

Notice to Counsel

April 3, 2023, #121

Increased Tariff Rates

As set out in the <u>three-year agreement</u> between the BC Government, Legal Aid BC, and the Association of Legal Aid Lawyers, LABC tariff rates increased April 1, 2023.

April 1, 2023 Tariff Rate Increases

Tariff rates have increased for legal services provided on or after April 1, 2023. The increase reflects the maximum 6.75% increase based on the annualized average of the BC Consumer Price Index over 12 months starting on March 1, 2022 to a minimum of 5.5% to a maximum 6.75%:

Tier	Year of Call	Hourly Rate
1	Less than 4 years	\$125.25
2	4 or more and less than 10	\$131.51
3	10 or more years	\$137.78

All hourly tariff rates including Junior counsel, Articled student, and Enhanced fees have increased accordingly. Criminal block fees have been increased an equivalent percentage to the hourly rates.

The LABC Tariffs will be revised to reflect the new rates.

Effective Date

Effective April 1, 2023, the increased rates will apply to all hourly and block fees with a service date on or after April 1, 2023.

Disbursements Tariff Revisions

Impact of Race and Culture Assessment (IRCA) – A new disbursement item has been added to the Tariff. LABC may authorize an IRCA (sometimes referred to as an enhanced pre-sentence report) for Black legally-aided clients where the Crown is seeking a federal sentence (for an adult) or a custodial sentence (for a youth). LABC is still developing the IRCA program and capacity.

Meterage, meals and medical-legal rates — Rates for meterage and meals have increased by 6.75% as per the BC Public Service increase, and medical-legal reports and experts have increased by 5.5% as per the Doctors of BC rate increases.

As always, we welcome your feedback regarding the *LABC Tariffs*. If you have any comments, please email lawyer.support@legalaid.bc.ca.

Heidi Mason, Executive Vice-President, Legal Services

April 3, 2023

Questions or comments?

Contact our Lawyer Support team:

- Call 604-601-6155; 1-888-401-6206 (no charge), or
- Email lawyer.support@legalaid.bc.ca



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