

January 4, 2021

Minister Doug Downey

Attorney General

McMurtry-Scott Building

720 Bay Street, 11th Floor

Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

via email: Amanda.larusso@ontario.ca

Dear Attorney General Downey,

Re: *The 2007 Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and other forms of Family Maintenance ("the Convention")*, your file #M-2020-15878

The Toronto Lawyers Association ("TLA") is the voice of its 3,700 members who practice law in all disciplines across the City of Toronto. You have asked for our views on the proposal for the Province of Ontario to request that the Federal Government implement the Convention in Ontario once Bill C-78 comes into force on March 1, 2021 and to pass provincial legislation accordingly. The TLA strongly supports the ratification and implementation of the Convention.

Ontario is closely integrated into the global economy and Ontario families are highly mobile. In the most recent census, some 29% of Ontarians were foreign born, with a higher proportion in the City of Toronto where 46% were foreign born.^a As a consequence of mobility for economic reasons or to countries of origin, many Ontarian separated families have support payors and recipients living in different jurisdictions. Enforcement of child and spousal support awards is essential to protect the financial needs of dependent spouses and children. Implementation of the Convention will provide meaningful assistance to Ontarians in this situation as the current signatories include European countries as well some African and South American countries, with the prospect of further expansion over time as more states ratify the Convention.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Yours very truly,



Brett Harrison

President

Toronto Lawyers Association

^a *Statistics Canada, fin.gov.on.ca/en/economy/demographics/census/cenhi16-8*