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January 23, 2012



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 October 3, 2011. Payment of the \$5,00 fee was received in this office on January 11, 2012 and we began processing your request at that time. Your request indicates "I was advised by Legal Aid Ontario on more than one occasion, that I cannot make an application for financial assistance before the Social Benefit Tribunal. Furthermore, there has been a change in the Legal Aid Policy and Legal Aid Ontario no longer financially supports appeals before the Social Benefit Tribunal.

At this time, I am enclosing information responsive to your request. I enclose the following documents, which may be helpful to you in understanding Legal Aid's policy with respect to funding appeals before the Social Benefits Tribunal:

- Pages 6-1 to 6-3 of the Area Office Policy Manual, which cover civil case coverage and sets out the current LAO policy on coverage for appeals to the Social Benefits Tribunal.
- Appendix 8 of the Area Office Policy Manual which is a chart indicating specifically what stages are covered in administrative tribunal coverage.

You will note from these documents that LAO's coverage in Social Benefits Tribunal matters is limited to cases where a community legal clinic is unable to assist and has provided a written referral to Legal Aid Ontario.

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