

Changes to meterage rates, BCMA rates, and expert witness fees

Meterage rates

LSS is increasing the meterage rate from \$0.44 to \$0.46 per kilometre, to remain consistent with the current government rates. This change will apply to all meterage items in the Disbursements for All Tariffs section of the *Guide to Legal Aid Tariffs*. The meterage rates will be paid at the increased rate for all billings received on or after July 1, 2005.

BCMA rates

In accordance with our usual practice, LSS will pay the following limited number of BCMA rates based on negotiations between the Attorney General and the BCMA. LSS was only recently informed of the negotiated changes. LSS will pay all billings for expert services rendered after April 1, 2005, at the rates set out below:

Service	BCMA item code	Tariff code	Effective date	New rate
Forms completion or simple letter reporting on patient's condition	A00070	1511	April 1, 2005	\$130
Medical-legal letter	A00071	1537	April 1, 2005	\$272
Medical-legal report	A00072	1552	April 1, 2005	\$815
Medical-legal opinion	A00073	1578	April 1, 2005	\$1,361
Review of records by physician	A00095	1495	April 1, 2005	\$76
Photocopying of medical records	A00096	1504	April 1, 2005	First 10 pages: \$1.20/page Subsequent pages: \$0.30/page

Expert witness fees

LSS is also adopting changes to expert witness fees as announced by the Attorney General. The new fees are effective April 1, 2005, as set out below:

Service	Tariff code	Effective date	Travel time	Preparation or court time
Registered nurses		April 1, 2005	\$45/hour	\$75/hour
Dentists, veterinarians & forensic anthropologists		April 1, 2005	\$70/hour	\$126/hour
Chartered Accountants (CA) and engineers		April 1, 2005	\$84/hour	\$144/hour
Accountants (CGA)		April 1, 2005	\$55/hour	\$95/hour
Document examiners, environment experts, fire consultants, accident reconstruction, and blood alcohol experts		April 1, 2005	\$45/hour	\$75/hour
Environmental and laboratory technicians, and mechanics		April 1, 2005	\$30/hour	\$50/hour

In all other respects, the current rates for both meterage and experts as described in the Disbursements for All Tariffs section of the *Guide to Legal Aid Tariffs* continue to apply.

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