

#SAVEOURLEGALCLINICS

THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

 ~~CUT SERVICES~~

to



TO STOP
FURTHER CUTS

contact us at

(416) 492-2437 or dasilvd@lao.on.ca

WILLOWDALE COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES DUE TO LEGAL AID CUTS

How was the clinic cut?

- The Ontario government cut Legal Aid funding by 30% for the 2019/2020 fiscal year.
- Willowdale Community Legal Services was cut by \$66,472 from our budget retroactive to April 1, 2019. As a result, we are losing one full-time caseworker.
- Deeper cuts are anticipated for next year and the government is reviewing the entire community legal clinic model with the goal of rolling out major changes by **March 31, 2020**. In other words, the existence of community-based legal clinics is at-risk.

Why does it matter if the clinics close?

- Legal clinics are the only major providers of free legal assistance in the areas of housing, government benefits, employment, consumer, immigration, and debt.
- Over 240,000 people are served by legal clinics every year.
- Willowdale Community Legal Services dealt with over 3315 cases in our last fiscal year (April 2018 - March 2019), in addition to referrals, legal education and other services.
- For every dollar taken away from legal aid, there is a \$6 increase in other government expenses (emergency shelter, health care, and incarceration).

What can we do?

- 1. Email, telephone, or write to your local MPP, the Premier, and the Attorney General to tell them to reverse the cuts to legal aid!**
 - a. MPP Vincent Ke: 416-494-8778 or vincent.keco@pc.ola.org
 - b. MPP Stan Cho: 416-733-7878 or stan.cho@pc.ola.org
 - c. Premier Ford: 416-325-1941 or premier@ontario.ca
 - d. Attorney General Downey: 416-326-2220 or doug.downeyco@pc.ola.org
- 2. Hang this poster on the other side of this page in your community!**
- 3. Use social media to share why legal clinics are important to you!** (Use hashtags #saveourlegalclinics, #stoplegalaidcuts, and #justice4all. Tag us in your posts on Facebook or Twitter @LegalWillowdale.)
- 4. Join our efforts to STOP THE CUTS!** For more information, contact Willowdale Community Legal Services in-person or at 416-492-2437 and speak to Diana.