

28 - 2015

NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION**ACCESS TO JUSTICE INITIATIVE**

In [Notice to the Profession 25-2014](#), Legal Aid Manitoba (LAM) was proud to announce that since April 1, 2014 and October 1, 2014 respectively, the Executive Director, with the approval of Management Council, has been exercising his discretion, and determining that Agreement to Pay contracts, (ATP) are not required from applicants whose income falls within the following financial eligibility guidelines:

Family Size	Partial Contribution Range Gross Family Income	Full Contribution Range Gross Family Income
1	14,000 – 16,000	16,000 – 23,000
2	18,000 – 20,000	20,000 – 27,000
3	23,000 – 25,000	25,000 – 31,000
4	27,000 – 29,000	29,000 – 34,000
5	31,000 – 33,000	33,000 – 37,000
6	34,000 – 36,000	36,000 – 40,000
> 6	37,000 – 39,000	39,000 – 43,000

Applicants within the following gross income ranges will continue to be financially eligible to receive legal aid without having to contribute to the cost of their representation:

Family Size	Gross Family Income
1	23,000
2	27,000
3	31,000
4	34,000
5	37,000
6	40,000
> 6	43,000

In the interest of increasing access to justice and legal representation for low income individuals, the “working poor”, and groups, the Management Council of LAM has approved the re-introduction of the ATP program concept on a pilot project basis.

As part of the ATP program, applicants will be provided with the opportunity of obtaining legal representation services if they:

- meet LAM’s merit criteria in accordance with [The Area Directors’ Manual](#);
- have a demonstrated ability to pay; and
- fall within the following financial guidelines

Family Size	Gross Family Income
1	23,000 – 35,000
2	27,000 – 45,000
3	31,000 – 50,000
4	34,000 – 54,000
5	37,000 – 57,000
6	40,000 – 60,000
More than 6	43,000 – 60,000

As part of the pilot project, lawyers retained by LAM are guaranteed payment in accordance with LAM’s [Taxation Manual](#), and the client is required to make regular monthly payments (\$100) to pay for the legal costs of their case over a period of time.

LAM continues to be committed to increasing access to justice by establishing sustainable, scalable and accessible full representation programs for low income individuals, the “working poor”, and groups.