



Legal Aid Manitoba
Aide juridique Manitoba



Legal Aid Manitoba provides legal help to people with low incomes. We strive to serve all clients with respect and dignity.

Legal Aid works to ensure people with low incomes have the protections guaranteed in Canada by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, enacted as part of The Constitution Act in 1982.

Our service is fundamental to a fair and balanced justice system.

OUR KEY SERVICES

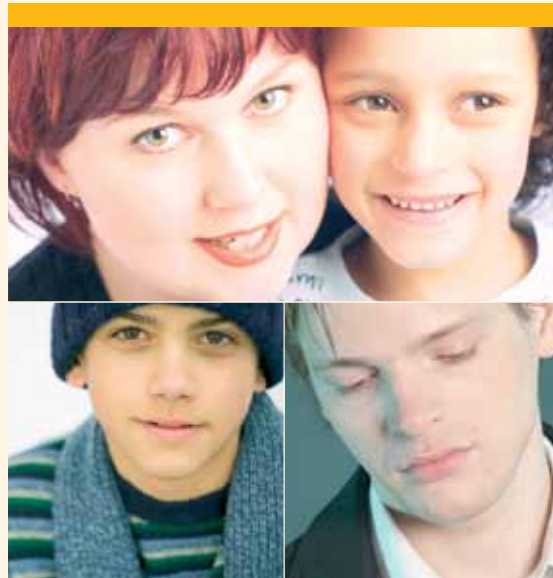
For those who qualify, we help:

- people with family issues such as divorce, child custody, maintenance enforcement and child protection matters
- adults and youth who are facing serious criminal charges
- people with disputes involving welfare, workers compensation or disability benefits
- groups and individuals with test cases in the areas of consumer, poverty, environmental, Aboriginal and Charter of Rights challenges
- we do **not** handle real estate transactions, wills and estates, adoptions, corporate and commercial matters, or civil litigation matters such as people suing each other

OUR HISTORY

In the 1930s and 1940s, The Law Society of Manitoba set up Canada's first program for poor people, so they might get free legal help. Lawyers volunteered their time. However, demand for legal services grew rapidly and lawyers quickly became overburdened with cases.

Legal Aid became a legislated program in Manitoba in 1971 and opened its doors to clients in 1972. Legal Aid Manitoba operates at arms length from government. We are funded by the Province of Manitoba, the Government of Canada, the Manitoba Law Foundation and fees paid by clients. Similar programs exist across Canada.



what is legal aid?



HOW TO GET LEGAL AID

Application Centre: Anyone can use this service to apply for Legal Aid. There is a \$25 non-refundable fee to process the application (the fee is waived for people who rely on social assistance). The Centre is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at 300-294 Portage Avenue. People are seen on a first come, first served basis.

Legal Aid Manitoba also helps people through its offices in Brandon, Dauphin, The Pas and Thompson and staff regularly travel to more than 40 rural and northern communities.

See the back of this brochure for contact information.

From court: Duty Counsel means legal assistance provided when a person first appears in court facing a criminal charge. Legal Aid Manitoba provides Duty Counsel in many criminal and youth courts throughout the province. This is a free service for people with low incomes.

From jail: Every person detained by police or RCMP has the right to contact a lawyer. Legal Aid offers a 24 hour service for custody calls at 1-800-672-1043 (in Winnipeg at 985-8570).

Other help: Legal Aid staff provide help to people at shelters, crisis centres and mental health facilities as needed. Staff assist inmates dealing with prison and parole issues at several correctional institutions. Staff are also involved in community outreach and make presentations to community groups and schools.

Our legal services are provided through a mixed delivery system using staff lawyers and private bar lawyers who are paid a set fee for each case they handle. Lawyers working for Legal Aid Manitoba are fully qualified professionals in good standing with the Manitoba Law Society. Staff lawyers supervise a team of paralegals and law students.



how does someone get legal aid?

CONTACT US

24 hour service for people in custody:
Phone: 1-800-672-1043
(or in Winnipeg 985-8570)

LEGAL AID MANITOBA OFFICES

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

402-294 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0B9
TEL: 985-8500
or 1-800-261-2960
TTY TEL: 943-1131

AGASSIZ LAW OFFICE

416-294 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0B9
TEL: 985-5230

APPLICATION CENTRE

Open Tuesday,
Wednesday and Thursday
1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
300-294 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0B9
TEL: 985-8500

CRIMINAL LAW OFFICE

514 St. Mary Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0N6
TEL: 985-8570

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE

610 - 294 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0B9
TEL: 985-8540

SOMERSET LAW OFFICE

300-294 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0B9
TEL: 985-8550

WINNIPEG LAW OFFICE

807-294 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0B9
TEL: 985-9732

WESTMAN

COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE (BRANDON)

236 - 11th Street
Brandon, MB R7A 4J6
TEL: 1-800-876-7326 or
729-3484

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE (DAUPHIN)

31 - 3rd Avenue N.E.
Dauphin, MB R7N 0Y5
TEL: 1-800-810-6977 or
622-7000

NORTHLANDS COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE (THE PAS)

Box 2429
236 Edwards Avenue
The Pas, MB R9A 1M2
TEL: 1-800-268-9790 or
627-4820

THOMPSON COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE (THOMPSON)

3 Station Road
Thompson, MB R8N 0N3
TEL: 1-800-665-0656 or
677-1211

THOMPSON NORTH CENTRE OFFICE (THOMPSON)

2nd floor - 3 Station Road
Thompson, MB R8N 0N3
TEL: 1-866-318-4037 or
677-1342

www.legalaid.mb.ca

contacting legal aid manitoba



FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION, VISIT THE SECTION ON OUR WEBSITE CALLED "GETTING LEGAL AID" AT www.legalaid.mb.ca

Legal Aid Manitoba provides legal help to people with low incomes. This can include people who are working.

