

WeirFoulds lawyers continue the Firm's longstanding commitment to Pro Bono Ontario during COVID-19

May 11, 2020

WeirFoulds has long-supported [Pro Bono Ontario](#) (PBO), a registered charity with a mandate to bridge the gap between low-income Ontarians who cannot afford a lawyer and lawyers who want to donate their services.

In response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, and the closure of Courts in Ontario, PBO temporarily closed its courthouse-based Law Help Centres in Toronto and in Ottawa. To continue to provide free legal services, PBO pivoted to a fully remote service, where volunteer lawyers can continue to answer questions over the phone using PBO's Free Legal Advice [Hotline](#).

Associates Megan Mah, Kayla Theeuwen and Kartiga Thavaraj, who volunteer their time at the courthouse-based Law Help Centre in Toronto, have joined other lawyers across the province in transitioning to volunteering their time on the Hotline.

In a time in which Ontarians are experiencing unprecedented legal needs, calls to the Hotline have increased dramatically: calls to PBO's employment line have increased by 126%, housing calls are up 116%, and calls to PBO's corporate line have increased by 40%.

PBO encourages lawyers to volunteer their time with the Hotline – particularly during this pandemic – to give back to those in our community who need legal services but cannot afford to hire a lawyer.

Beyond the Hotline, WeirFoulds and its lawyers have a history of supporting PBO. For example, Derry Millar and Raj Anand previously served on the Board of PBO, and Raj Anand served as President of PBO from 2003-2005.

PBO's services are critical to responding to the legal needs of thousands of Ontarians as a result of COVID-19, and WeirFoulds is proud to contribute to its work.

Visit probonoontario.org to learn how you can volunteer as a lawyer or law student.

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