

## Arraignment court, duty counsel, and meterage

As a result of funding made available by the Ministry of Attorney General, LSS is able to continue a number of current programs and match government rates on a number of disbursement items.

### Arraignment court process

As a result of additional funding received, arraignment court process fees (under the **Criminal Tariff**) will be extended indefinitely.

There may still be changes to the current formulation of the arraignment court tariff item as application of the Criminal Case Flow Management Rules evolves and, in particular, as a result of the current Rules review announced by Chief Judge Baird Ellan.

### Out-of-custody duty counsel

The additional revenue made available by the Ministry of Attorney General permits LSS to continue its out-of-custody duty counsel service. If you are available to accept duty counsel referrals, we encourage you to contact your local referring office.

### Meterage rules and rate change

LSS is increasing the meterage rate currently paid from \$0.26 to \$0.40 per kilometre, consistent with the government rate. As of April 1, 2001, this change will apply to all meterage items in the **Disbursements for all Tariffs** section of the *Guide to Legal Aid Tariffs*. LSS will pay all billings received on or after April 1, 2001 at a rate of up to \$0.40 per kilometre.

LSS is also changing its meterage rules to simplify billing meterage and parking. We are eliminating the restriction on billing these items for Lower Mainland criminal and criminal appeal referrals, so one rule applies to all tariffs.

Replacement tariff pages for the above changes will be sent to you in the next six weeks.

Mark Benton  
*Director of Tariff*