

Notice to Counsel



Legal
Services
Society

#102 – October 2019

Updates to the LSS Tariffs

The Association of Legal Aid Lawyers (ALL) and the Ministry of Attorney General have reached an agreement to increase tariff rates paid to lawyers.

The agreement implements tariff increases in stages starting November 4, 2019, and the increased rates will be based on service date, not contract date.

Revisions related to the Tariff Agreement:

- To reflect increases effective November 4, 2019 as outlined in the Agreement, all chapters of the *LSS Tariffs* have been updated with new rates, outlined in the table below.

Year of Call	Hourly tariff rates for services provided before November 4, 2019	Hourly tariff rates for services provided on or after November 4, 2019	Block tariff rates for services provided on or after November 4, 2019
Less than 4 years	\$83.90	\$104.88	Amount specified in criminal tariff
4 or more years and less than 10 years	\$88.10	\$110.13	Amount specified in criminal tariff
10 or more years	\$92.29	\$115.36	Amount specified in criminal tariff
Enhanced Fees	\$125.00	\$156.25	N/A

- The block fees have been increased equivalent to the increase to the hourly rates.

Other tariff revisions include:

- Increasing the hours for *Victim/witness representations under section 278 of the Criminal Code* item in the Criminal Tariff from up to 5 hours to up to 10 hours.
- Adding section 7(5) to the General Terms and Conditions, stating that tariff lawyers must immediately inform LSS when their Law Society status changes, the Law Society issues a citation, they have criminal charges laid against them, and/or when they cease doing LSS work.

Transition rule for contracts

Effective November 4, 2019, you will receive the tariff increase for services provided on or after this date. When you bill, a certification box will appear asking whether the services you performed occurred before or after November 3, 2019 (you will need to bill

for services prior to November 4 on a separate invoice from services performed after November 3).

Services provided prior to November 4, 2019 will not receive the new tariff rate. They will be paid at the current rates in the table above.

You must bill out all qualifying work for the Bargaining Incentive Bonus (BIB) (services performed between April 28, 2019 and November 3, 2019) by November 3, 2019 in order to receive the BIB.

Background

The new Tariff Agreement includes additional tariff rate increases on April 1, 2020 and April 1, 2021. Between now and April 1, 2020, LSS will make changes to LSS Online to support more efficient billing processes based on service date.

As always, we welcome your feedback regarding the *LSS Tariffs*. If you have any comments, please email lawyersresources@lss.bc.ca.

Heidi Mason,
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October 31, 2019