



## LSS implements new internal structure

The Legal Services Society changed its internal structure, effective June 6, 2005. The changes are designed to strengthen the society's client focus and enhance its capacity to sustain current services.

The new structure consists of the Executive Office and four divisions, each of which combines departments that are responsible for related areas of work (see box).

### **New LSS structure**

#### **Public Legal Information and Applications Division (PLIA)**

Director: Heidi Mason

- Carol McEown, Manager, Public Information and Community Liaison
- John Simpson, Manager, Applications and Eligibility
- (Vacant), Manager, Electronic Access & Operational Support

#### **Legal Advice & Representation Division (LAR)**

Director: Edward Tanaka

- James Deitch, Manager, Criminal Law and Large Case Management
- David Griffiths, Manager, Civil Law
- Janice Staryk, Manager, CMS Lead and Operational Support

#### **Finance & Corporate Services Division (FCS)**

Director: Catherine McNeil

- Eugene Wandell, Manager, Finance & Administration
- Joel Chamaschuk, Manager, Information Technology
- (Vacant), Manager, Audit & Investigation

#### **Strategic Planning, Policy & Human Resources Division (SPPHR)**

Director: Harold Clark

- Noreen Finnerty, Manager, Organizational Development & Human Resources
- Thomas Fink, Manager, Strategic Planning
- (Vacant), Manager, Policy

The PLIA and LAR divisions are responsible for delivering legal services directly to clients. The FCS and SPPHR divisions are responsible for the strategic management and corporate services necessary to sustain client services.

This restructuring is based on recommendations in the organizational review, which was conducted by StrategyOne Consulting earlier this year to evaluate the service delivery system LSS implemented in 2002. The review found that, assuming staff and funding remain at existing levels, key structural changes will give the society the capacity to meet current and future demands.

### **Updated contact list**

LSS has developed a contact list of LSS services for lawyers. See the For lawyers section of the LSS website and go to Online resources at [www.lss.bc.ca/for\\_lawyers/forms\\_resources.asp](http://www.lss.bc.ca/for_lawyers/forms_resources.asp).

## Family Justice Reform Working Group releases report

The Family Justice Reform Working Group is calling for significant changes aimed at improving the family justice system. Its report, *A New Justice System for Families and Children*, also recommends that LSS "continue its innovative work in the family law area."

Formed in July 2003 as part of the BC Justice Review Task Force, the working group proposes "a family justice system where mediation and other consensual processes are not just considered 'alternative dispute resolution,' but are the norm." The report is available at [www.bcjusticereview.org](http://www.bcjusticereview.org).

Consultations on the recommendations began on June 9 at the Continuing Legal Education Society's Restructuring Justice conference in Vancouver, where the report was released. LSS Executive Director Mark Benton said the society expects to participate in further consultations, once the process for them is in place.

"LSS is keenly interested in promoting justice system reform," Mark said. "Those reforms, however, must explicitly address the needs of low-income people in BC."

"The society's ability to respond to recommendations that may be implemented as a result of this report will depend upon adequate funding for legal aid," he added.