



ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE LEGAL AID

AN ALLIANCE OF ACLCO ♦ TAS ♦ CDLPA ♦ CLA ♦ FLA ♦ LSUC ♦ OBA ♦ RLA

November 17, 2009

Hon. Chris Bentley
Attorney General of Ontario
720 Bay Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2K1

Dear Minister:

As you know the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid stated, in response to your announcement of new funds for Legal Aid, that “we remain concerned that greater funding is required to address Legal Aid’s immediate and long term needs”. Since that time, Legal Aid Ontario has announced impending layoffs.

The need for greater funding to Legal Aid Ontario is urgent.

We also stated that the advisory process should be equitable, ensure that client services not be reduced, and ensure that lawyers remain engaged in the provision of legal aid services.

We are concerned that the context of inadequate funding, the Ministry’s lack of direct participation in the advisory process, and the lack of transparency with respect to what measures may be implemented all leave these priorities unaddressed.

We require immediate and specific disclosure of any options being prepared by Legal Aid Ontario, or being considered by the Ministry of the Attorney General.

Yours very truly,

Raoul Boulakia, Chair
Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid

Members: Association of Community Legal Clinics of Ontario
The Advocates Society
County and District Law Presidents Association
Criminal Lawyers Association
Family Lawyers Association
Law Society of Upper Canada
Ontario Bar Association
Refugee Lawyers Association

cc. John McCamus, Chair, LAO
Justice Sydney Linden, Conciliator
Bob Ward, President and CEO, LAO
Murray Segal, Deputy Attorney General