

# TEST CASE CERTIFICATES

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Legal Aid Ontario will expand its public-interest criteria and issue more test-case certificates.

Public interest test cases effectively promote access to justice for low-income people, because they can address system-wide issues that affect large numbers of low-income and vulnerable people. Many such individuals belong to entire disadvantaged communities, such as those housed in correctional and forensic mental health institutions, who frequently cannot reach out for help as individuals.

Test cases on their behalf are a practical and realistic means to bring province-wide issues before the court, and can be a good way to address serious systemic issues that would not otherwise come before the courts.

LAO will consider applications in any area of law, for any type of proceeding, and before any level of tribunal or court that fit within its criteria. Cases that may be eligible for support include those that:

- raise novel issues not previously litigated
- have broad impact—seek a systemic remedy that can affect a large number of people, and not just an individual
- hold serious importance to the development of the law—push the boundaries of existing doctrine and/or advance the law
- can improve access to justice and advance or protect the rights of low-income Ontarians or a vulnerable or disadvantaged group

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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