

Rights of people judged incompetent to be examined

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Proposed laws designed to further protect the well-being and rights of persons who are incapable of protecting themselves are under consideration by the Ontario Legislature. The changes they involve are dramatic. We should all be concerned about such legislation because, down the road, it may well affect us personally or our loved ones.

A public education program to examine four bills currently before the Ontario Legislature will be held Feb. 17 at Kitchener Public Library Auditorium from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The program, presented by Canadian Mental Health Association/

aterloo Region, will feature a panel to help people comprehend the proposed legislation contained in Bill 74, the Advocacy Act; Bill 108, the Substitute Decisions Act; Bill 109, Consent to Treatment Act, and Bill 110, Consent and Capacity Statute Law Amendment Act, all drawn up in 1991.

The panelists will include Gail Czukar of Toronto, who is with the Ministry of Health legal services which contributed to the bills; Orville Endicott of Toronto, secretary to the Ontario Advocacy Coalition which is concerned with consumer empowerment; Jane Hamilton Wilson of the psychiatric disorders team at McMaster University Medical Centre; John Lord, co-ordinator of the Centre for Research Education in Human Services in Kitchener; and Dr. D. J. MacDonald, director of the Community Mental Health Clinic at Cambridge Memorial Hospital.

Moderators will be Christiane Sadler, chairperson of the mental health board's advocacy committee, and Geoff Nelson, past chairman.

A question period will follow.