

# STOP THE CUTS: ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL!

The Ontario Government's April 11<sup>th</sup> budget reduced the amount it funds for legal aid by 35%. As a result, on June 12<sup>th</sup> Legal Aid Ontario cut the budget for Community Legal Clinics by almost \$15M. This means that all clinics will receive cuts, and 20 clinics will deal with budget decreases of between 6 - 45%; cuts that will certainly mean loss of jobs and loss of services. All clinics have been directed to no longer prioritize doing systemic advocacy work on behalf of their communities and clients, even though this work efficiently addresses the issues that affect thousands of low income people.

These cuts have stripped low income people of their ability to advocate for their interests. They are an unprecedented attack on the principles of access to justice and equality before the law that underpin our democracy.

These cuts are retroactive to April 1st and they are just the start. The cuts to Legal Aid Ontario will continue to increase, reaching 45% by 2021 – which will mean more cuts to funding for legal clinics.

**Community legal clinics are independent, community based non-profit agencies. Clinics help the most vulnerable people in our province with the basic essentials of life:**

- keeping a roof over their head, and
- some money to put food on the table.

This massive cut to funding for community legal clinics will mean reduced front line services – something that Premier Ford promised would not happen with government budget cuts. That promise is broken.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Send an email to Premier Doug Ford, Attorney General Doug Downey and your local MPP, or telephone them directly.

Tell them you want them to **stop the cuts**, and that the cuts will directly impact the front-line services and advocacy that low-income Ontarians need to help keep a roof over their heads and put food on the table. Tell them they're breaking their promise to not cut services to the people.

Premier Doug Ford  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca) 416-325-1941

Attorney General Doug Downey  
[attorneygeneral@ontario.ca](mailto:attorneygeneral@ontario.ca) 705-726-5538

Contacting your own MPP is very important.

Find your MPP by postal code here:

<https://voterinformationselections.on.ca/en/election/search?mode=postalCode>

More info: <https://stoplegalaidcuts.nationbuilder.com/>