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LSS Online update

LSS Online, our new billing system, will go live in spring 2015. We'll transfer your active referrals (which will be called contracts) to the new system. We won't transfer referrals that are over a certain age or that have completed billings.

New features

Contracts and their details will be part of the new system, and you'll bill directly against them. Therefore, we'd like to get your contract list right. If you receive our email with a list of your specific referrals, please identify which ones are active.

Learn about other LSS Online [features...](#)

Blackout period

Prior to launching the new system, there will be a blackout period when the current system will be down and you won't be able to bill or send us e-authorization requests. Please keep your bills up to date between now and then. We'll announce the blackout period dates in a future LAB.

User testing

A group of our referral lawyers tested LSS Online billing forms and, as a result of their input, we've made significant improvements. Thanks to those who provided feedback at the focus groups we held in December. We continue to rely on referral lawyers to provide onsite feedback about the user experience. Although LSS Online is different from the current system, we expect that over time and through training LSS Online will be a more efficient and effective system for you.

Training

We're happy to report that your LSS Online training will be eligible for Continuing Professional Development credits with the Law Society of BC. Our training materials — a user guide, short videos, and other step-by-step instructions — will be made available shortly before the launch. Find out more in upcoming editions of the LAB.

Tariff changes

Look for the following changes to the *LSS Tariffs* when LSS Online goes live:

- A new requirement for you to attach timesheets when billing on any family, CFCSA, immigration, or appeal contracts (meeting the standard for record keeping set out in our [General Terms and Conditions](#) – item #49).
- A new simplified Appeals Tariff (see [August 2014 LAB](#))
- Minor terminology changes

Timesheets

As mentioned in the Tariff changes section above, you'll be required to attach timesheets when billing on any family, CFCSA, immigration, or appeal contracts. Your timesheets should accurately record the date of the service, the service description, and time spent (accurate to a tenth of an hour).

Timesheets will enable us to more closely monitor practice trends and improve our forecasting. When you provide us with timesheets at the time of billing, we'll have reliable information without having to follow up with you after the file has been closed.

Billing

LSS Online will confirm more information with you up front to reduce the number of questions we might have to ask you after you bill and any changes we have to make to your account. For example, LSS Online will check that you're billing within the start and stop dates of your contract, or that you aren't billing more than you're authorized to bill.

New LSS board member

Dinyar Marzban, QC, is the LSS Board of Directors' newest member, replacing Deanna Ludowicz, whose term ended December 2014. Dinyar has practised family law, civil litigation, and mediation. He was called to the BC bar in 1982 and appointed Queen's Counsel in 2004.



As a senior family law practitioner, Dinyar is acutely aware of the need to reform family law in BC. He was a member of the Family Justice Reform Working Group for the Justice Review Task Force established in 2002, along with Heidi Mason, LSS director of Legal Advice and Representation.

"Dinyar sees an opportunity for LSS to promote justice system reform and increase access to justice, particularly in the area of family law," said CEO Mark Benton. "He brings to the board a strong desire to reduce the complexity of the justice system, and in doing so increase access to justice for low-income people in BC."

Dinyar is one of four board members who are appointed by the Law Society of BC after consultation with the BC branch of the Canadian Bar Association. The BC government appoints the other five members.

Remembering Patricia Connor

We were sad to learn of Patricia (Patty) Connor's passing. She made a very significant contribution to legal aid during her career. Patty was a fierce advocate for our clients in the Downtown Eastside, often taking cases others didn't want to take. She was also known for her directness and kindnesses to all staff with whom she worked at the courthouse. Rest in peace, Patty.

LSS bursaries

National Criminal Law Program

The Federation of Law Societies is hosting the annual National Criminal Law Program in **Edmonton July 6 – 10**. We're pleased to offer bursaries and travel contributions to a limited number of lawyers.

To qualify, you must have taken a minimum of six criminal referrals in the last 12 months. To apply, email us at LawyersResources@lss.bc.ca. Learn more about this year's [program...](#)

CLEBC Family Law Conference 2015

Continuing Legal Education of BC is hosting the 10th Biennial National Family Law Conference 2015 in **Vancouver July 9 – 10**. We're pleased to offer bursaries to a limited number of lawyers.

To qualify, you must have taken a minimum of six family or CFCSA referrals in the last 12 months. To apply, email us at LawyersResources@lss.bc.ca. Learn more about the [conference...](#)

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