



# The Legal Aid Fax

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## In This Issue ▶ ▶ ▶

**New Aboriginal section on LSS website; LSS expands information network; Notifications when a client is being reassessed; Lawyer e-services — Recent changes; CLE courses — Lawyers' 25% discount; TLABC criminal law seminar bursaries; Mentoring program**

### New Aboriginal section on LSS website

We are pleased to announce the launch of a new [Aboriginal section](#) on our website, dedicated to issues that are important to Aboriginal people. The new section has a unique visual identity within the broader site, and is geared toward clients, advocates, and lawyers. It features legal information, links to legal and other resources, up-to-date news (such as upcoming Gladue workshops), and our growing list of Aboriginal publications for both clients and intermediaries. Among the first topics highlighted are the Indian Residential Schools Settlement, Gladue rights, and the First Nations Court of BC. You'll want to check out what this new (and evolving) section offers to both you and your clients.

### LSS expands information network

LSS has partnered with 24 community service providers throughout BC who will provide access to free public legal education materials, help people contact LSS to apply for legal aid, and refer people to other legal resources. The [community partners](#) will work to improve awareness of legal aid services and promote law-related community development. These new locations will enhance the existing services of our 31 local agents who take legal aid applications and provide legal information. As well, the local agents in Kamloops, Salmon Arm, Victoria, North Vancouver, and Duncan are expanding services by travelling to Aboriginal bands in their areas to reach more people without access to legal services.

### Notifications when a client is being reassessed

Sometimes LSS will ask clients to provide updated financial information to confirm that they continue to qualify for legal aid. If the information is not provided to us within 30 days, their referral will be terminated. LSS will notify you if your client is being reassessed (and the relevant dates). During the reassessment period your referral continues to be valid. Please encourage your client to provide the information promptly. LSS will notify you if the referral has been terminated as a result of the reassessment (either due to ineligibility or lack of response). The notice will indicate the new stop date of your referral. You can bill for services up to the new date.

### Lawyer e-services — Recent changes

We've made some improvements to our e-services:

- The history tab in e-billing now captures account history for 9999 days — 27 years! (was 999)
- In the experts search database, each entry in the "area of expertise" drop-down list now has the number of experts in that field in parentheses.
- A new calendar now pops up for easy date selection, instead of having to enter dates manually.

### CLE courses — Lawyers' 25% discount

Remember that you are entitled to a 25% discount on CLE courses when:

- the course content is relevant to a legal aid practice and
- **when you register**, you tell CLE that you agree to accept 12 or more LSS referrals in a year.

### TLABC criminal law seminar bursaries

LSS is offering bursaries to lawyers with less than five years' call for the Trial Lawyers Association of BC's *Contemporary Criminal Law* seminar in Vancouver on Friday, September 23, 2011. LSS will pay the registration fee for a limited number of these lawyers who must also agree to take 12 referrals in the coming year. To apply, send an e-mail to [lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca](mailto:lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca) indicating your call date and agreement to accept 12 referrals. Spaces are limited, so apply early! For more information, visit [www.tlabc.org](http://www.tlabc.org).

### Mentoring program

LSS continues to offer two types of mentoring opportunities for lawyers with less than five years' call, with the goal of affording practical learning experiences. Any lawyer with less than five years' experience can ask LSS to authorize a senior lawyer to provide practical advice and feedback on the conduct of a legal aid case. Alternatively, lawyers with less than five years' experience can request authorization to act as apprentice counsel to a senior lawyer who is working on a complex legal aid case. For more details, go to [www.lss.bc.ca](http://www.lss.bc.ca) under [Lawyers — Practice resources](#).