

Legal Aid Services

Still to be Determined

The provincial government has announced it will cut legal aid funding by 38.8% over three years and require LSS to absorb substantial new costs. This means the Society will no longer have the funds necessary to maintain existing services to clients.

The following programs will continue until otherwise determined:

Still to be determined	Description	# cases
Out-of-Custody Duty Counsel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provides assistance for accused people who are not being held in jail and arrive at court without a lawyer to represent them. Duty counsel provide advice about the charges against them, court procedures, and legal rights (including the right to counsel and the right to apply for legal aid). This service may include representation at hearings to enter a guilty plea, or speak to sentence. ➤ Implemented to facilitate efficient operation of the courts as a result of recommendations by the Chief Judge in 1998. 	19,000
Arrestment Court Tariff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Part of the new criminal case flow management rules; this court is held to confirm the crown has provided the defence with all particulars, and to allow the parties to work out details to ensure the trial can proceed on schedule. ➤ Implemented to facilitate efficient operation of the courts as a result of recommendations by the Chief Judge in 1998. 	5,600
Continuing legal representation for existing family referrals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Existing referrals for approximately 5000 family cases no longer covered by the tariffs and not resolved prior to September 2002. 	5,000
Administering programs on behalf of the Attorney General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tariff-paid referrals for human rights cases, material witnesses to crimes, and victims' assistance in criminal proceedings. 	225

#s are estimates based on 2000 – 2001 data or calculated from partial 2001 – 2002 data