

Termination of the Human Rights Tariff

The British Columbia Human Rights Commission has advised the Legal Services Society (LSS) that, as a result of budget cuts for the fiscal year 2002/2003, the commission can no longer pay for legal representation of complainants making complaints under the Human Rights Code.

In accordance with the agreement between the commission and the Legal Services Society, the agreement is terminated effective March 31, 2002.

The commission has requested that the Legal Services Society not issue any further referrals for human rights cases, effective immediately. In addition, the acting chief commissioner has requested that LSS, in accordance with the "General Terms and Conditions" of the tariff contract, as set out in the *Guide to Legal Aid Tariffs*, give notice to counsel that existing referrals will terminate on March 31, 2002, unless a hearing is scheduled to take place. If a hearing is scheduled to take place, the referral will continue up to the conclusion of the hearing.

In order to ensure the orderly wind down of the human rights tariff, counsel are encouraged to submit final bills for services as soon as possible. Bills for human rights tariff work will not be accepted after September 30, 2002, unless a hearing is scheduled in the case.

Mark Benton
Director of Tariff