



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

VIA EMAIL

Ref. 644899

May 2, 2024

Allan Seckel
Chair, Board of Directors
Legal Aid BC
400 – 510 Burrard Street
Vancouver BC V6C 3B9
Email: LABC.Chair@legalaid.bc.ca

Dear Allan Seckel:

I write to communicate my approval of Legal Aid BC's (LABC) revised 2024/25 Budget Management Plan (BMP) as submitted on April 8, 2024, reflecting budget decisions and directives received on Budget Day, assuming we have a common understanding and agreement on the following points:

1. The Federal government is responsible for funding the delivery of Immigration and Refugee (I&R) legal aid services and I understand that status quo funding levels announced in Federal Budget 2024 may not be sufficient in meeting the forecasted demand for I&R legal aid across Canada.

Although LABC does not intend to implement any service reductions in the immediate term, I trust that you along with LABC staff will continue to work with the Department of Justice to monitor risks and examine options as the year progresses.

2. I note that LABC's three-year budget includes proposals for increased revenues for the Mental Health Law Program and Prisoners Legal Services starting in fiscal 2026/27.

My approval of your BMP is only based on confirmed revenues for the next three years. As such, there can be no expectation of increased provincial revenues for these programs.

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Please continue to submit your monthly forecasts to ministry staff according to the agreed upon schedule provided to you. When doing so, please advise of and explain any notable variances in all budget areas. Please also notify ministry staff if any new priorities, cost pressures or forecasted surpluses arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Niki Sharma', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Niki Sharma, KC
Attorney General

pc: Barbara Carmichael, KC, Deputy Attorney General
Paul Craven, Assistant Deputy Minister
Salman Azam, A/CEO, Legal Aid BC