



Additional funding to support lawyers

The Legal Services Society is pleased to announce additional funding for lawyer compensation in 2010-2011.

To recognize the exceptional service legal aid lawyers provide for their clients, all lawyers will receive a supplementary payment in June based on the number of referrals accepted in 2010-2011. The amount of the payments is subject to available funding and will be determined at the end of the LSS fiscal year.

LSS will also be making supplementary payments to support family law practitioners in regions of the province where it is difficult to recruit lawyers or place files. Recruitment and retention of family lawyers in many areas of the province has been particularly difficult for several years. These payments, which will be made in February, are to recognize the work of those lawyers and to encourage them to continue taking referrals.

To fund the payments, the LSS board of directors has reallocated money from new initiatives to lawyer compensation. Because these initiatives will be fully funded in 2011-2012, the money will not be available for a general tariff increase in future years.

The strength of BC's legal aid program is the work of more than 900 lawyers who are committed to meeting the legal needs of low-income people in BC. LSS has heard repeatedly through our lawyer satisfaction surveys and in our consultations with the bar that current tariffs do not provide appropriate compensation. LSS remains committed to supporting legal aid lawyers and is committed to securing funding that will support your work.

I welcome your comments at lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca.

Mark Benton, QC
Executive Director