

Preparation items for articling students ending

On July 15, 2008, LSS introduced several tariff items, on a pilot basis, to support initiatives that form part of the framework of legal aid renewal — the society’s strategic priority designed to ensure legal aid services benefit clients (see the May 2007 *Legal Aid Fax — Special Edition*). To provide incentives for lawyers to involve articling students on legal aid files and thus encourage those students to include legal aid as part of their practice once they are called to the bar, additional preparation hours for articling students were added to all hourly tariffs.

This pilot of additional preparation hours for articling students ends as of July 1. Please submit accounts **by July 15, 2009** for preparation hours spent by your articling student up to and including July 1.

Although the preparation hours item designated specifically for articling students is ending, you may still continue to bill for time spent by articling students, but after July 1, this time will be treated as part of your billable hours, as set out in the *Guide to Legal Aid Tariffs*. If you bill for an articling student’s time, please refer also to section 34 of the “General Terms and Conditions” of the *Guide to Legal Aid Tariffs* for a list of the legal services articling students cannot perform.

LSS will now evaluate the impact of this pilot. LSS had hoped to continue the articling student preparation pilot for three years; however, usage has been much greater than expected, resulting in a significant impact on the budget set aside for this pilot, with expenditure much larger than expected. This, combined with other budget pressures the society is facing, has resulted in an end to this pilot.

Other pilots implemented on July 15, 2008 are continuing for the time being, including the additional and changed Family Tariff (Emergency Services) items (preparation for Supreme Court cases, and the increase from 3 to 5 hours for preparation for a hearing in Supreme Court), as well as CFCSA Tariff items (preparation for and attendance at consensual dispute resolution processes, and collateral issues).

As always, LSS welcomes your feedback about its services, and you may direct any comments to lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca.

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