



## Did you know?

- That in 1992 a social services tax of 7% was placed on legal fees in B.C.
- Since that time, B.C.'s businesses and consumers have paid out over \$1 billion dollars due to this tax
- The tax now collects over \$100 million dollars a year
- Even awards in major injury cases are subject to the 7% tax on the legal services to obtain the award, including brain and spinal injury cases
- The tax is a major disincentive to emerging industries such as biotech, high tech and alternative fuels, and to existing industries that require extensive legal assistance to protect their intellectual property rights and do business
- The B.C. Supreme Court has already declared the tax unconstitutional for low income people, and ruled the government cannot force them to pay the tax

If you are concerned about this tax and its impact on businesses and access to justice for citizens, and would like to see it eliminated, talk to your MLA or write to:

**Minister of Finance**  
**PO BOX 9048 STN PROV GOVT**  
**Victoria, BC V8W 9E2**  
**Fax: 250 387-5594**

If you would like more information about the social services tax on legal fees, please contact the Canadian Bar Association, British Columbia Branch on our toll free line at 1-888-687-3404, email [cba@bccba.org](mailto:cba@bccba.org) or visit our website at [www.cba.org/bc](http://www.cba.org/bc)

About the Canadian Bar Association: The Canadian Bar Association is the professional organization responsible for representing the interests of more than 34,000 members in Canada, including over 5,600 lawyers in British Columbia.

