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**Legal  
Services  
Society**

April 26, 2019

## **Legal Aid Brief**

### **The Bargaining Incentive Bonus - How to Get Paid**

The Association of Legal Aid Lawyers (ALL), in March, accepted a \$7.9 million Bargaining Incentive Bonus (BIB) from the Ministry of Attorney General (MAG) and the Legal Services Society (LSS) to avert a service withdrawal while the three organizations discuss a proposal to address tariff rates and funding for legal aid generally.

The BIB is not a tariff lift. It is a 25% bonus calculated on the amount LSS pays you for services performed and invoiced between April 28 and November 3, 2019.

This edition of the Legal Aid Brief explains the process you must follow to be eligible to be paid the BIB.

For more information about the BIB, see the April 11 [Legal Aid Brief](#).

#### **Simple procedure for Bargaining Incentive Bonus payments**

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##### **Important Information**

**The Bargaining Incentive Bonus only applies to services  
performed and invoiced between April 28 and  
November 3, 2019.**

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The agreement between ALL, LSS and government requires the Law Foundation to hold the BIB funds and to distribute the bonus payments. This means you will receive separate payments from LSS for the services you provided and one from the Law Foundation for the bonus. LSS has created a seamless process for both payments.

Beginning Sunday, April 28, every time you create a new invoice or open a draft invoice a window will open asking you to certify that the invoice contains only services that are eligible for the BIB, that the BIB is being provided as an incentive to support the negotiation of a proposal to address legal aid funding and that you consent to LSS sharing your banking information with the Law Foundation. You then follow the standard procedure for completing your invoice. Nothing further is required.

The "Additional Details" section of your printed invoice will have a message confirming that your invoice is eligible for the bonus payment.

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#### **Important Information for LCM Cases**

**Lawyers billing through the LCM system only need to consent to sharing banking information with the Law Foundation once. If you have a case that is billed through the LCM system, you should have received an email from LSS requesting consent. You must reply to this email to receive the bonus.**

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#### **Answers to common questions**

##### **When will I get paid?**

- There will be no change to LSS payments. The average time from receipt of invoice to payment is less than two weeks.
- We expect that the Law Foundation will make the first bonus payment in mid-June. We will advise you of the payment schedule when it is confirmed.

##### **Can I claim the BIB retroactively after submitting an invoice?**

- No. If you do not certify that the invoice is eligible for the BIB and agree that LSS can share your banking information with the Law Foundation, it cannot be changed.

### **Why are BIB payments going through the Law Foundation?**

- The Law Foundation agreed to hold the monies and to distribute payments so the parties could resolve a number of accounting issues that were taken into account in the agreement.

### **What information will the Law Foundation receive?**

- LSS will provide the Law Foundation the banking information you previously provided to us and the total amount of the BIB payable to you.

### **How will I know which services I am receiving a BIB payment for?**

- LSS will send the Law Foundation a payment total and they will pay you a lump sum. LSS will then send you an email with a breakdown of the invoices and services the BIB payment applies to.

The agreement between the Association of Legal Aid Lawyers, the Ministry of Attorney General and the Legal Services Society presents a unique opportunity to address long-standing concerns about the adequacy of legal aid tariffs. Everyone involved appreciates your patience as we put the process in place to get the payments to you.

**If you have questions about the BIB, please contact the Lawyer Support team at 604-601-6155 / 1-888-401-6206 or [lawyer.support@lss.bc.ca](mailto:lawyer.support@lss.bc.ca)**

*Sent from the traditional unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.*



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