



INCOME SECURITY ADVOCACY CENTRE  
Centre d'action pour la sécurité du revenu

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**BY EMAIL**

**June 13, 2017**

**Attention: Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould, MP**  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

**Attention: Hon. Yasir Naqvi, MPP**  
Attorney General  
McMurtry-Scott Building  
720 Bay Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2S9

To the Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould and the Hon. Yasir Naqvi,

**RE: Legal Aid Ontario's planned cuts to immigration & refugee law funding**

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We are writing to express our deep concern with Legal Aid Ontario's announced plans to dramatically cut its immigration and refugee program. At a time of international crisis, with unprecedented numbers of vulnerable people fleeing war, violence, poverty and famine, it is essential that Canada and Ontario provide the legal supports that are necessary to ensure those who need Canada's protection can get it.

The Income Security Advocacy Centre is a legal clinic funded by Legal Aid Ontario. Our clinic specializes in organizing, advocacy and litigation aimed at improving the income security of vulnerable Ontarians through benefit programs and employment. Legal Aid Ontario plays a vital role in ensuring access to justice. We see the long-term impacts when migrants do not have the legal supports they need, including poverty and the risk of deportation to violence and even death.

We support the demands made by our colleagues and allies, including the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid. We ask the federal government and the government of Ontario to work together to immediately guarantee that there will be no reduction in Legal Aid representation of immigrants and refugees in Ontario. We also ask the government of Ontario to guarantee that immigration and refugee law services will not be reduced and to ensure that its effort to

secure a greater federal contribution is not linked to any interruption or reduction of service.

Such troubling times demand a commitment to protect the most vulnerable. We ask that funding for immigration and refugee law services be tied to demand, so that the victims of future crises are not denied supports when they need them most.

Yours truly,

**INCOME SECURITY ADVOCACY CENTRE**



Mary Marrone  
Director of Advocacy and Legal Services

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The Hon. Bill Morneau, MP, Minister of Finance

The Hon. Ahmed Hussen, MP, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and  
Citizenship