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August 23, 2007



Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Access to Information Request No. [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for access to information, which was received in this office on August 8, 2007. You asked for the approval rating for sixteen hours of legal aid for Mexican refugee claimants in Canada, the percentage of claimants approved for three hours and the percentage rejected. You asked for these statistics for the years 2000 to 2006.

At this time, I am enclosing information responsive to your request, as is available through the statistical information collected by Legal Aid Ontario. Please note that the statistics held by Legal Aid Ontario relate only to the availability of legal aid certificates for Mexican refugee claimants in Ontario, not in Canada. In addition, our collection of statistics changed in 2004. We do not have reliable statistical data to provide a response prior to the year 2004. The attached table sets out the available information responsive to your request. The data is collected by Legal Aid Ontario's fiscal year, which runs from April to March in each year. The reference to full authorization in the attached table refers to a certificate for sixteen hours. The reference to opinion certificate refers to a certificate for three hours. Where a certificate is issued for an opinion and then amended to include full authorization, a total of sixteen hours is authorized, although the initial certificate was only for three hours. Following approval, a further thirteen hours is provided, for a total of sixteen hours. A small number of certificates for Mexican refugee claimants were not coded when issued and these are included in the category "not known".

I trust this information is of assistance to you. I am responsible for the decision to grant you access to these records. You may ask for a review of this decision within 30 days of receiving this letter by writing to: The Information and Privacy Commission/Ontario, 2 Bloor Street West, Suite 1400, Toronto Ontario M4W 1A8, Telephone 1-800-387-0073.

If you decide to request a review of this decision, please provide the Commissioner's office with the following: the file number listed at the beginning of this letter; a copy of this decision letter; and a copy of the original request for information you sent to our institution.

In addition, you must send an appeal fee to the Commissioner's office. That appeal fee for other than personal information is \$25.00.

Yours truly,

Robert W. Ward
President/CEO