

Happy Holidays from LSS!

No images? [Click here](#)



**Legal
Services
Society**

December 2019

Legal Aid Brief



All,

As 2019 draws to a close, one word sums up the past year – eventful. Fortunately, many of the new developments were positive and helped pave the way toward a brighter future for legal aid clients, tariff lawyers and the Legal Services Society.

This year, which marked the organization’s 40th anniversary, we reached a number of important milestones – most notably, the tariff agreement between the Association of Legal Aid Lawyers and the Ministry of Attorney General. This agreement ensures that you are paid better rates for legal aid work. Achieving fair tariff rates has been a board priority for some time and we’re pleased this historic milestone has been reached.

This year, we unveiled a [Reconciliation Action Plan](#) to ensure that legal aid services better meet the needs of BC’s Indigenous peoples, and introduced tariff items that support lawyers to provide more legal aid to Indigenous clients.

We also improved access to justice by launching our new province-wide [criminal early resolution service](#) to

help people who wouldn't normally qualify for legal aid. To support families, we're continuing the new [family limited representation contract](#) for parts of a case involving financial issues resulting from a separation or divorce.

I'd like to welcome the 130-plus new lawyers who joined the tariff bar so far this year. Some of the benefits we provide include subscriptions to such things as CLE Case Digests, which assisted 320 lawyers this year, as well as bursaries, which we gave to over 200 lawyers for training and development courses such as Gladue Submissions, Litigation Technology, Family Law Provincial Court Practice and Criminal Law: Challenges and Solutions.

As we soon ring in a new year and decade, we thank you for your hard work and dedication in supporting LSS's clients and for your service to those people who are most marginalized. We look forward to continuing to work with you. After all, without you – the tariff bar – there would be no access to justice for many British Columbians.

On behalf of LSS's board of directors, I wish you happy holidays and all the best in 2020.

Jean P. Whittow, QC
Chair, LSS Board of Directors

Questions or comments?

Please contact Lawyer Support at: 604-601-6155 / 1-888-401-6206 or 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.



Legal Services Society, 400- 510 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC

You are receiving this email because you provide legal aid services
on behalf of the Legal Services Society

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)