

National Report: Narrative

Over the past five years between 2005-06 to 2009-10 total expenditures on legal aid increased by 17.2% from \$650.3 millions to \$762.4 millions. This represents an increase of 11.9% in per capita expenditures from \$20.17 in 2005-06 to \$22.60 in 2009-10. However, growth appears to be slowing. Expenditures on legal aid grew by only 2.9% from 2008-09 to 2009-10, from \$742.2 millions to \$762.4.

Approved applications for service increased by 3.4% over the five-year period, from 441,228 in 2005-06 to 497,389 in 2009-10. However, the number of approved applications decreased from 504,924 in 2008-09 to 497,389 in 2009-10, representing a 1.5% decline. The balance between criminal and civil legal aid services remained about the same over the five-year period. In 2005-06, 54% of all services were for criminal legal aid, 30% for family legal aid, and 16% for other civil matters. In 2009-10, 56% of legal aid services were in criminal law matters, 27% for family and 17% for other civil matters.

The number of duty counsel services increased by 17.9% over the most recent five-year period from 1.3 million services in 2006-06 to 1.5 million in 2009-10. In the most recent year duty services increased by only 0.5%, indicating a possible slowing in the growth of this aspect of legal aid service.

Ab Currie
Department of Justice Canada
April 2011

National Report: Canada, International Legal Aid Group Conference, Helsinki, 2011*

Organization and jurisdiction	Total Expenditure 2009-2010 (000)	Provincial or Territorial Population 2009-2010 (000)	GDP billions\$ and (Per Capita GDP)	Delivery Model	% Government Funding	% Private Bar/Staff
Newfoundland Legal Aid Commission	10,845	508.9	\$24,970 (\$49,067)	Staff lawyer	99%	Criminal: 4:96 Family: 2:9 Other civil: 0:100
Prince Edward Island Legal Aid	N/A	141	\$4,750 (\$33,688)	Staff lawyer	100%	Criminal: -- Family: -- Other civil: --
Nova Scotia Legal Aid	21,589	938.2	\$34,283 (\$36,687)	Mainly staff lawyer	100%	Criminal: 14:86 Family: 30:70 Other civil: 4:96
New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission	N/A	749.5	\$27,497 (\$37,022)	Balanced staff and private bar	96%	Criminal: 51:49 Family: 76:24 Other civil: --
Commission des services juridiques (Québec)	135,285	7,828.9	\$303,748 (\$38,803)	Balanced staff and private bar	98%	Criminal: 62:38 Family: 48:52 Other civil: 42:58
Legal Aid Ontario	371,740	13,069.2	\$578,183 (\$44,240)	Predominantly private bar	92%	Criminal: 100:0 Family: 97:3 Other civil: 48:52
Legal Aid Manitoba	31,737	1,222	\$50,973 (\$41,369)	Mixed staff and private bar	87%	Criminal: 64:36 Family: 34:66 Other civil: --
Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission	21,675	1,030.1	\$56,553 (\$54,900)	Staff lawyer	97%	Criminal: 6:96 Family: 4:96 Other civil: 0:100
Legal Aid Society of Alberta	77,158	3,687.7	\$247,184 (\$67,029)	Private bar	83%	Criminal: 92:8 Family: 78:22 Other civil: 96:4
Legal Services Society (British Columbia)	79,312	4,455.2	\$191,006 (\$42,873)	Private bar	91%	Criminal: 99:1 Family: 98:2 Other civil: 99:1
Yukon Legal Services Society	1,714	33.7	\$2,026 (\$60,119)	Staff lawyer	97%	Criminal: 5:95 Family: 3:97 Other civil: 0:100
Legal Services Board of the	5,120	43.4	\$4,124 (\$95,023)	Mixed staff and private	98%	Criminal: 82:18 Family: 13:83

Northwest Territories				bar		Other civil: 40:60
Nunavut Legal Services Board	6,199	32.2	1,506 (46.77)	Balanced staff and private bar	100%	Crim.: 100:0 Family: 47:53* Other civil: 0:100*
Total	762,374	33,740	1,527,258 (\$45,266)	---	---	Criminal: 70:30 Family: 59:41 Other civil: 47:53

* All thirteen provincial and territorial legal aid commissions in Canada are budget-driven rather than demand-led.