

From: Ministry of the Attorney General [<mailto:attorneygeneral@ontario.ca>]

Sent: Wednesday, January 09, 2019 12:39 PM

To: Brian Gover

Subject: Ministry of the Attorney General Response M-2019-80 (341-2018-3317)

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding Pro Bono Ontario with me.

As you know, the previous Liberal government left our province, and the people of Ontario, with a \$15 billion deficit and more than \$320 billion in debt. Our government was elected with a strong mandate to restore fiscal integrity, so Ontario can once again be on a path to prosperity.

Our government understands that Pro Bono Ontario provides important services to the people of Ontario and our justice system. It is why the Ministry of the Attorney General is working to help the board of Pro Bono Ontario find ways to continue to provide their services in a sustainable way, through other justice partners. I am pleased to note the contributions of such law firms as Borden Ladner Gervais LLP, McMillan LLP, Cassels Brock, Rosen Sunshine LLP, Lax O'Sullivan Lissus Gottlieb LLP, and Clyde and Co Canada to provide interim funding for Pro Bono Ontario. Their leadership within the legal community is greatly appreciated.

We are working hard every day to ensure that access to justice is preserved for those who need it. It is why we provide rent-free space to Pro Bono Ontario at courthouses in Toronto and Ottawa and are prepared to continue to make that rent-free space available.

I am pleased to hear that Pro Bono Ontario will keep its help centres open in 2019. I, and others from my ministry, have met with Pro Bono Ontario numerous times since July of this year to encourage Pro Bono Ontario to work with its private sector partners, Legal Aid Ontario, the Law Foundation of Ontario, and the Law Society of Ontario to find solutions to its long-term funding issues.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write to me and share your concerns.

Sincerely,

Caroline Mulroney
Attorney General