

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Criminal Defence Lawyers Association of Manitoba, let me extend full support to you on the Legal Aid boycott. You must hold firm in your stance and remain a united front. When you undertook this position, all who joined knew there would be some sacrifice and that the battle would not easily be won. What you may not have been aware of was the inspiration you would provide to defence lawyers across Canada through your unity of purpose and desire to hold firm on behalf of the defence bar.

I have been practicing for nearly 18 years and have been a part of the struggles within Manitoba to secure proper funding for our Legal Aid plan by government, and fair treatment of the defence bar by Legal Aid. A united front is the only effective means to accomplish these goals and the CLA has provided Manitoba with a clear example of how to draw the line and stay strong on a grand scale. This country requires an equitably funded justice system and it is up to the defence bar in each province to ensure proper funding on behalf of accused persons. Stay strong and know you are fighting the good fight!

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