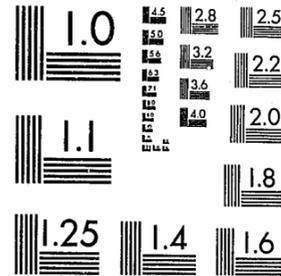


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Province of
British Columbia



ANNUAL REPORT

Legal Services Commission of British Columbia

81489

1978/79

U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

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ACQUISITIONS

CHAPTER I

Introduction

This Fourth Annual Report describes the Legal Services Commission's activities from April 1, 1978 to March 31, 1979.

The Legal Services Commission was created by an Act of the provincial legislature in 1975. The purpose of the Commission is "to see that legal services are effectively provided to, and readily obtainable by the people of British Columbia, with special emphasis on those people to whom those services are not presently available for financial or other reasons."

The Commission receives funding primarily from the provincial government through the Ministry of the Attorney-General, to ensure that legal services are available in the province. The Commission in turn funds agencies which directly provide legal services to the public. The Commission is primarily a funding and support agency for other organizations in the province which deliver legal services.

The Legal Services Commission Act defines "legal services" as including:

- (i) education, advice and information in or about the law;*
- (ii) any legal services that may be provided by a barrister and solicitor or a notary public."*

The Commission therefore funds two types of activities: direct legal services provided to an individual client, and indirect legal services in the form of education and information programs for the general public.

The direct legal services are provided by funded agencies such as the Legal Aid Society of B.C., the community law offices, the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association and the Elizabeth Fry Society. The indirect legal services are provided by Commission staff in the Schools Legal Education Program, the Library Services department, the Public Legal Education department and the Training department, and through numerous agencies or individuals funded by those departments, such as the

Vancouver People's Law School Society, Interior Public Legal Awareness Society, West Coast Environmental Law Society, etc. This report describes these activities.



Duncan W. Shaw

The Legal Services Commission Act provides for the appointment of five Commissioners. Two are appointed by the provincial cabinet, two by the Law Society of British Columbia, and one by the provincial Attorney-General after consultation with the federal Minister of Justice. The Commissioners of the Legal Services Commission for 1978/79 were as follows:

Duncan W. Shaw, Commissioner & Chairman

Peter Manson, Commissioner
(to February, 1979)

W.J. Wallace, Commissioner

David Smith, Commissioner

Elizabeth O'Kiely, Commissioner *from*
September, 1978)

Duff Waddell, Commissioner *(from*
February, 1979)

The senior staff of the Commission for 1978/79 were:

Executive Director – **Jack Kent**
(to August 1978)

– **Penny Bain**
(from August 1978)

Director, Public Legal Education/Legal Information Services –

Marian E. Richeson
(to September 1978)

Director, Legal Information Services –

Margaret O'Brien
(from September 1978)

Director, Public Legal Education –

Jeannette Dee
(from September 1978)

Director, Schools Legal Education Project –

Peter Ellis (to July 1978)
Wanda Cassidy

Director of Training – **Penny Bain**

Director of Native Legal Services –

Lou Demerais (from January 1979)

Commission Counsel – **Dan Maas**

Controller – **Barbara Bell** (from
February 1979)

Training Officer/Community Law Office
Fieldworker

Carol Pfeifer (from October 1978)

On October 1, 1979, the Legal Services Commission and the Legal Aid Society amalgamated to form the Legal Services Society (see chapter 2). This will therefore be the final annual report of the Legal Services Commission.

CHAPTER II

Amalgamation

In August 1978, the Attorney-General, the Honourable Garde Gardom, proposed to the Chairman of the Legal Services Commission, Mr. Duncan Shaw, and the Chairman of the Legal Aid Society, Mr. Bryan Williams, that the Commission and the Legal Aid Society be amalgamated. The resources and personnel of the Commission and the Society would be merged in order to provide more effectively for the delivery of legal services in the Province.

