



ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE LEGAL AID

AN ALLIANCE OF ♦ACLCO♦FOLA♦CLA♦FLA♦LSO ♦OBA♦RLA♦TAS♦MHLC

April 29, 2019

Attorney General of Ontario
The Honourable Caroline Mulroney
720 Bay Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

Dear Attorney General,

I am writing to request a meeting to discuss our shared interest in an orderly and effective justice system.

As you know, our courts and tribunals deal with individuals in the most dire circumstances, including spouses and children caught in family violence, elderly victims of physical or financial abuse and workers facing life-threatening occupational safety hazards. Moreover, our courts play a pivotal role in the protection of society and the innocent through criminal prosecutions, sometimes of the most violent and disturbing offences. To operate effectively, our court and tribunal processes are dependent upon adequate legal representation of all parties involved. Legal Aid Ontario plays a vital role in providing that representation.

Legal Aid Ontario's capacity to provide legal representation is gravely threatened by the sudden and significant funding cut announced in your government's 2019 Budget. Not only will vulnerable Ontarians be denied the legal recourse they deserve but the entire administration of justice could be thrown into disarray. Our justice system is already strained by years of growing demand and underfunding. That strain is currently manifest in issues ranging from unresolved child support claims to the stay of serious criminal prosecutions for delay. If the justice system falters under the further burden caused by this drastic funding cut, the public could lose confidence in justice in Ontario.

In light of the concerns outlined above, I urgently request a meeting with you to discuss a recalibration and reconsideration of the Legal Aid Ontario funding cut. I will also be communicating with you, by a separate letter, regarding the elimination of funding for refugee and immigration law services.

I look forward to hearing from your office regarding meeting details in the near future.

Sincerely,

Lenny Abramowicz
Chair
Association for Sustainable Legal Aid

On behalf of our member organizations:
Association of Community Legal Clinics of Ontario
Federation of Ontario Law Associations
Criminal Lawyers Association
Family Lawyers Association
Law Society of Ontario
Ontario Bar Association
Refugee Lawyers Association
The Advocates' Society
Mental Health Legal Committee