



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

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**BY EMAIL**

**July 28, 2017**

**Attention: Hon. Bill Morneau, MP**

Minister of Finance  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

To the Hon. Bill Morneau,

**RE: Legal Aid Ontario's funding for immigration & refugee law services**

I am following up on my letter of June 13, 2017 to your colleague, Minister Wilson-Raybould and Attorney General of Ontario Naqvi (cc'd to you) to once again express our deep concern with the level of funding for Legal Aid Ontario's 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.

I understand that since our letter, Ontario's Attorney General has indicated a willingness to commit some additional provincial funding to Legal Aid Ontario but only if the federal government contributes its share. As immigration policy is within the federal purview, it is the federal government's responsibility to provide funding to meet the sharp increase in demand for services.

As I advised in our previous letter, 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.

I join with our colleagues and allies, including the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid, in asking you to move quickly to approve the needed federal funding to ensure that there are no cuts to the legal services that are so essential to refugee claimants.

Yours truly,

**INCOME SECURITY ADVOCACY CENTRE**



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