The Chairman of the Commission forwarded the Attorney-General's proposal to each of the Commission's funded agencies for their consideration. Detailed submissions were received from a large number of interested parties. Most of the agencies supported the amalgamation, provided that the independence of the new organization to set goals and priorities was maintained.

In the fall of 1978, the Commissioners of the Legal Services Commission and the Board of Directors of the Legal Aid Society each prepared reports to the Attorney-General regarding the proposed amalgamation. Representatives of the two organizations then met to develop a consensus report for the Attorney-General. As a result, a basic agreement as to the objectives and mechanics of merger was formulated.

A Steering Committee consisting of four Commissioners, four members of the Legal Aid Society Board, and the executive directors of the two organizations was formed in late 1978. The executive directors were instructed to retain management consultants to plan the organizational structure of the amalgamated entity. The Commission's legal counsel was asked to prepare draft legislation. The Commission's executive director undertook a search for premises which could accommodate staff of the new entity.

The Steering Committee met once a month to consider policy questions relating to the proposed merger. Provisions to be included in legislation and the basic organizational

structure were approved. The Steering Committee also met with representatives of the community law offices to discuss their concerns.

Proposed legislation was prepared prior to the spring session of the provincial legislature. However, a provincial election was called shortly after the beginning of the session. The Government was returned to office and discussions regarding the legislation continued. The Steering Committee met with representatives of the Benchers of the Law Society and of the B.C. Branch of the Canadian Bar Association to hear their views.

The proposals regarding the proposed legislation were forwarded to the Attorney-General for his consideration. The Legal Services Society Act was introduced in the House in July and was passed unanimously on July 30, 1979. The Act was proclaimed in effect on October 1, 1979, thus creating the Legal Services Society.

The Act provides for the establishment of the Legal Services Society. The objects of the Society are to ensure that:

- "(a) services ordinarily provided by a lawyer are afforded to individuals who would not otherwise receive them because of financial or other reasons, and*
- (b) education, advice and information about the law are provided for the people of British Columbia."*

The Act provides that all assets, liabilities, obligations, property and records of the Commission and the Legal Aid Society are transferred to the Legal Services Society. The Legal Services Commission Act is repealed. The Act therefore creates a new organization incorporating the objects and resources of the former entities.

The Commission and the administrative staff of the Legal Aid Society have moved to new premises at 555 West Hastings in Vancouver, and since October 1, 1979 have been operating as the Legal Services Society.

Direct Legal Services**A. LEGAL AID SOCIETY**

The Legal Aid Society is funded by the Legal Services Commission to provide legal advice and counsel to persons who cannot afford to pay a private lawyer. The Legal Aid Society also receives funds from the B.C. Law Foundation and from the federal government.

The Society operates fourteen full time offices, located at Campbell River, Kamloops, Nelson, Prince Rupert, Victoria, Chilliwack, Kelowna, New Westminster, Surrey, Williams Lake, Cranbrook, Prince George, Vancouver and Nanaimo.

The Legal Aid Society also is assisted by private lawyers in nineteen other locations to act as area directors, who receive applications, determine eligibility and refer cases to lawyers in their areas. The area directors are located in Dawson Creek, Duncan, Fort Nelson, Golden, Mackenzie, Nakusp, Penticton, Powell River, Quesnel, Revelstoke, Richmond, Salmon Arm, Smithers, Squamish-Pemberton, Terrace, Tofino and Whitehorse.

Services

Over 60,000 applications for assistance

were taken in the 1978/79 fiscal year. Many of these were referred out for further assistance as shown in Tables I and II.

