



For Immediate Release

September 22, 2011

## Day for Legal Aid to take place at Law Schools throughout British Columbia

**VANCOUVER** – A Day for Legal Aid will be held at all three law schools in British Columbia on September 22, 2011. The event is organized by the Canadian Bar Association BC Branch (CBABC) in order to expand dialogue on why legal aid matters in the province of British Columbia. This year marks the second year of the annual Day for Legal Aid event and the first year that the event will be held on law school campuses throughout the province. The event also marks the first occasion that students from all three law schools in BC, including the newly established law school at Thompson Rivers University, will participate in a joint event.

CBABC President Sharon Matthews recognized the importance of the day saying: "The 2011 Day for Legal Aid is a significant event for the province. Not only will the Day for Legal Aid bring together students from all three law schools in British Columbia for the first time, but it will do so in order to discuss one of the most important access to justice issues facing the province."

The Day for Legal Aid will consist of a live panel discussion held at the new law school at Thompson Rivers University that will be webcast to the law schools at both the University of British Columbia and the University of Victoria. The panel will convene at 12:15 pm on September 22, 2011 to discuss why legal aid matters in British Columbia and will take questions regarding legal aid from all locations. The panel will consist of a Provincial Court Judge, Crown Counsel, Defence Counsel, Family Law Counsel and representatives from West Coast LEAF and the Kamloops First Nation.

The organization of the Day for Legal Aid is a continuation of the CBABC's commitment to access to justice in British Columbia. The aim of the Day for Legal Aid is to continue the dialogue regarding legal aid across the province that resulted from the Public Commission on Legal Aid and its report. It is part of the CBABC's continued community engagement that includes the recent launch of a Facebook site at [www.whylegalaidmatters.com](http://www.whylegalaidmatters.com).

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*For more information about the Day for Legal Aid please contact Michael Litchfield, Project Manager at 250.634.3753 or [mlitchfield@thinklabconsulting.com](mailto:mlitchfield@thinklabconsulting.com). The Canadian Bar Association is the professional organization representing more than 38,000 lawyers, judges and law students in Canada, including 6,500 members in British Columbia.*