

May 9, 2019

VIA E-MAIL ONLY

David Field
President – Legal Aid Ontario
Suite 200-40 Dundas Street W
Toronto, ON M5G 2H1

Dear Mr. Field;

RE: LAO's Commitment to Parkdale Community Legal Services

On behalf of more than one thousand students at Osgoode Hall Law School, we, as members of the Legal and Literary Society, are writing to voice our support for Parkdale Community Legal Services (PCLS).

We believe that PCLS plays a unique role in Ontario's legal aid landscape. On one hand, PCLS provides invaluable services for members of a marginalized community. The location is imperative for many individuals who may not be able to access transportation to other legal clinics. The diversity of services at PCLS also means a greater number of individuals can find solutions to their legal issues. The current size of PCLS also allows many students the opportunity to volunteer their time to provide these services; moving to a smaller space outside of the Parkdale neighborhood would thus undermine many of the purposes of PCLS.

On the other hand, PCLS draws students to Osgoode Hall from across Canada. I would not have made the decision to move from Manitoba to Toronto had it not been for Osgoode's experiential education opportunities, and I know many other students with similar experiences.

The learning that takes place at PCLS is unparalleled to any classroom education. PCLS can be credited for shaping the education of many phenomenal lawyers across Canada. In addition, PCLS has fueled in many students a passion for poverty law and careers in social justice who may not otherwise have chosen to work in such fields.

In addition to the reasons set forth above, we second the concerns as laid out by many of the faculty and staff at Osgoode in their letter to Mr. Charles Harnick and the rest of the LAO Board Members, dated May 9, 2019. We also echo the thoughts of our colleague Adam Veenendaal and our other colleagues from Student Caucus, as laid out in their support letter from May 9, 2019.

We urge you to commit to longterm and stable funding for PCLS.

Sincerely,



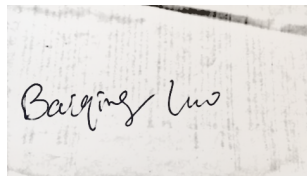
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