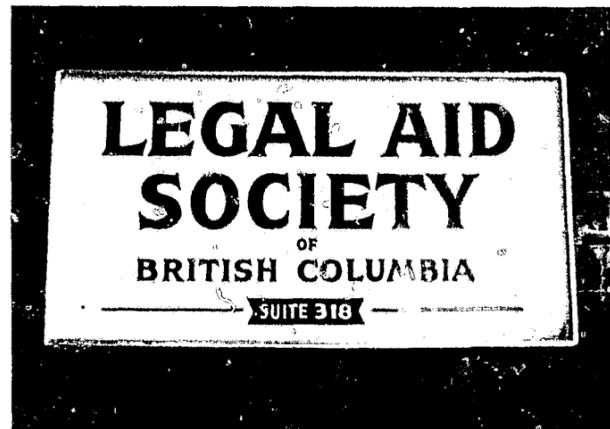
Criminal Law

Legal Aid is available to financially eligible applicants who are:

1. charged with an indictable offence,
2. charged with a federal summary conviction offence where there is a substantial likelihood that if convicted the person will receive a prison sentence or lose his means of earning a living,
3. for proceedings under the Juvenile Delinquents Act for which the applicant would qualify if he were an adult, and
4. for all proceedings under the Extradition Act and the Fugitive Offenders Act.

Applicants who qualify for criminal legal aid are referred to staff lawyers or to members of the private Bar who are paid for their services according to a provincial tariff schedule. If a client requests a specific lawyer, an effort is made to have that lawyer appointed, subject to availability.

Table I sets out the types of criminal cases handled by lawyers in private practice



on the criminal law tariff and the number of proceedings covered by Legal Aid in 1978-1979 for each type of offence.

TABLE I
CRIMINAL TARIFF BY TYPE OF OFFENCE

Type of Offence	1977/78		1978/79	
	No. of Proceedings	%	No. of Proceedings	%
Homicide	195	1.3	250	1.2
Sexual Offences	258	1.7	392	1.9
Assaults	1,259	8.4	1,623	7.9
Robbery	710	4.7	999	4.8
Breaking and Entering	2,120	14.1	3,013	14.7
Theft	2,321	15.4	3,373	16.5
Possession of Stolen Property	773	5.1	878	4.2
Frauds	1,108	7.3	1,598	7.8
Prostitution	148	1.0	179	0.8
Gaming and Betting	4	0.0	8	0.3
Weapons	546	3.6	676	3.3
Property	325	2.2	393	1.9
Escaping	412	2.7	544	2.6
Driving Offences	422	2.8	618	3.0
Drinking Offences	1,825	12.1	2,510	12.2
Other Criminal Code Offences	452	3.0	774	3.7
Narcotics Offences	1,992	13.2	2,201	10.7
Other Federal Offences	56	0.4	72	0.3
Provincial M.V. Offences	78	0.5	209	1.0
Other Provincial Offences	71	0.5	105	0.5
Municipal By-laws	0	0.0	7	0.3
TOTAL	15,075	100.0	20,422	100.0

Family Law

Legal aid is provided to financially eligible applicants with family law problems in the following circumstances:

1. respondents under the Family Relations Act,
2. parents under the Protection of Children Act,
3. applicants or respondents under the Children of Unmarried Parents Act, children in any family law matter in which they need independent representation,
4. all family law matters in County Court, Supreme Court of British Columbia,

British Columbia Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of Canada. The Ministry of the Attorney-General provides legal services for applicants in family court.

The types and numbers of cases handled by lawyers in private practice on the family law tariff in 1978-1979 are as set out in Table II.

TABLE II
FAMILY TARIFF BY TYPE OF PROCEEDING

Type of Proceeding	1977/78		1978/79	
	No. of Proceedings	%	No. of Proceedings	%
Family Relations Act				
Maintenance	511	11.2	667	11.0
Show Cause	75	1.6	169	2.8
Custody	515	11.3	617	10.2
Access	125	2.7	131	2.2
Other	96	2.1	132	2.2
Protection of Children Act	254	5.6	468	7.7
Children of Unmarried Parents Act	30	0.7	26	2.4
Interim Applications	57	1.3	48	7.8
Registrar's Hearing	62	1.4	59	8.9
Variation of Court Order	158	3.5	263	4.3
Divorce Act				
Defended	369	8.1	506	8.4
Undefended	1,991	43.8	2,594	43.0
Equal Guardianship of Infants Act	82	1.8	84	1.4
Adoption Act	14	0.3	26	0.4
Appeals	23	0.5	43	0.7
Other	186	4.1	213	3.5
TOTAL	4,548	100.0	6,046	100.0

