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September 22, 2006

Mr. Steve Pengelly  
Executive Director  
Ontario Bar Association  
200-20 Toronto Street  
Toronto, ON  
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Dear Mr. Pengelly:

I recognize that the time has come to look at a regularized tariff review process. To this end, I, with the support of Legal Aid Ontario Chair Janet Leiper, have retained Professor John McCamus to conduct a review of legal aid, particularly a tariff review mechanism, and to make recommendations to me. Professor McCamus, a former dean of Osgoode Hall Law School, will update his 1997 report on legal aid that led to the creation of Legal Aid Ontario two years later.

The McGuinty government is firmly committed to strengthening legal aid. Since coming into office, our government has increased the base funding of Legal Aid Ontario by 10% or \$25 million. We are also in the process of negotiating with the federal government for new federal funding for legal aid. I have heard from you that more work needs to be done.

Our government is committed to working with the bar to ensure legal representation for those in need. Thank you for the work that you and your members do every day to help make access to justice a reality for so many people in our province.

Please feel free to post this letter so as to make it available to your members. Professor McCamus, Janet Leiper and I will be contacting you to seek the input of you and your members.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. J. Bryant".

Michael Bryant  
Attorney General