



September 6, 2023

RE: In Person Legal Professionals Engagement – Legal Aid Transition

The BC First Nations Justice Council (“BCFNJC”) are holding a series of engagement sessions with legal professionals on the topic of legal aid for Indigenous peoples in British Columbia.

BCFNJC, created in 2016 by the First Nations Leadership Council, has a clear mandate from First Nations in BC to:

- Challenge approaches that contribute to the growing over-representation of First Nations children and youth in the care of government, and First Nations men and women in incarceration.
- Productively engage with government to advance effective strategies that can achieve better outcomes for Indigenous people in the justice system.

These directives are outlined within the [BC First Nations Justice Strategy](#).

Strategy 5 of the Strategy calls for the establishment of First Nations legal services to ensure increased and more effective access to justice for Indigenous people dealing with the criminal justice system. To establish this, the BCFNJC will develop a model and workplan to transition legal aid services for Indigenous people from Legal Aid BC to our organization, the BCFNJC, and deliver these services through our Indigenous Justice Centres that are currently being developed throughout the province.

Over the next few months, BCFNJC will be hosting engagement sessions to hear from individuals, justice and social development workers from Indigenous communities, representatives from community justice organizations, and legal professionals on the current and future state model of legal aid services for Indigenous peoples.

In your capacity as a legal professional, we hope that you will be able to join us to share your experiences with, and perspectives on, the current legal aid regime as it relates to Indigenous people, and to discuss opportunities for a new legal aid model. This is an open event, so please feel free to forward this invitation to other legal professionals whom you think would be interested in participating.

Attached to this document is a list of all the legal aid transition engagement dates and locations, including virtual sessions. This information can also be found on [BCFNJC's engagement calendar](#) as well as engagement sessions on other initiatives. All are welcome to join us at any one of these engagement sessions.

Please RSVP on our website at [bcfnjc](#) or by emailing events@BCFNJC.com stating your name, position and organization/firm and which session you will be attending.

BC First Nations Justice Council

303-1979 Old Okanagan Hwy, Westbank, BC. V4T 3A4 Office: 778-940-1520
bcfnjc.com

If you are unable to make it to this event, but you have feedback to share about this topic, I encourage you to fill out our online survey. Your voice matters, and we appreciate your participation.

For more information on BCFNJC, please visit our website: <https://bcfnjc.com/>

Respectfully,

Courtney Daws

Courtney Daws
Provincial Director, Legal Aid Services
BC First Nations Justice Council



Legal Aid Transition Engagement Sessions

- **Duncan**
September 19, 2023
12:30pm-1:30pm
- **Chilliwack**
September 25, 2023
12:30pm-1:30pm
- **Surrey**
September 27, 2023
5:00pm-6:30pm
- **Cranbrook**
October 10, 2023
12:30pm-1:30pm
- **Kelowna**
October 18, 2023
5:00pm-6:30pm
- **Prince George**
October 24, 2023
12:30pm-1:30pm
- **Port Alberni**
November 8, 2023
12:30pm-1:30pm
- **Port Hardy**
November 10, 2023
12:30pm-1:30pm
- **Fort St. John**
Date TBC
- **Virtual Session**
November 30, 2023
4:00pm-6:00pm
- **Nanaimo**
September 20, 2023
5:00pm-6:30pm
- **Merritt**
September 26, 2023
12:30pm-1:30pm
- **Vancouver**
October 5, 2023
5:00pm-6:30pm
- **Victoria**
October 11, 2023
5:00pm-6:30pm
- **Kamloops**
October 20, 2023
12:30pm-1:30pm
- **Williams Lake**
October 25, 2023
12:30pm-1:30pm
- **Campbell River**
November 9, 2023
12:30pm-1:30pm
- **Prince Rupert**
Date TBC
- **Terrace**
Date TBC
- **Hazelton**
Date TBC