Other Civil Cases

In areas where there are full time Legal Aid Society offices, staff lawyers provide legal advice and counsel in all aspects of civil law not covered by the family law tariff. This is subject to the exception that legal aid is not normally available for:

1. preparation of wills,

2. settling of estates,
3. controverting elections,
4. small claims court actions,
5. breach of promise to marry action, or
6. cases in which a private practitioner will accept a retainer on a contingency basis.

Duty Counsel

Duty counsel are staff lawyers or lawyers retained from private practice to be available at the courts to advise accused individuals. Duty counsel are provided in courts in the following areas: Vancouver, Courtenay, Powell River, Prince George, Sechelt, Kamloops, Williams Lake, Alert Bay, Victoria, Hope, Chilliwack, Kelowna, Ladysmith, Mission, Abbotsford, Surrey, Trail, Vernon, Nanaimo, Delta, Parksville, Burnaby, Vanderhoof, Langley, New Westminster, Richmond, Prince Rupert, Port Alberni, Campbell River, Port Hardy, Smithers, Ucluelet, Northern Court Circuit, and Pemberton.

Burnaby Criminal Defence Project

The Burnaby Criminal Defence Project began operating in October, 1978 with a staff of three lawyers, Keith Hamilton, Project Director, Rick Glazier and Murray Smith. The office was established to assess the feasibility of a criminal public defender project program. The office handles all criminal law legal aid cases in the Burnaby provincial courts, other than those matters which involve the very serious offences or where more than one co-accused is eligible for legal aid. The project is being evaluated by the federal Department of Justice to determine the effectiveness of the "public defender" model as a method of delivering legal aid services.

B. COMMUNITY LAW OFFICES

The Legal Services Commission funds a number of independent societies throughout the province which run community law offices. The community law office staff provides legal information and assistance to the public in these communities. These offices are located in a number of centres as set out below:

- Nanaimo Community Law Office
- Smithers Community Law Centre Society

- Legal Information Service (Maple Ridge)
- Abbotsford Community Legal Services
- The Law Centre/Community Action Legal Assistance (Victoria)
- Kamloops Civil Liberties Society
- South Okanagan Civil Liberties Society (Penticton)
- Powell River Civil Liberties Association
- Quesnel Human Rights and Civil Liberties Association
- Westminster Community Legal Services Society (New Westminster)
- Williams Lake Human Rights and Civil Liberties Society
- *Haida Counselling and Legal Assistance Society (Skidegate, Massett)
- *Upper Skeena Counselling and Legal Assistance Society (Hazelton)
- *Nicola Valley Friendship Centre (Merritt)

* Native Law Offices

The members of the Board of Directors of the community law offices are elected from their communities to ensure that the services provided by the office meet the needs of that particular community. The community law offices are funded under a contract with the Commission and are accountable to the Commission for the funds they receive and the type of services provided. The offices provide the Commission with regular reports on their finances, the numbers and types of cases handled, and their non-case activities such as public legal education programs and community development work.

The staff of the community law offices consists of staff lawyers (in six offices), legal information counsellors, secretaries and office administrators. The staff provides direct legal services to clients of the office as well as education and information programs for the general community. Approximately 90% of the clients of the community law office receive the following types of services:

1. provision of legal information,
2. assistance to be able to identify and understand their problems in legal terms,
3. assistance with court procedures and legal aid applications,
4. assistance in dealing with administrative tribunals and government departments,
5. referral to lawyers and other community services.

