

Agreement between the Province, Legal Aid BC and the Association of Legal Aid Lawyers (A.L.L.)

Highlights of Agreement:

1. Agreement concludes March 30, 2025.
2. Tariff increases as follows:

(a) Year 1 – Effective April 1, 2022 – a flat \$0.25 increase to tariff rates plus a 3.24% increase:

Year of Call	Hourly Tariff
Less than 4 years	\$117.32
4 or more and less than 10	\$123.19
10 or more years	\$129.06

(b) **Year 2 – Effective April 1, 2023** – Increase rates by the annualized average of BC CPI over twelve months starting on March 1, 2022 to a minimum of 5.5% and a maximum of 6.75%.

A minimum 5.5% increase results in rates of:

Year of Call	Hourly Tariff
Less than 4 years	\$123.77
4 or more and less than 10	\$129.97
10 or more years	\$136.16

(c) **Year 3 – Effective April 1, 2024** – Increase rates by the annualized average of BC CPI over twelve months starting on March 1, 2023 to a minimum of 2.0% and a maximum of 3.0%.

A minimum 2.0% increase results in rates of:

Year of Call	Hourly Tariff
Less than 4 years	\$126.25
4 or more and less than 10	\$132.57
10 or more years	\$138.88

3. Flexibility allocation funding as follows:

- (a) Year 1: \$182, 864;
- (b) Year 2: \$372, 526; and
- (c) Year 3: \$372, 526.

Such funding to include payments for: (i) ALL to support bargaining process, (ii) professional development for legal aid lawyers, and (c) funding of an articling program to address underserved areas and enhance diversity and engagement of bar.

- 4. Initiative for indigenous legal aid lawyers providing for an indigenous travel bursary fund of \$20,000.
- 5. Policy consultation with ALL to ensure that policy changes and developments incorporate the perspectives of legal aid lawyers.
- 6. Policy consultation meetings to take place quarterly with two quarterly meetings to focus on Ministry's Legal Aid Policy and two quarterly meetings to focus on LABC tariff budget policy. This policy consultation is an evolution of the policy consultation process initiated in 2019 and which process resulted in funding of \$8.4 million for LABC.

Increases to Financial Eligibility Income and Asset Limits

Legal Aid BC (LABC) has increased the financial eligibility guidelines for legal aid to help support low-income British Columbians with the rising cost of living.

- Income thresholds for standard representation services have been increased to the current Market Basket Measure (MBM) plus 10% and maintain the current \$1,000 higher threshold for standard child protection contracts, Criminal Early Resolution Contracts, and for Family Limited Representation Contracts.
- Asset limits have been increased by 2.5 times the current limits to bring LABC's asset thresholds in line with tests of "asset resiliency," where an individual has sufficient liquid assets to stay above the poverty line for three months in a period of income loss. Asset poverty is typically higher for women and significantly higher for single parent families.
- Child support has been excluded from the income calculation for recipients to recognize that child support is intended for the direct support of children and not for other purposes.

Family Limited Representation Contracts (FLRCs)

- As part of Legal Aid BC's implementation of key recommendations from the FLRC Evaluation Report and to improve client outcomes, the amount of General Preparation hours under the FLRC has increased from 8 to 14 hours, and the duration (stop date) of the contract has been extended from 120 days to 180 days.
- The extension and increased hours apply to all active FLRCs that are not currently past their stop date as of November 14, 2022.
- [See NTC #119](#)

Disbursement Tariff Increases

Meterage – Meterage rates have increased from \$0.55 to \$0.57 per kilometre reflecting BC Public Services rates.

- **Photocopying and Printing Electronic Disclosure** – In-house photocopying and e-disclosure rates have increased from \$0.15 to \$0.25 per page reflecting current market rates
- **Mediators' Hourly Rate** – Mediators' hourly rate has increased from \$83.90 to \$110 per hour representing better alignment with market and lawyers' tariff rates.
- **Interpreting for language** – Current rates of \$35 per hour (certified) and \$25 per hour (uncertified) will increase to \$70 per hour (certified) and \$50 per hour (uncertified) ensuring the rates reflect the professional preparation and skills required to provide successful interpretation for LABC clients.