
Media Statement

Government of Alberta Announces New Legal Aid Governance Agreement

**For Immediate Release
October 11, 2018**

Edmonton, Alberta – Today, the Honourable Rachel Notley, Premier of Alberta, and the Honourable Kathleen Ganley, Minister of Justice & Solicitor General, announced, on behalf of the Government of Alberta, Legal Aid Alberta and the Law Society of Alberta, the successful negotiation of a new Legal Aid Governance Agreement.

Working closely with Legal Aid Alberta and the Law Society of Alberta, the Government developed a new framework for Legal Aid Alberta to do their work.

“The new Agreement is the most dramatic improvement to Alberta’s legal plan in 40 years. More Albertans will have access to the family law and criminal duty counsel services they need. Providing legal services to people in need will resolve conflict more quickly, reduce other government expenditures, and improve quality of life.

The Agreement achieves the long-standing goal of predictable, adequate and sustainable funding. Increased collaboration with stakeholders and mandatory reviews of financial eligibility guidelines and tariff rates paid to lawyers will promote lasting stability. An innovative, responsive and modern framework for the delivery of necessary legal services, including enhanced cooperation between Legal Aid Alberta and the Alberta Government, will promote a more effective legal aid system.

We are proud of this Agreement and believe Legal Aid Alberta with have the necessary tools to carry on their vital work in helping Albertans.” – Kevin Feth, QC, Chair, Law Society of Alberta Legal Aid Negotiation Team, Law Society of Alberta Legal Aid Task Force.

“On behalf of the Law Society, I want to thank the Government, Legal Aid Alberta, the Legal Aid Task Force and members of the Legal Aid Negotiation Team for their hard work and commitment. Their contributions have helped us create a more robust legal aid system.” – Don Cranston, QC, President of the Law Society of Alberta.

To learn more about Legal Aid, visit their website at www.legalaid.ab.ca.

-30-

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