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Making Justice Work — LSS's report on legal aid and justice system reform

A message from Executive Director Mark Benton, QC

In February 2012, the Province announced an initiative to address challenges facing British Columbia's justice system and to identify actions to give British Columbians more timely and effective justice services.

As part of this initiative, the Attorney General asked the Legal Services Society (LSS) for advice on reforms to legal aid and to the larger justice system that could reduce costs so that savings can be reallocated to legal aid.



Our report, [***Making Justice Work: Improving Access and Outcomes for British Columbians***](#), is now available on the LSS website (under About us — Reports — Submissions and speeches).

The report outlines our vision for a justice system that focuses on outcomes that benefit all justice system stakeholders and users. Our proposals include expansion of criminal and family duty counsel, more community-based family law advice services, and greater use of problem-solving courts such as domestic violence courts.

In preparing our recommendations, we consulted with LSS local agents, family duty counsel, the criminal and family tariff advisory committees, other Canadian legal aid plans, and numerous BC lawyers.

I encourage you to have a look at our advice to the Attorney General, as it is the most recent documentation of the direction LSS is headed. For those pressed for time, I recommend the executive summary and the conclusion.

Mark Benton, QC
Executive Director

August 30, 2012

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