Matrimonial legal disputes and criminal law problems are the most common types of cases handled by the community law offices. Consumer problems, landlord and tenant conflicts, debt counselling, social

assistance and counselling on small claims court procedures also account for a significant amount of staff time. Table III sets out the types and numbers of problems routinely handled by the community law offices in 1978/79.

The community law offices also provide a number of indirect legal services to the community. These include legal information sessions and public legal education programs which are developed by each community law office to meet the needs of the individual community. Some examples include the witness demystification program conducted

by Victoria Law Centre, a prisoners' rights counselling program conducted by Abbotsford Community Legal Services, consumer law information programs

conducted by Powell River Civil Liberties Association, and legal information workshops conducted by the Haida Counselling and Legal Assistance Society.



TABLE III
TYPES OF PROBLEMS ROUTINELY HANDLED BY COMMUNITY LAW OFFICES

Major Problem Categories	# of cases per problem category (1978/79)	% of total 18,499 cases (1978/79)	% total cases in 1977/78
1. Matrimonial/family	4,160	22.5	21.8
2. Criminal	2,428	13.1	17.7
3. Consumer	1,822	9.8	8.0
4. Landlord/tenant	1,425	7.7	7.8
5. Debt	1,328	7.2	5.8
6. Social Assistance/welfare	1,181	6.4	6.0
7. Small Claims	1,026	5.5	4.5
8. Property/real estate	940	5.1	5.0
9. Income Tax	873	4.7	3.4
10. Motor Vehicle/ICBC	784	4.2	4.5
11. Labour	766	4.1	3.2
12. UIC	685	3.7	5.7
13. Wills/estates	665	3.6	3.5
14. Pension	588	3.0	2.5
15. Insurance	347	1.9	1.4
16. WCB	238	1.3	1.2
17. Human Rights	159	.9	.8
18. Lawyer Complaint	121	.7	1.0
19. Immigration	101	.5	.9
20. Municipal	86	.5	.5

C. NATIVE LEGAL SERVICES

Four of the community law offices, those in Hazelton, Merritt, and at Skidegate and Massett in the Queen Charlotte Islands are funded by the Native Legal Services branch of the Commission. These offices provide legal services to predominantly native communities with their main concern being the special needs of native people. The native community law offices provide counselling on civil matters, such as fishing rights and family law problems, in addition to providing information and education programs for the native community. The Native Legal Services branch also provides funding for legal information counsellors in Friendship Centres in Smithers, Port Alberni, Mission and Fort St. John.

D. VANCOUVER COMMUNITY LEGAL ASSISTANCE SOCIETY

The Vancouver Community Legal Assistance Society (V.C.L.A.S.) receives one-third of its funding from the Legal Services Commission.

The Society maintains three offices. The main office has four lawyers and three clerical staff. A second office operates from the University of British Columbia Law School and supervises the Law Students Legal Advice Clinics throughout Greater Vancouver. The third office, the Mental Patients' Advocate Project situated at Riverview Mental Hospital, is staffed by a full-time lawyer, a part-time supervising lawyer and a secretary.

The staff are involved in such programs as assisting low-income groups with problems under the Societies Act, welfare appeals,

landlord/tenant and U.I.C. cases, assistance in family law problems by telephone, and supervision of the law student clinics.

V.C.L.A.S. also has special programs which include work with the Labour Advocacy and Research Association towards the enforcement and improvement of farm labour laws, work with the Mental Patients' Advocate Project which is concerned with the legal problems of mental patients, and work towards the introduction of legislation for unorganized workers pertaining to wrongful dismissal.

Test cases or class actions are also undertaken by V.C.L.A.S. Cases taken during 1978/79 involved U.I.C. pregnancy benefits, U.I.C. regulations relating to writing off debts, exemption from sales tax on electricity for Indians on reserves, judicial review of a Workers Compensation Board decision, whether mental patients can be forced to work, and the right of the Ministry of Human Resources to demand assignment of personal injuries awards prior to granting welfare.

