

In this issue

LSS bursaries available for NFLP; Immigration hearing applications: delay period removed; Extended Family and CFCSA Services FAQs; Introducing the new simplified Disbursements Tariff; The transition continues: e-services, EFT, e-authorizations

LSS bursaries available for NFLP

The Federation of Law Societies of Canada is hosting the biannual National Family Law Program in Halifax, July 16 – 19, 2012. LSS is pleased to offer bursaries and travel contributions for up to 20 lawyers. The travel contribution is up to \$1,000 per eligible lawyer upon confirmation of plane and/or accommodation reservations. You must have taken a minimum of six family or CFCSA referrals in the last 12 months to qualify.

The deadline for bursary applications is **March 31, 2012**, and priority will be given to those applying first. To apply, e-mail lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca (please include your LSS vendor number). Learn more about [this year's conference](#).



Immigration hearing applications: delay period removed

Effective immediately, applicants for immigration hearing referrals will be able to apply as soon as their Personal Information Form (PIF) has been filed. Reduction in the time between PIF filing and hearing dates at the IRB has taken away the need to impose a delay on when clients can apply. All applications for a hearing referral will be merit screened on the basis of the PIF. Applicants who apply more than 90 days after their last financial assessment will be reassessed for financial eligibility. We expect that earlier decisions about whether a client will be covered for the hearing will assist both the IRB in scheduling and counsel in preparation.

Extended Family and CFCSA Services FAQs

LSS has prepared a new information sheet about Extended Services. This information is important for all counsel who accept FRA and CFCSA referrals. The document covers our expectations of what will be covered with an initial referral, how we assess requests for extended services, and the impact on the LSS family and CFCSA budget. Please read the [information sheet](#).

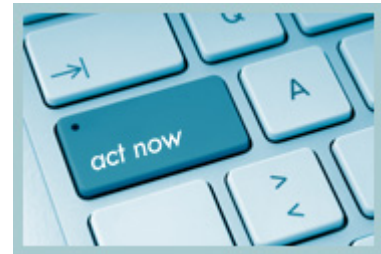
Introducing the new simplified Disbursements Tariff

We are pleased to announce a number of improvements to the Disbursements Tariff, effective April 1, 2012. The changes apply to all disbursements incurred as of this date. We will have a new online tariff guide for you, redesigned and reduced to 26 pages, as well as a new quick reference guide. Read about the [highlights of the new tariff](#). (Note that authorization limits remain unchanged for most items.)

The transition continues: e-services, EFT, e-authorizations

E-services and EFT: Tariff accounts staff will continue to recruit those of you who have not signed up for e-services and/or electronic funds transfer; or, of course, we encourage you to call them as well (tariff helpdesk at 604-601-6155). You will recall from the last *Legal Aid Brief* that paper accounts are currently subject to delayed processing and payment.

E-authorizations: You will soon be able to send electronic requests for disbursement authorizations. E-authorizations is an online system that is convenient and efficient for both lawyers and LSS staff as the requests are received in “real time.” We are sure that all current users of e-billing will be pleased to have this addition to our suite of e-tools. Please note that e-authorizations will be mandatory once available.



E-mail: To support the above initiatives, it is important that we have your current e-mail address, which you can update in Lawyer e-services/My Profile/General E-mail.

Please remember: As of July 1, 2012, e-services and EFT will be mandatory. LSS will be unable to process accounts in paper format or provide payments via printed cheque.

[Resources](#) | [e-services](#) | [Tariff guides](#) | [Contact us](#)



All legal aid lawyers are required to receive this email. You may unsubscribe and we will contact you to discuss options for the newsletter.