Legal Aid Brief



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Your opportunity to contribute to justice system reform

A message from Executive Director Mark Benton, QC

As you may know, the <u>Attorney General has asked the Legal Services</u> <u>Society</u> to identify ways in which LSS can support efficiencies elsewhere in the justice system "so that savings can be reallocated to enhance legal aid." We have been asked to provide advice on four specific topics:



- new legal aid service delivery models;
- · changes to LSS tariffs to provide incentives for justice system efficiencies;
- the use of telecommunications (including the Burnaby Justice Centre); and
- alternative, non-governmental funding streams.

To assist us in developing our advice, we are asking our staff and service partners, the tariff bar, community organizations, and key stakeholders for their suggestions for initiatives that warrant further research.

Our current plan is to solicit ideas, conduct research into those that are most promising, and determine which to present to the Attorney General. We are seeking input from key stakeholders early on and will likely use a focus group process to assist us in assessing the relative value of the proposals. We expect to send our response to the Attorney General in June.

If you have a suggestion for an initiative you think we should explore, we would like to hear about it. A <u>template</u> is now available for anyone who would like to contribute. The template provides background details and lists the information we need to explore the topic further. Your suggestions do not have to be detailed. All we need is a brief overview of an initiative that will promote justice system effectiveness, efficiency, and savings.

Please submit your suggestions no later than March 9, 2012. (See the template for contact information).

This is your opportunity to shape the future of BC's justice system and legal aid. I look forward to your suggestions.

Mark Benton, QC Executive Director February 23, 2012

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