E. ELIZABETH FRY SOCIETY

The special needs of women in conflict with the law are serviced by the Elizabeth Fry Society of B.C. The Legal Services Commission funds Elizabeth Fry courtworkers in Vancouver and Kelowna.

The Elizabeth Fry Society employs staff courtworkers and organizes volunteers to provide courtworker services to men and women. The staff or volunteer courtworker interviews the client, making his/her first court appearance, provides information on court procedures and charges, arranges for lawyers for bail hearings or sureties for bail, makes referrals for legal counsel, takes applications for legal aid and provides general support. The Vancouver workers also provide counselling services through the court referral program.

The Society provides other services which are not funded by the Legal Services Commission such as the community access workers. At present there are two active workers providing services to both Lakeside Women's Unit (Oakhalla) and the minimum security facility, Twin Maples.

F. NATIVE COURTWORKERS AND COUNSELLING ASSOCIATION

The Native Courtworker and Counselling Association provides a courtwork service to native people charged with criminal offences. The Association employs forty-three courtworkers who are based in all areas of the province.

The courtworkers assist clients to understand court procedures; inform clients of their rights; provide information to the courts for adjournments, bail hearing, trials and sentencing; refer clients for legal assistance and other related services; counsel clients about their actions and problems; and identify and investigate problems and complaints in the delivery of justice services.

The courtworkers also conduct prevention programs designed to involve members of the native communities in juvenile court, to involve native offenders in community activities, to educate the community about the justice system, and to improve the delivery of justice services to native communities.

The Association also provides a prison liaison program to assist in the rehabilitation of native inmates. The prison liaison workers provide information on regulations, procedures and available services to inmates, provide counselling and referral for counselling, assist inmates to apply for early release, encourage native inmates to participate in institutional programs, develop special programs for native inmates, and assist families of native inmates.

The types of services provided by the

courtworkers in 1978/79 are set out in Table IV. Table V explains the types of

charges and the disposition of the cases of clients.



TABLE IV
NUMBER OF TIMES COURTWORKERS PROVIDED VARIOUS FORMS OF ASSISTANCE TO THEIR CLIENTS *

	1977/78	1978/79
1. Speaking to sentence	3,223	5,713
2. Locate interpreter or interpret	736	902
3. Probation supervision	2,378	2,968
4. Bail supervision	1,994	2,932
5. Breaching of bail - probation	650	835
6. Referral for legal assistance	5,328	9,419
7. Counselling - interview	13,377	19,085
8. Assistance with Family Court application	508	911
9. Referral to:		
a) Human Resources	1,172	1,600
b) Employment services	889	1,143
c) Alcohol counsellor	1,518	2,013
d) Educational institution	510	961
e) Other	1,042	2,803
10. Assistance with civil problem	2,783	4,466

* These figures represent the number of times each task is performed for all clients; for example, one client may be counselled a number of times.

TABLE V

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON NATIVE CLIENTS

Number of native people appearing in courts attended by Native Courtworkers during 1978 (Number of appearances on each charge by all clients)		
		20,275
Number of clients whose cases were completed in 1978		
		4,583
Client Description:	Number	Percent
1) Adult	4,225	91%
2) Juvenile	417	9%
3) Juvenile raised to adult court	5	0%
TOTAL	4,647	100%
Sex:		
1) Male	3,658	79%
2) Female	954	21%
TOTAL	4,612	100%
Representation at Trial:		
1) Lawyer paid for by self	209	5%
2) Lawyer paid by Legal Aid, etc.	1,591	41%
3) Lawyer from Community Law Office	42	1%
4) Lawyer acting free of charge	70	1%
5) Unrepresented except by Courtworker	2,014	51%
TOTAL	3,926	100%
Alcohol Related Offences:		
Offences where alcohol was involved	3,065	69%
Drug Related Offences:		
Offences where drugs were involved	320	7%
Charges:		
1) Criminal death by murder, manslaughter, criminal negligence, or an attempt	49	1%
2) Robbery, B & E (with violence, etc.) or an attempt	623	10%
3) Sex offences (Code S. 138 to 158, inclusive) or attempt	48	1%
4) Assault (in any form) or an attempt	470	7%
5) Theft, possession of stolen property, fraud, false pretences, or an attempt	1,217	19%
6) Damage to property, disturbing public peace, disorderly conduct, nuisance, fighting	466	7%
7) Driving offence (Code S. 234, 235, 236, etc.)	1,373	21%

