

Funding cuts mean reduced services for low-income Ontarians

The government of Ontario has retroactively reduced funding to Legal Aid Ontario (“LAO”) by about 1/3 of its budget (\$133 million) and more cuts are scheduled for next year. LAO is CALC’s main funder. LAO is cutting funding to community legal clinics by 16% this year (about \$15 million).

CALC serves low-income and vulnerable people. We assist them in meeting basic essentials of life, including housing and money for sufficient food.

We are making every effort to keep as many of our front-line services as possible, but the funding cut will also reduce the other work that we can do in the community. Our preventative work includes improving legal literacy through legal information sessions and resources, training for health care providers and frontline service providers, our newsletter, social media and our website. We also work on issues of domestic and sexual violence, poverty, homelessness and safe housing, and the rights of vulnerable people and communities. We have been recently funded to lead “health justice” initiatives with province-wide impact, based on our local model of justice & health partnerships. All of this important work is threatened by the cuts.

What do these funding cuts mean for our community?



What do these funding cuts mean for low-income Ontarians?

Reduced services
by legal clinics



less access to justice
for low-income
and vulnerable Ontarians

The Canadian Bar Association concluded that for every dollar spent on legal aid, the government saves an average of \$6 elsewhere – investing in legal aid reduces the cost of other government-funded services.

Funding for LAO is about 10% of the justice sector budget but is shouldering over half of the total funding cut. Low-income Ontarians are disproportionately bearing the burden of the cuts.

We are calling on the Attorney General, Doug Downey to uphold his government's promise to not decreasing services for low-income Ontarians and commit to access to justice by confirming that funding for community legal clinics and other LAO-funded services will not be decreased.

For more information:

- <https://stoplegalaidcuts.nationbuilder.com/> and show your support for legal clinics by emailing to: justice4all@aclco.org

Our media release and website:

- <http://communitylegalcentre.ca/news/media-releases/>
- <http://communitylegalcentre.ca/>

Email or call Premier Doug Ford, Attorney General Doug Downey, and your local MPP

Let them know how we have helped your clients and how they will be impacted if we cut services. The cuts will directly impact local services and advocacy that low-income people need to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table. Premier Ford promised not to cut front-line services.

Premier Doug Ford

premier@ontario.ca

416-325-1941

Attorney General Doug Downey

doug.downey@pc.ola.org

705-726-5538

Local MPPs: Daryl Kramp (Hastings-L&A)

daryl.kramp@pc.ola.org

343-600-3310 (Madoc)

613-308-9625 (Napanee)

Minister Todd Smith (Bay of Quinte)

todd.smithco@pc.ola.org

613-962-1144 (Belleville and Trenton)