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If you meet our financial eligibility guidelines, Legal Aid Alberta may be able to assist you with completing any forms that the Central Authority in Alberta provide to you. In addition, you will also need to contact the Legal Aid organization in the foreign country or state for coverage. There are sure signs that spring has sprung: temperatures rise, flowers bloom, and, at Legal Aid Alberta, summer students join the team and begin their placements. This team of five students brings fresh energy and enthusiasm to LAA. Eager to learn and grow, they are ready to work alongside our experienced lawyers, and to make a real difference in the communities we serve. Tanisha Kumar is originally from Ottawa, completed her undergraduate degree at Western University in London, Ont., and is currently pursuing her law degree at the University of Calgary. She spent last summer working with Student Legal Assistance and brings a valuable background to her legal presence. This summer, Kumar is excited to begin her legal career in Calgary with LAA. Ethan Simmons, an Indigenous summer student, graduated from MacEwan University with a bachelor's degree in sociology, specializing in criminology. He joins the LAA youth criminal team with experience from the University of Alberta Student Legal Services Criminal Project, as well as academic research focused on inequality. Simmons enjoys running, cycling and golfing, but he's decided this summer will be about more than just sports. Sarquin Laboucane is a proud member of the Métis Nation of Alberta, with connections to Fort McMurray First Nation and the Laboucane Settlement. Born and raised in Edmonton, she is currently a third-year law student at the University of Victoria. Her academic and professional background in social work, as well as experience in government and youth services guided her interest in community-focused legal work. Evelyn Izsak is originally from Edmonton and has just completed her second year of law school at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, B.C. Before law school, Izsak worked at Boyle Street Community Services with the Ubuntu Program, where she witnessed the complex challenges faced by families in the child welfare system. Her deep passion for access to justice and advocacy for vulnerable populations led her to LAA. Alexia Yeung has just wrapped up her second year at Dalhousie University in Halifax. She completed her Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Alberta, and she calls Edmonton home. As a people-oriented person, Yeung is excited to contribute to LAA's mission and support clients professionally and with empathy. This summer will be a meaningful chapter for our students as they engage with the realities faced by many disadvantaged Albertans and gain hands-on experience with complex legal and social challenges. Our senior lawyers are proud to support the next generation of legal professionals committed to advancing access to justice. On a Friday morning in Calgary's youth criminal court, the hallway is packed. A father anxiously waits for news about his son, who's in custody. A nervous teenage girl arrives with an adult companion. Some kids have lawyers. Many don't. That's where Legal Aid Alberta duty counsel lawyer Marcus Threndyle steps in. "Hi, my name is Marcus, I'm duty counsel," he says to one youth, before pivoting to help a mother whose son will soon appear in court by video. The docket is full. The pace is relentless. Yet Threndyle listens patiently, guiding each person through the initial stages of the legal process. As duty counsel, Threndyle represents young people who arrive without legal representation. He prepares for court the night before, but every morning brings surprises. New arrests, language barriers, urgent legal questions. On this day, it's particularly hectic. Three new youths were picked up by police overnight, one needing a translator. Threndyle arranges it all. "I'll talk to your son and the prosecutor," he tells one parent. "Then I'll come back and see you." Legal Aid Alberta lawyers like Threndyle are essential to the justice system, especially for vulnerable youth, making sure their rights are protected and they are heard in court, regardless of their situation and means. We can help! Just outside the courtroom, a sign on the wall reads: Legal Aid Alberta Youth Criminal Duty Counsel—We can help. It's more than a piece of paper—it's a starting point. For many young people and their families, this is their first encounter with the justice system. "He's busy. He's so kind," one person says outside court. It's a common sentiment. Inside