

## Expert Witness Fees

Last year, the Legal Services Society advocated for an increase in funding from the provincial government, which was granted for the current fiscal year. One of the issues we will address with this increase is to ensure that our rates for expert witness fees match those paid by the Criminal Justice Branch of the Ministry of Attorney General. In this way, we hope that our clients will be able to mount full answer and defence with resources similar to those available to Crown counsel prosecuting the cases.

The new rates will be as follows and will take effect October 1, 2001:

<b>Expert</b>	<b>Court/Preparation time \$ per hour</b>	<b>Travel time \$ per hour</b>
Chartered accountant	126	51
Accountant (non-CA)	83	77
Engineer	126	77
Psychologists (PhD)	114	69
Psychologists (MA)	97	67
Anthropologist	108	65
Dentist	108	65
Veterinarian	108	65
Accident reconstructionist	65	40
Arson expert	65	40
Blood alcohol analyst	65	40
Counsellors/Therapists	65	40
Document examiner	65	40
Environmental experts	65	40
Registered nurse	65	40
Technicians/Mechanics	40	25

In most cases, these changes reflect significant increases, although some rates actually declined and others were the same as our existing rates. We trust that by matching rates, we will provide consistent resources to clients, and we anticipate matching any future increases determined by the provincial government.

Mark Benton

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