

GUNN & ASSOCIATES

o/b Douglas George Gunn Professional Corporation

BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS & NOTARIES PUBLIC
108 CENTRE STREET
ST. THOMAS, ONTARIO
CANADA
N5R 2Z7

Telephone: 519-631-0700
Facsimile: 519-631-1468
E-Mail: lisagunn@gunn.on.ca

OUR FILE NUMBER: 73423

Via Courier

December 18, 2008

The Honourable Chris Bentley
Attorney General of Ontario
720 Bay Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2K1

Re: Court Reporters

I write to you on behalf of the members of the Elgin Law Association.

It has been brought to our attention that the Ministry of the Attorney General is considering significant changes to the current Court Reporting model in the Province of Ontario and that one of the changes is the proposed creation of eight typing pools in regional centres across the Province of Ontario to respond to requests for transcripts. On behalf of the Elgin Law Association, I write to advise that the Membership of the Elgin Law Association does not support this change to the current reporting model.

The Elgin Law Association supports our local Court Reporters, many of whom have worked in this jurisdiction for years producing quality transcripts, thus preserving the integrity of the record of the proceedings of our Courts.

Our local Court Reporters are an integral component of the justice system here in Elgin County. Our local Court Reporters are familiar with the regular participants in our local justice system and have an ongoing connection to the daily proceedings of our Court. It is our view that it is essential that our local Court Reporters continue to be responsible to prepare the transcripts that we request on a regular basis – whether that be on a 24 hour turnaround basis for use in Court the next day or when transcripts are required for the purposes of an appeal, just to name two examples.

Centralizing the transcript process to eight regional centres located across the Province of Ontario removes this invaluable component of the justice system in Elgin County.

DOUGLAS G. GUNN, LL.B., Q.C. (Also a Member of the Alberta Bar)
DONALD M. FERGUSON, B.COMM. (HONS.), LL.B. LISA N. GUNN, B.A. (HONS.), LL.B. AMY C. DALE, B.A., LL.B.
SANDRA L. MONGER, B.A. (HONS.), LL.B. REBECCA L. CAREY, B.A. (HONS.), LL.B. WILLIAM K.A. MCKAY, B.A.Sc., LL.B. (Retired)

On that note, as you are no doubt well aware, the City of St. Thomas and the County of Elgin – not unlike many other regions in this Province – are in the midst of an economic crisis. This proposed change will result in a significant loss of income for our local Court Reporters who have homes and families to support. The Elgin Law Association is resolved to support its local Court Reporters, not only in an effort to preserve their livelihoods, but to ensure that this invaluable component of our local justice system is not lost.

On behalf of the members of the Elgin Law Association and in support of our local Court Reporters, I ask you to reconsider the proposed restructuring of the current Court Reporting model to ensure that the production of our local transcripts remains in the hands of our local Court Reporters.

Yours very truly,

COPY

Lisa N. Gunn
President
Elgin Law Association

c.c. **Hand Delivered**
The Honourable Steve Peters
Member of Provincial Parliament
Elgin-Middlesex-London
542 Talbot Street
St. Thomas, ON N5P 1C4