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October 6, 2016

Scott Travers  
President  
The Society of Energy Professionals  
2239 Yonge Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
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Dear Scott,

Thank you for your letter of September 30th regarding the success of the Society of Energy Professionals, in having a union representation vote ordered by the Ontario Labour Relations Board for Legal Aid Ontario Staff Lawyers on October 17th.

The three year campaign of Legal Aid Ontario Staff Lawyers has not only been an inspiration to workers seeking to organize to improve working conditions, but also to all Ontarians who believe in a fair and accessible system of legal justice in this province. It has highlighted the continued provincial underfunding of critical legal services that serve some of Ontario's most vulnerable people. It has raised serious pay equity concerns in a field of law that serves the community, not the corporate bottom line. Finally, it has exposed what appears to be the lack of respect for the Charter rights of workers to organize into unions by a provincially-funded agency of the Ontario government which is an issue for all workers, particularly those of us in the public and broader public sectors.

On behalf of the 260,000 members of CUPE in Ontario, I congratulate the Society on the success so far on this campaign. Please be assured that our union stands in solidarity with Legal Aid Ontario Staff Lawyers in their fight for unionization and encourages all workers to vote Yes on October 17th. Collective bargaining is a basic right of all workers, including those who spend their lives ensuring all Ontarians, regardless of income, have the right to high quality, legal representation.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Hahn".

Fred Hahn  
President  
CUPE Ontario

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**Fred Hahn**  
President

**BUILDING A BETTER ONTARIO**

**Candace Rennick**  
Secretary-Treasurer