



LSS decision to fund new programs and restore services

The Legal Services Society has approved funding for several new, reinstated, and continuing programs. The funding for these initiatives is a direct result of the society's long-term strategy to reduce operating costs and to refocus revenues on family and criminal law services. As a result, more of the society's non-government money can now be allocated to helping people solve their legal problems.

Some of the initiatives being introduced reinstate services the society was obliged to eliminate earlier in the year due to insufficient resources, others are new projects, and some provide ongoing funding for projects that were scheduled to end.

LSS will introduce these initiatives throughout 2010. We have not yet set a timetable for their implementation and LSS will advise the tariff bar before each of these programs goes into effect.

The programs and services include:

Extended family services: Restoring services for clients who qualify for legal aid but require assistance beyond the standard legal aid referral to ensure their safety or the safety of their children.

Family duty counsel enhancements: Enhancements include new programs to provide legal advice between court appearances, and to provide services outside the court setting, for example at Family Justice Centres, community agencies, friendship centres, and in partnership with other service providers.

Family services for related civil issues: Restoring funding for clients who have legal issues, such as foreclosure, bankruptcy, housing and debt, that are related to a family law problem.

Family law website: Funding will allow LSS to continue to offer up-to-date information and self-help materials on Canada's leading family law website familylaw.lss.bc.ca.

Family law resolution support: New funding for lawyers to provide information to LSS when closing a file regarding resolution of a client's family law issues. This will assist LSS in budget forecasting.

Community engagement: Funding to continue public legal education initiatives around BC and in Aboriginal communities.



**Legal
Services
Society**

Providing legal aid
in British Columbia
since 1979

Message to the tariff bar

Initiatives for Aboriginal services: Continuing funding for programs to ensure legal aid services are accessible and relevant to First Nations communities throughout BC.

Criminal duty counsel expansion: New assistance for persons charged with minor criminal offences and additional support for lawyers who provide duty counsel services.

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