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**Application ID: 54151**

Bill or item of business: **2022 Pre-Budget Consultations**

**Full name**

Ms Barbara Captijn

**Paste submission**

In anticipation of the approval of Bill 77 to create a Consumer Watchdog Office, please ensure there is funding to create this office.

Due to the on-going and deepening crisis in access to justice for ordinary Ontarians, there is no one to turn to to address unfairness and unlawful activity by large corporations.

Private individuals cannot afford hourly legal fees they need to defend their rights when up against large to medium-sized corporations.

This Office is necessary to ensure a fair society and to foster trust in our laws and regulations. There's no point telling us about consumer protection if consumers can't easily understand or access these laws.

Telling consumers to "get a lawyer" is useless.