The first step is to fill out a Legal Aid application form. There is a \$25 non-refundable fee to process the application (the fee is waived for people who rely on social assistance). If approved, it usually takes two weeks for a lawyer to be appointed.

To determine if someone is eligible, Legal Aid looks at the financial resources of the applicant including income, assets and debts and whether money will be available to pay legal fees at the end of the case.

Legal Aid Manitoba uses the following guidelines to determine who is eligible. These are guidelines only. We assess each applicant individually.

FAMILY SIZE	FREE LEGAL AID
1	\$14,000
2	\$18,000
3	\$23,000
4	\$27,000
5	\$31,000
6	\$34,000
More than 6	\$37,000

Based on gross family income.

Sometimes people have enough money to pay part or all of their legal fees. Legal Aid Manitoba may still provide a lawyer with the client agreeing to pay back Legal Aid on a monthly plan. This option is more affordable than hiring a private lawyer. People in the following range will be expected to pay back some of their Legal Aid fees.

FAMILY SIZE	PARTIAL PAY-BACK LEGAL AID
1	\$16,000
2	\$20,000
3	\$25,000
4	\$29,000
5	\$33,000
6	\$36,000
More than 6	\$39,000

Based on gross family income.

People in the following financial range may get a Legal Aid lawyer but will be required to pay back all of their Legal Aid fees on a monthly plan.

FAMILY SIZE	FULL PAY-BACK LEGAL AID
1	\$23,000
2	\$27,000
3	\$31,000
4	\$34,000
5	\$37,000
6	\$40,000
More than 6	\$43,000

Based on gross family income.

Legal Aid Manitoba's Management Council sets eligibility guidelines.

more about legal aid services

Since 2002, the **Child Protection Unit** has been offering an innovative service at four Winnipeg courtrooms devoted to child protection matters. Low income parents who arrive at court without an attorney are provided with immediate information, legal advice and short-term representation by a lawyer working for Legal Aid Manitoba. A team of lawyers and a paralegal provide follow-up assistance. Almost all cases are resolved before going to trial. The result is a more timely service for parents and one that is more cost effective for the justice system. The Child Protection Unit is located within the Somerset Law Office.

The Collaborative Law Project is an alternative service for some couples. The goal is to resolve issues pertaining to divorce, separation, time sharing for children, spousal support, child support and property division through negotiated settlement with both parents and their lawyers, without going to court. The idea is to help parents find common ground in the best interests of the child, as opposed to a more adversarial approach of building a case against each other. Collaborative law is an efficient and effective new option within family law.

The Public Interest Law Centre is a unique service in Canada, taking on test cases for public interest groups and low income individuals. It focuses on consumer, poverty, environmental, Aboriginal and Charter of Rights challenges. It was established in 1982 and has had significant victories enhancing the lives and law for all Manitobans.

The Poverty Law Unit accepts eligible cases with merit that have a likelihood of success pertaining to income security and housing issues. These include appeals of decisions by social assistance, Canada Pension Plan disability, Workers Compensation, and the Personal Injury Protection Plan under Manitoba Public Insurance, as well as Residential Tenancies Branch cases. The Poverty Law Unit is attached to the Public Interest Law Centre.

The University Law Centre, located on the University of Manitoba Fort Garry campus, is staffed by second and third year law students who volunteer their time. They are supervised by staff lawyers and the law professor overseeing the Centre. Clients are generally referred by other Legal Aid staff and clients must make an appointment. The majority of cases are criminal code offences that are not likely to end in jail time. If there is a reasonable possibility of incarceration, cases are referred back to Legal Aid and a lawyer is assigned.

serving manitoba

Legal Aid Manitoba serves rural and northern Manitobans through five regional offices. Lawyers and paralegals regularly travel to more than 40 outlying communities.

WESTMAN COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE (BRANDON)
Serves Brandon and surrounding area with regular visits to Neepawa, Minnedosa, Russell, Rossburn, Waywayseecappo, Virden, Sioux Valley and Killarney.

PARKLANDS COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE (DAUPHIN)
Serves Dauphin and surrounding area with regular visits to Ashern, Amaranth, Swan River, Roblin, Ebb & Flow First Nation, Camperville, Lake Manitoba First Nation and Sandy Bay First Nation. Service is provided to other communities on an expressed need/as is possible basis.

NORTHLANDS COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE (THE PAS)
Serves The Pas and surrounding area with regular visits to Flin Flon, Cranberry, Portage, Pukatawagan, Moose Lake, Easterville and Grand Rapids. Also provides service to people from

Cormorant, Sherridon and Wanless, and to several nearby Saskatchewan communities including Creighton, Sturgeon Landing and Hudson Bay.

THOMPSON COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE & NORTH CENTRE OFFICE (THOMPSON)

Each office serves Thompson and surrounding area with regular visits to Churchill, Lac Brochet, Brochet, Split Lake, Oxford House, God's Lake Narrows, God's River, Shamattawa, Norway House, Cross Lake, Gillam, Nelson House, Lynn Lake, South Indian Lake and Leaf Rapids. Service is also provided to people from Ilford, Wabowden and Granville Lake.

QUICK FACTS

In 2007-2008, Legal Aid Manitoba provided assistance on a formal or informal basis to 80,919 people.

Visit our website at www.legalaid.mb.ca for detailed information about Legal Aid Manitoba.

