

June 15, 2017

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL (RefConsult2017@lao.on.ca)**

Legal Aid Ontario  
Provincial Head Office  
Atrium on Bay  
40 Dundas Street West, Suite 200  
Toronto, ON M6G 2H1

To Whom It May Concern:

**RE: Legal Aid Ontario Funding for Immigration and Refugee Law Services**

We write to you to express the profound concern of the HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO) over Legal Aid Ontario's announced intention to curtail services in refugee and immigration law. We do not support any of the three proposed service reduction models.

We have written to both the federal Department of Justice and the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General about this matter. We urged the federal government to increase its contribution to Legal Aid Ontario and requested that both levels of government work together to prevent any reductions to services. We have enclosed these letters for your reference.

Our letters have been endorsed by 17 different AIDS advocacy groups and service organizations from across the province of Ontario. The full list of endorsing organizations is at the end of this letter.

As you know, all three of Legal Aid Ontario's proposed service reduction models will have devastating impacts on some of the most vulnerable people in Canada. As detailed in the attached letters, we at HALCO are particularly concerned about the impact of these cuts on people living with HIV/AIDS.

We recognize that the federal government needs to increase its contribution to legal aid, and we are hopeful that they will. If, however, this funding does not materialize, we request an opportunity to provide feedback beyond the three options proposed to date.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Sincerely,



Ryan Peck  
Executive Director



Meagan Johnston  
Staff Lawyer



Clare McMullen-Crummey  
Staff Lawyer

Encls. Letter to the Hon. Jody Wilson Raybould, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
Letter to the Hon. Yasir Naqvi, Attorney General of Ontario

**Endorsed by:**

African and Caribbean Council on HIV/AIDS in Ontario (ACCHO)  
Africans in Partnership Against AIDS (APAA)  
AIDS Action Now!  
AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT)  
AIDS Committee of Windsor/AIDS Support Chatham Kent  
Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention (ASAAP)  
Asian Community AIDS Services (ACAS)  
Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention (BlackCAP)  
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network  
Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment (CAAT)  
HIV/AIDS Regional Services (Kingston)  
Ontario AIDS Network (OAN)  
Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN)  
Ontario Women and HIV/AIDS Initiative  
Positive Living Niagara  
Prisoners with HIV Support Action Network (PASAN)  
Toronto People with AIDS Foundation (PWA)