



## In This Issue ▶ ▶ ▶

Tariff simplification; Notice to Counsel #73 — Tiered rates reinstated for criminal duty counsel; Tariff lawyer survey responses are in; LSS website — Lawyers section; Lawyer e-services — “What’s new?” page; Reminder: Disbursements and transcript requests

### Tariff simplification

We are continuing our consultation on the Tariff simplification. We have held meetings in several communities and we have generally received a positive response to the basic structure of the new model and its simplicity. We have also received helpful feedback on some key issues for both the family and criminal tariffs. In particular, we will examine the balance between summary cases and indictable cases in the current criminal model. We will also re-examine the amount paid for subsequent half days of trial. If you have not already done so, please visit the LSS website ([www.lss.bc.ca](http://www.lss.bc.ca)) and take the opportunity to review the discussion papers and provide your feedback on the new tariff. Our target date for implementing the new family and criminal tariffs is **July 2010**. We will implement the new CFCSA tariff by fall 2010.

### Notice to Counsel #73 — Tiered rates reinstated for criminal duty counsel

We recently announced the reinstatement of tiered rates for criminal duty counsel services (see Notice to Counsel #73). Payment for tiered rates on duty counsel accounts submitted between **April 1, 2009** and **March 31, 2010** will be made by **June 30, 2010**. The payment will be a lump sum for all eligible accounts and will be included with any other accounts processed for payment.

If you would like details about your payment (duty counsel file numbers, etc.), once you receive your payment, please e-mail [helpdesk.finance@lss.bc.ca](mailto:helpdesk.finance@lss.bc.ca).

### Tariff lawyer survey responses are in

We would like to thank everyone who participated in our 2010 tariff lawyer satisfaction survey. We received 292 responses. We appreciate the time you took to complete the survey; your input will help us identify where we can continue to improve. We are analyzing the responses and will post the results to the LSS website by **June 2010**.

### LSS website — Lawyers section

We encourage you to regularly visit the Lawyers resources section of the LSS website at [www.lss.bc.ca](http://www.lss.bc.ca) → Lawyers. We periodically update

this section to make information accessible for you and your staff, or to add resources you can use. In the fall, we revamped the pages for lawyers interested in taking legal aid cases (under “Interested in doing legal aid work?” or “I want to... Take legal aid cases”) to include information about why lawyers take legal aid cases, the steps for signing up with us, and the various resources available. We encourage you to pass this on to any lawyers you think would find it useful.

### Lawyer e-services — “What’s new?” page

When you log into lawyer e-services, you will see the new “What’s new?” landing page. We will post to this page the most recent LAFs, notices to counsel, a link to the *Guide to Legal Aid Tariffs*, and tips on the tariff, using e-services, etc. Keep an eye on this page as we will update it often!

### Reminder: Disbursement and transcript requests

Did you know that approximately 60% of the 3,000 disbursements requests we receive each year do not have all the information necessary for LSS to make a decision? These tips will help everyone save time:

- Ensure you use the current Disbursement Request Form and Transcript Request Form. These forms are in the Disbursements section (Appendix 1 and 2) of the *Guide to Legal Aid Tariffs*, which can be found at [www.lss.bc.ca](http://www.lss.bc.ca) → Lawyers → Tariff guide.
- Fill out the form completely. Often, important information we need to evaluate your request is missing. Please include all extra and relevant information you believe may be important in making a decision.
- These forms can then be faxed or e-mailed to Case Management at **604-681-7963** or [helpdesk.case-mgt@lss.bc.ca](mailto:helpdesk.case-mgt@lss.bc.ca).

We receive many disbursement requests each day; please ensure you allow sufficient time for processing your request. We realize that occasionally you may have to make an urgent request, and we will continue to ensure these requests are processed in a timely manner.