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Immigration changes

Notice to Counsel #61 announced significant changes to our Immigration Services, including the termination of Refugee Protection Division (RPD) hearing referrals issued on or after April 1, 2008. Referrals issued prior to April 1, 2008 are not affected by this termination. LSS treats the date of assignment (printed on your referral as the Interview/Assignment Date) as the referral date. You can confirm whether your RPD hearing referral is affected by this termination by checking the date of assignment. You should also verify that the service stop date printed on your referral will not affect your continued services to your client. Before LSS will extend service stop dates, clients will need to return to the referring office to confirm that they still qualify financially.

LSS will honour RPD hearing referrals if a hearing date has been set prior to March 31, 2009, provided that the hearing is set before the service stop date on your referral, all services to the client are completed by March 31, 2009, and your final account is submitted to LSS by April 14, 2009. You must also advise LSS of the client's name, the LSS file number, and the hearing date so that we can ensure your referral will not be terminated. Please fax the required information to 604-681-7963 or e-mail helpdesk.case-mgt@lss.bc.ca.

Message from Audit and Investigation

In December 2008, LSS introduced two new policies on referral eligibility: the new *Vendor Number Reactivation Policy* sets out the process for reactivating your vendor number, and the new *Vendor Number: Removal or Modification of Conditions Policy* sets out the process for modifying or removing conditions on your eligibility to receive referrals. As a result of these new policies, the *Referral Eligibility Policy* has been amended.

If you apply to reactivate your vendor number or to remove or modify conditions on your eligibility to receive referrals, please fax a completed *Vendor Number Reapplication* form to 604-682-7967 or e-mail it to helpdesk.finance@lss.bc.ca. The form and policies are available at www.lss.bc.ca (under *Resources for lawyers: I am looking for...*).

If you have any questions about these policies, please contact Margaret Currie, Manager, Audit and Investigation, at margaret.currie@lss.bc.ca or call 604-601-6053.

Notice of bursary opportunities

LSS and the Continuing Legal Education Society of BC (CLEBC) are offering bursaries for the following Continuing Legal Education (CLE) courses:

- **Secrets of Chambers 2009:** February 12, 2009
- **Dispute Resolution Conference 2009:** May 1, 2009
- **Criminal Law and the Charter 2009:** June 6, 2009

Less than five year call: LSS will pay the registration fee for one conference for a limited number of tariff lawyers who agree to take 12 legal aid referrals in the coming year. To apply, e-mail lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca, indicating your call date, the conference you want to attend, and agreeing to accept 12 legal aid referrals in the coming year. Spaces are limited, so apply early!

Five or more years' call: A 25% discount on the registration fee is available if you agree to take 12 legal aid referrals in the coming year. To receive the discount, let CLEBC know you will take 12 or more referrals when you register.

CLE Child Protection Conference — March 26 and 27, 2009

LSS is sponsoring a webcast of this CLE course, which will update you on the latest substantive and procedural issues in child protection matters. This course meets the Law Society's requirement for annual professional development. Tariff lawyers are eligible to attend for the substantially discounted rate of \$100 for both days (including lunch and access to online materials) at the following locations: Kamloops, Kelowna, Prince George, Terrace, Victoria, Nanaimo, and Smithers. Go to www.cle.bc.ca for course details.

LSS discounts and a limited number of bursaries are available as follows:

- **Lawyers with an LSS vendor number:** \$100 for webcasting. (To obtain a vendor number, go to www.lss.bc.ca/lawyers.) Phone CLEBC at 604-893-2121 to register.
- **Five or more years' call:** 25% discount for webcasting or in-person attendance if you agree to accept 12 legal aid referrals in the coming year. Phone CLEBC at 604-893-2121 to register.
- **Less than five years' call:** 100% discount for webcasting or in-person attendance, if you agree to accept 12 legal aid referrals in the coming year. E-mail lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca to register.