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Managing lawyer job opportunities

We're recruiting a [Managing Lawyer, Appeals](#) and a [Managing Lawyer, Criminal Law Services](#).

The Managing Lawyer, Appeals is a new position. This managing lawyer will work with Rod Holloway, QC, who will continue to be the face of the Appeals Department. The Managing Lawyer, Criminal Law Services will replace Camran Chaichian, who has decided to leave LSS at a date yet to be determined.

If you're interested in either position, you can get more information from the [Jobs with LSS](#) page on our website. The closing date for both positions is **Friday, February 7, 2014**.

Closing fee elimination — Notice to Counsel #87

We're eliminating the closing fee from the Family and CFCSA tariffs. The closing fee currently:

- applies no matter when your referral was issued.
- is payable *only* if you've completed services to your client under the referral.
- is billable when you submit your final account, with results achieved in the case.

Our [Notice to Counsel #87](#) confirms that the closing fee:

- will no longer be payable on any account submitted *after March 31, 2014*.
- is *not* payable if you haven't met with your client or aren't able to complete services and bill by March 31, 2014.

We introduced the closing fee as part of the tariff simplification in 2010, to encourage lawyers to close files and bill in a timely manner. We believed this would improve our ability to predict the cost of tariff services. Unfortunately, the closing fee has had little, if any, impact on cost certainty. A secondary benefit of the closing fee was to provide a small recognition of the inherent time required for file management.

Without the closing fee, the normal activities involved in closing an account are considered non-billable; they can't be billed as general preparation.

We've determined that our budget no longer supports the closing fee. The financial pressures LSS faces are well known, and we're taking steps to closely monitor referral volumes and extended services. We also continue to monitor the results we achieve for our clients within the tariff. We believe that our priority should continue to be compensating you for the time necessary to resolve your clients' problems within the available budget. In a choice between the closing fee and maintaining authorized hours, the closing fee has a lower priority.

Billing tips

- **Meterage for mediators, interpreters, and Gladue report writers:** increased to \$130, billable at \$0.52 per kilometre (allowing up to 250 km).
- **Provincial Court and Supreme Court fees:** billable *once per referral* at the rate of the highest offence.
- **Non-Trial Resolution fee and Multiple Information fee:** when billing these fees, link only one Information to the Non-Trial Resolution fee and one to the Multiple Information fee. (Don't link both Informations to both fees.)
- **Travel meal per diem:** bill only when you are an out-of-town lawyer who must stay overnight for a court hearing.
- **A Trial or a Preliminary hearing:** if either has started and sentencing begins during the first two half days, bill the first two half days' block fee. For subsequent half days of

sentencing, bill under sentencing.

- **Disbursement block payment:** an option that simplifies billing standard low-cost disbursements. Instead of tracking and billing your actual amounts, bill the “disbursement block payment” for your referral. This block fee includes:
 - courier services
 - long distance charges for telephone and fax transmissions
 - photocopying and receiving faxes (in-house and third party)
 - postage

Block fee payments by referral type:

Criminal: \$10

CFCSA: \$18

Family: \$28

Immigration: \$28

You'll continue to bill all other disbursements in the usual way. Note that if you choose to bill the block fee, you can't also bill for actual costs or reverse the block payment at a later date.

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