

## **Tariff Reductions Postponed — Some Holdbacks to Be Paid**

Tariff expenditures in all areas of law for 2002/2003 were significantly under budget due to declining client volumes during the year, giving the Legal Services Society (LSS or the society) some leeway with respect to tariff rates. Therefore, the society is making the following change to the *Notice to Counsel re Changes to Legal Aid Tariffs*, dated February 2002.

### **Holdback system to continue until March 31, 2004 and tariff reductions postponed**

The rate for referrals will remain at \$80 per hour with a 10% holdback effective on all referrals with assignment dates of April 1, 2002 and after. All criminal tariff items will remain as set out in the current *Guide to Legal Aid Tariffs* and a 10% holdback applies.

LSS will delay the elimination of holdbacks and reduction of tariff rates until April 1, 2004. On all referrals with assignment dates of April 1, 2004 and after, the tariff rate will be \$72 per hour with no holdbacks. For criminal tariff referrals with assignment dates of April 1, 2004 and after, the tariff item rate will be reduced by 10%, and no holdback will apply.

### **Holdback payments to be made**

LSS will pay holdbacks and fee reductions on all criminal, family, immigration, and duty counsel cases up to an aggregate amount of 3 million dollars, on a pro rata basis, for fee billings approved for payment between April 1, 2002 and March 31, 2003, inclusive. A decision will be made about holdback payments for the fiscal year 2003/2004 in April 2004, based upon the society's budget circumstances at that point.

We expect holdback payments to be sent out by July 2003. We will provide further information in the *Legal Aid Fax*.

Catherine McNeil  
*Director of Finance and Corporate Services*