



LSS profile

Mandate and governance

LSS is an independent organization established by the *Legal Services Society Act* (LSSA) to provide legal aid in BC. It is governed by a [board of nine directors](#) and managed by the [Executive Management Committee](#). Five of the Society's directors are appointed by the provincial government and four are appointed by the Law Society of BC.

The Society's mandate and guiding principles are set by the LSSA.

Mandate:

- to assist individuals to resolve their legal problems and facilitate their access to justice;
- to establish a system for providing legal aid; and
- to provide advice to the Attorney General respecting legal aid and access to justice.

Guiding principles:

- give priority to the legal needs of low-income individuals;
- consider the perspectives of both justice system service providers and the general public;
- coordinate legal aid with other aspects of the justice system and with community services; and
- be flexible and innovative.

Legal aid services

Legal aid is more than lawyers representing low-income people in court. It is:

- **Legal information:** Available to anyone through LSS websites, publications written by LSS staff, and our outreach workers.
- **Legal advice:** Available to financially eligible people through family, criminal and immigration duty counsel, and through telephone advice.
- **Representation by a lawyer:** Available for financially eligible people with serious family, child protection, criminal, or immigration problems.

Funding

Ninety percent of LSS's funding comes from the provincial government. The remainder comes from The Law Foundation, The Notary Foundation, interest earned on investments, and other miscellaneous sources.



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Offices

LSS has regional centres in Vancouver and Prince George and legal aid local agents in 31 other communities across BC. Staff at these offices take applications for legal representation, make referrals, and provide legal information services. Individuals can also apply for legal aid through the province-wide, toll-free call centre.

Terrace regional centre

207 – 3228 Kalum Street
Terrace, BC V8G 2N1
250-635-2133

Vancouver regional centre

425 – 510 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 3A8
604-601-6206

Province-wide call centre

604-408-2172 (Metro Vancouver)
1-866-577-2525 (call no charge)

Local agents are available in the following communities:

Abbotsford	North Vancouver
Campbell River	Penticton
Chilliwack	Port Alberni
Courtenay	Port Coquitlam
Cranbrook	Prince George
Dawson Creek	Prince Rupert
Duncan	Quesnel
Fort St. James	Richmond
Fort St. John	Salmon Arm
Hazelton	Smithers
Kamloops	Surrey
Kelowna	Terrace
Langley	Vanderhoof
Nanaimo	Vernon
Nelson	Victoria
New Westminster	Williams Lake

For information about locations and hours, visit www.legalaid.bc.ca or check your local phone book.