

Hon. Chris Bentley  
Attorney General  
720 Bay Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M5G 2K1



Sent by FAX: (416) 326-4007

Dear Mr. Bentley,

I am contacting you today with respect to the outcome of the Court Reporter Review.

As a Court Reporter who will be negatively impacted by the Ministry's proposed new model of service, I feel it is imperative that you understand the issues at stake.

The most important issue, which has not been addressed in any way by the proposed new model, **is the integrity of the record.** Across this province, you have Court Reporters who believe that this is of paramount concern and who have honed our skills and abilities to ensure that the transcripts we produce are accurate. A "transeditor" sitting in another jurisdiction, never having to face the judiciary or the bar in a courtroom, and who was not involved in any way with the taking of the record, will never feel the same level of obligation and dedication to the work of transcript production. The results will speak for themselves without a doubt.

In addition, there are obvious financial ramifications for those of us who currently type transcripts. **This income is what pays our bills and feeds our children.** Given the current economic situation, it is absolutely unconscionable that you would put the Court Reporters of this province into a situation in which we will lose a good portion of our income and thereby put us in jeopardy of losing our homes, declaring bankruptcy or having to attend food banks to provide for our families. Many of us are still recovering from the damage done by the initial implementation of the FPT model.

**The work of the Court Reporter in this province has been undervalued and underpaid both by the Ministry and the rules which govern transcript production rates.** It is high time this Ministry stopped treating us like criminals who need to be punished and started recognizing the high level of skills and abilities we bring to our workplace each and every day.

Your Ministry has noted that recruitment and retention of qualified staff is an ongoing issue. I think you should know that **Court Reporters are seriously considering leaving the field if this model is implemented because they will be unable to earn an adequate living.** An exodus of experienced staff will place the integrity of the record in further jeopardy.

The proposal of your Ministry to divide the work of the Court Reporter into separate functions, compromises the integrity of the record and the ability of the staff you employ to earn a living and support our families. **It is a truly shameful plan that does not serve the administration of justice in this province. I am counting on you, Mr. Bentley, to immediately address this situation and treat the staff in your Ministry with the respect we deserve.**

Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Courthouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please sign and return to your steward.*