the courtroom, Threndyle speaks on behalf of kids with no lawyer. In one case, the charge is withdrawn. In another, a youth pleads guilty with Marcus by their side. He helps them understand the process, the consequences and the path forward. From preparing files to appearing in court, Threndyle's daily work at the Calgary Courts Centre is absolutely vital. "The criminal justice system is intimidating and confusing," Threndyle says. "At Legal Aid Alberta we help by offering compassion and direction." "The right to a lawyer includes the right to understand and be understood." serious criminal charges youth criminal charges family law and child welfare matters family violence mental health matters adult guardianship or trusteeship matters (when you are the subject of the application) income support matters immigration matters and refugee claims complete contact information (phone number, mailing address, email address, driver's license, or ID card number) documents that prove your financial situation (your last pay stub, bank statements, or income support statements) documents that prove your spouse or partner's financial situation any court dates that are in place any court applications or claims you have made any legal documents you have been served with criminal charge documents (your promise to appear or undertaking to a peace officer) referral from duty counsel immigration documents (your basis of claim) any documents relating to your legal matter Legislated Provincial Crown Corporation Legal Services Society Act, SBC 2002, c 30 Governance Agreement The Legal Profession Act provides that the Minister, the Law Society, and Legal Aid may enter into an agreement respecting the operation by Legal Aid Alberta of a plan to provide legal aid to persons in need of it in civil matters or criminal matters or both. Legal Profession Act, RSA 2000, c L-8 Governance Agreement /laws/stat/rsa-2000-c-l-8/latest/rsa-2000-c-l-8.html wp/content/uploads/2024/09/Legal-Aid-Governance-Agreement-2024-2029.pdf Legislated Described as a body corporate and Crown agency. Governed by the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission. Legal Aid Act, SS 1983, c L-9.1 The Legal Aid Regulations, 1995, RRS c L-9.1 Reg 2 overview/ 2024_01_19-REVISED-2022-2023-Annual-Report.pdf Legislated Provincial Crown Corporation operates at arm's length from the government. Legal Aid Manitoba Act, C.C.S.M. c.L105 Legal Aid Regulation, Man Reg 22/91 lam/governance/ wp-content/WordPress/PDF/ Corporate_Directors_Manual .pdf Legal Aid Services Act, 2020, SO 2020, C 11, Sch 15 more/corporate/about-lao-landing-page/lasa2020/lasa-2020-rules-and-policies/ Commission des services juridiques (Quebec) Act respecting legal aid and the provincial of certain other legal services, CQLR c A-14 12 in force regulations; most are related to tariffs or fees rendered under the act commission-des-services-juridiques/Commission/ Historique/en New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission (NBLASC) Legislated The Commission operates under the framework of the Legal Aid Act and regulations. Legislation describes the commission as a body corporate. NBLASC is a Part IV Crown Corporation Legal Aid Act, RSBN 2014, c 26 General. NB Reg 2017-12 NBLASC-ANNUAL-REPORT-2012-2013_FINAL.pdf Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission (NSLA) Legislated The Legal Aid Act governs the circumstances and conditions under which Legal Aid will be granted. The Act also created the Commission and made it responsible for all matters relating to legal aid in Nova Scotia. Legal Aid Act, RSNS 1989, c 252 Legal Aid General Regulations and Tariff of Fees, NS Reg 77/77 about-us/ wp-content/uploads/2001/01/ History-of-Legal-Aid-Updated-November-2017.pdf Prince Edward Island Legal Aid Direct provincial government service. It is found on the Justice and Public Safety section of the government website. Legal Aid Act, RSNL 1990, c L-11 Legal Aid Regulations, CNLR 1010/96 island.ca/en/information /justice-and-public-safety/legal-aid Legal Aid NL (Newfoundland and Labrador) Legislated The Legal Aid Commission operates under the Legal Aid Act Legal Aid Act, RSNL 1990, c L-11 Legal Aid Regulations, CNLR 1010/96 about/ detail/?id=673& files/Legal-AidAnnualReport2020-21.pdf General questions about LAA Reporting to the board of directors, John is responsible for the executive planning and coordination of the organization. He also represents the organization in dealing with Alberta Justice, the Law Society of Alberta, the federal government, other legal aid plans in Canada, the legal community, and the public. Skip to content Featured Home Page, LAA News, News