Hon. Premier Doug Ford   doug.ford@pc.ola.org
Premier's Office
Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

RE: Reverse the budget cuts to community legal clinics

Dear Premier Ford:

Your government has recently announced budget cuts to Legal Aid in Ontario. On behalf of (insert organization name), I'm calling on you to reverse these cuts. We are especially concerned about the devastating cuts to the three legal clinics helping injured workers and victims of occupational disease. These are the Injured Workers' Community Legal Clinic (IWC), Industrial Accident Victims Group of Ontario (IAVGO) and the Workers' Health and Safety Legal Clinic (WHSLC).

These three clinics serve the entire province of Ontario. They provide direct representation to hundreds of injured workers, who are among the most vulnerable Ontarians. Equally important, these clinics provide educational programs and case consultations to other legal clinics and to many other organizations. This means that literally thousands of injured workers and occupational disease victims benefit from the work of these three clinics.

The result is that many of these workers receive the workers' compensation benefits that they are entitled to. This helps them and their families financially and keeps them off social assistance benefits. Also, because the responsibility for these cases is assigned to their employers, taxpayers save money and employers have the incentive to prevent injuries and illnesses on the job.

These cuts are very short-sighted. All three clinics have modest budgets with no fat to trim. To deal with the cuts, direct service to injured workers will be reduced drastically.

I urge you and your government to reverse these cuts. Please respond to me directly on this vital issue.

Thank you.

CC: Attorney General, Hon. Doug Downey, doug.downey@pc.ola.org
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      Local Conservative MPP