



The Legal Aid Fax

January 2010

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Update — Tariff simplification

We are continuing with the development of a simplified tariff for criminal and family matters. After consulting with tariff advisory groups, we now have a preliminary model of both tariffs. The model reduces the number of tariff items without changing coverage and eligibility, and maintains existing services and compensation levels.

Before the tariff design is complete, we wish to consult more broadly with the legal aid bar. We will be publishing a discussion paper that will provide more detailed information about the simplified tariffs. On **Feb 12, 2010**, we will post the discussion paper to the LSS website (www.lss.bc.ca → About us → Our reports → Service and program evaluations). The paper describes the proposed model for the criminal tariff, and will give you an opportunity to answer a few questions and provide your feedback on the proposed model. (Similar information about the family tariff will follow shortly.)

We also plan to conduct information sessions with stakeholder groups across BC in March. Details of these events will be posted next month.

Restoration of Family Services

In December, LSS announced that we are restoring some family services that had been terminated or suspended due to budget pressure. We are finalizing details for the reintroduction of Extended Family Services, and the CFCSA tariff items for Consensual Dispute Resolution and Collateral Issues. The reintroduction of Extended Family Services will include an opinion letter from counsel and assessment by Case Management. Notices to Counsel restoring these services are expected by the middle of February 2010.

Update — Local agent opportunities

Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the local agent opportunities were received from candidates in all locations noted in the EOI process that closed January 15, 2010. LSS will announce the successful candidates in Kelowna, New Westminster, Prince George, Surrey North, Surrey South, and Victoria shortly.

Expressions of Interest for the Kamloops local agent position

We are currently accepting EOI for the local agent position in Kamloops. Please note that the guidelines have been revised from the earlier posting. Lawyers within 250 kilometres of the location are eligible to apply. The deadline for submitting an EOI is **February 15, 2010**.

For detailed information about the EOI guidelines, please see the LSS website at www.lss.bc.ca → Lawyers → Local agent opportunities.

Full service during the Olympics!

LSS will be fully operational during the Olympics and Paralympics to meet the needs of clients (applications) and lawyers (case management, account processing, and cheque runs). We have taken steps to shift services where needed (Robson Square will be moving to the New Westminster Court); worked with staff to allow some flexibility during peak hour commutes; and worked with stakeholders regarding plans in case there are mass arrests. In the event of unanticipated circumstances, we will continue to give priority to providing uninterrupted services to you and to clients.

CLE bursary opportunities

LSS is offering discounts and a limited number of bursaries for the upcoming CLE course, Family Law Provincial Court Boot Camp, being held **March 22 and 23, 2010**, in Vancouver. To apply, please e-mail lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca, indicating your call date and agreeing to accept 12 legal aid referrals in the coming year.

Lawyer satisfaction survey — *Reminder*

Thank you to those who have completed the lawyer satisfaction survey. For those who have not yet completed the survey, please do so by **February 17, 2010**.

Case Management update

The Case Management Section is pleased to announce our new Disbursements Coordinator: Anju Siekham. Anju will be working with you regarding your disbursement requests.