



## 55 - 2024 NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION

### Timely Closing of Files issued pursuant to s. 25 of the YCJA

When a certificate is issued pursuant to s. 25 of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA)* we would ask that counsel make efforts to bill and close those matters in a timely manner so that appropriate recovery can be made within a reasonable time.

### Discontinuing Use of Paper Applications

LAM continues to seek opportunities to reduce unnecessary expenses associated with our application process. LAM has made changes to centralize our Intake Department for the entire province, and we continue to seek opportunities to streamline our application process. Starting on April 1, 2024 LAM will no longer accept paper applications being mailed in or dropped off at any of our offices. Counsel from all regions can submit applications by facsimile at 204 944-8582 or by email at: [wpgapp@legalaid.mb.ca](mailto:wpgapp@legalaid.mb.ca).

### Immigration Tariff Update

Over the past year, LAM has been meeting with various stakeholders in the Immigration Field to review the current Immigration Tariff as set out in the Tariff of Fees. This tariff has remained effectively unchanged, other than the nominal rate, since at least 1998. LAM is very appreciative of Philip Zayed, Shimon Segal, Amado Claros and Dan Gilson who have put substantial time, thought and effort into the review of this tariff.

Immigration services are provided in accordance with an Agreement between the Federal Government and Legal Aid Manitoba and the continuation of those services remains contingent on the Federal Government continuing to fund those services. Provincial funds are not used for Immigration coverage.

Effective April 1, 2024 the Tariff of Fees will be amended to include the new Part 4.1 as attached. All certificates issued on or after April 1, 2024 will be subject to the new tariff. Counsel who have certificates which issue to counsel between Monday February 26<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> will have the option of seeking a discretionary increase to account for the change of the tariff. One of the major changes to the tariff is the move to a block fee tariff. **However, for all certificates issued prior to April 1, 2024 itemized time will still be required to meet the conditions of the existing tariff at the time of the issuance.**

A Professional Development session will be held in the next few weeks regarding this tariff. Dates will be provided as soon as they are set.

## **Additional Certificate Conditions**

As part of LAM's ongoing commitment to our mandate to provide quality legal services and Management Council's responsibility to evaluate the quality of services provided, two new conditions are being added to all LAM Certificates:

12. In signing this certificate I acknowledge and confirm:

- that I am competent to provide the legal services authorized by this certificate as required pursuant to Rule 3.1 of the *Code of Professional Conduct*;
- that I will provide the quality of service expected of a Lawyer pursuant to Rule 3.2 of the *Code of Professional Conduct*.

13. I agree that should the Law Society of Manitoba notify me that they are conducting an investigation regarding my competence or conduct on matters relating to this certificate I will inform the Executive Director in writing of that complaint.

## **Mileage and Per Diem Rates**

Travel and per diem rates are reviewed and may change over the course of each year. Accordingly, the rate in effect at the time of the authorized travel will be the amount that is paid to counsel.