



# ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE LEGAL AID

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

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April 29, 2019

Attorney General of Ontario  
The Honourable Caroline Mulroney  
720 Bay Street, 11<sup>th</sup> 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