

THE COUNTY & DISTRICT LAW PRESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION DES BÂTONNIERS DE COMTÉS ET DISTRICTS

Paul J.S. Kowalyszyn, Chair

Randall S. Boccock, Vice Chair



Legal Aid – Fact Sheet

- Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) provides low income and disadvantaged Ontarians with access to legal services.
- LAO has community based legal aid clinics and runs a certificate program, which issues certificates to people to hire lawyers to assist them with their legal needs. The certificate is the lawyer's guarantee of payment from LAO.
- Legal Aid Ontario is an independent government funded agency.
- The County and District Law Presidents' Association (CDLPA) supports a well funded Legal Aid system that promotes access to justice for all Ontarians.
- CDLPA wants to strengthen the Legal Aid System to improve access for disadvantaged Ontarians and encourage lawyers to take on more legal aid certificates.

CDLPA and Legal Aid Review

- Professor Michael Trebilcock, appointed by the Attorney General, is completing a review of Legal Aid in Ontario.
- CDLPA has provided significant input into his review to ensure the Legal Aid system benefits both the client and lawyer. CDLPA representatives have travelled the province speaking to industry partners to seek input and recommendations on strengthening the system.
- CDLPA believes in a well funded, long term commitment to Legal Aid and wants to improve access to justice for disadvantaged Ontarians.

- CDLPA is a member of the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid, a group of legal organizations, seeking to preserve and strengthen the Legal Aid system in Ontario with a stable and sustainable increase in funding.

Notable Quotes

- *Paul Kowalyshyn, Chair, County and District Law Presidents' Association*

“The County and District Law Presidents’ Association believes in a strong and sustainable Legal Aid system to promote and increase access to justice for disadvantaged Ontarians.”

“A strengthened Legal Aid system, which encourages more lawyers to participate in the certificate program, will enhance the current system and provide low income Ontarians with quality legal services.”

“The County and District Law Presidents’ Association is working with legal organizations to provide meaningful input to assist Professor Michael Trebilcock to come up with ways to strengthen and improve the system.”

“A sustainable increase in funding for Legal Aid will encourage more lawyers to take on certificate work and will enhance access to justice for vulnerable Ontarians.”

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