



Backgrounder

April 2, 2008

Legal aid opinion poll highlights

Issue	2005 (Dec)	2006 (Dec)	2008 (Mar)
Respondents said they were aware of legal aid services ¹	75%	79%	85%
Once advised of what legal aid provides, respondents said they strongly or moderately support the services	89% (56% strong)	93% (54% strong)	93% (61% strong)
Respondents said legal aid is inadequately funded	51%	50%	53%
Respondents said it is very or somewhat important to justice system fairness to provide low income people with legal aid in:			
Criminal court	91% (59% very)	93% (61% very)	94% (69% very)
Family court	94% (73% very)	95% (71% very)	96% (77% very)
Other civil legal proceedings	91% (54% very)	91% (54% very)	93% (58% very)
Immigration/refugee hearings	83% (46% very)	89% (53% very)	85% (59% very)

¹ 2005 & 2006 results reflect the percentage of respondents who said they knew very little, a fair amount, or a lot about legal aid. The question was changed in 2008 to ask respondents if they were aware that there are legal aid services for low income people in BC.