



Immigration and Appeals Tariff changes associated with new refugee law

To reflect changes to refugee law associated with Bill C-31, *Protecting Canada's Immigration System Act*, LSS will implement a new Immigration Tariff, effective December 15, 2012. The new tariff will apply to referrals issued after December 15 under the new refugee system (commenced with a Basis of Claim form). All existing referrals issued before December 15 or new referrals where the refugee claim was commenced with a Personal Information Form (PIF) will continue to use the old Immigration Tariff.

Changes to the *LSS Tariffs* include:

- A new **Immigration Tariff** for all claims commenced under the new system provides 16 hours general preparation for Basis of Claim (BOC) form preparation and hearing preparation.
- A new "multiple client rule" in the Immigration Tariff clarifies the billing structure for clients whose hearings are joined.
- The **Appeals and Judicial Reviews Tariff** has been revised to include preparation and attendance tariff items for new Refugee Appeal Division (RAD) appeals. To apply for a RAD referral, please contact the Vancouver Regional Centre (Appeals Section) by fax at 604-682-0956 and provide any supporting documents, including the client's BOC and reasons for the Refugee Protection Division (RPD) hearing decision.
- Non-refugee hearing tariff items are now under the Immigration appeals section in the Appeals and Judicial Reviews Tariff.
- The **Disbursements Tariff** now provides translation fees up to \$361 (1900 words) for all immigration referrals. A specific authorization is no longer required.

As of December 15, 2012 there will also be changes to the way LSS processes immigration applications:

- Dedicated immigration intake staff will issue refugee claim referrals as early as possible, including before eligibility is determined. All applications will be screened for merit by immigration intake staff. If an applicant is refused legal aid coverage, he or she can request a review.
- A new legal aid immigration line and email address have been created for intermediaries and clients to access intake staff directly. Immigration intake can be reached in Vancouver at 604-601-6076, elsewhere in BC at 1-888-601-6076, and by email at Immigration.intake@lss.bc.ca.

As always, we welcome your feedback regarding new policies. If you have any comments, please email them to lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca.

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December 14, 2012

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