8) Offences under Motor Vehicle Act	459	7%
9) Offence under Government Liquor Act	303	5%
10) Offence of possession of drugs (possession only)	182	3%
11) Weapons offence (possession, discharge, etc.)	111	2%
12) Fish and Wildlife Act offences	94	1%
13) Failure to appear - Breach of probation	338	5%
14) Other	767	11%
TOTAL	6,500	100%
Disposition:		
1) Stay of proceedings or charge dropped	1,396	22%
2) Plead guilty	3,685	59%
3) Acquitted after trial or discharge after preliminary	330	5%
4) Found guilty	793	13%
5) Pre-trial diversion	3	0%
TOTAL	6,234	100%
Sentence:		
1) Conditional or absolute discharge	338	6%
2) Community work service	226	4%
3) Probation	150	3%
4) Fine	42	1%
5) Fine with jail in default	139	2%
6) Prison	1,729	29%
7) Fine and probation	2,141	36%
8) Prison and probation	1,140	19%
TOTAL	5,955	100%
Number of clients supervised on probation	355	
Clients who indicate a desire to appeal (Total 2,815)	54	2%
Number of Protection of Children applications	241	

Indirect Legal Services

The Legal Services Commission provides a number of legal services to the public and the staff of funded agencies which do not involve direct contact between a lawyer and a client. These are known generally as indirect legal services. These services include the training of community legal workers, research into legal services issues, evaluation of funded agencies, co-ordination of public legal education programs, funding of legal collections in public libraries, provision of legal information services through the Legal Resource Centre, and development of legal education in schools. The indirect service programs develop a number of publications and audiovisual materials to assist the public to understand the law and legal process in British Columbia.

A. LEGAL INFORMATION SERVICES

The purpose of the Legal Information Services department is to: collect, produce and distribute legal information materials throughout British Columbia; support the establishment of legal information collections throughout British Columbia; train librarians as well as other providers of legal information, in legal reference and referral work; and deliver a direct legal information and referral service.

i) Legal Resource Centre

The Resource Centre houses a collection of print and audiovisual materials which are available to Legal Services Commission staff, funded agencies, and the public. The collection includes basic legal research materials, as well as most legal information published in Canada for the layperson, research materials in specialized areas of legal services, and information of interest to law teachers. The Legal Resource Centre staff also provides a telephone

and personal information service to funded agencies, to staff, and the public.

ii) Publications

Legal Information Services funds the production of publications designed to increase public understanding of legal services and to assist libraries in developing legal collections. Recent publications include the *Directory of Legal Services for B.C.*, *A Legal Collection For Non-Legal Libraries in B.C.*, *A Guide to Legal Research*.

iii) Funding and Training Programs for Libraries

The Legal Services Commission provides funds to create or maintain the legal collections of public libraries. At present, almost every public library system in the province has received a grant to improve its legal collection. The Legal Information Services staff provides training programs for the staff of the funded libraries and the Legal Information Services field worker consults on the maintenance of their legal materials. The funding program is also being expanded to include school libraries and other organizations such as prisons.

iv) Other Programs

Legal Information Services also funds information services such as the Talking Law program produced by Legal Services Commission staff on Vancouver Co-op Radio, and the Legal Referral Workshop which was held in Vancouver in the spring of 1979 to provide numerous agencies with an overview of the legal, social and government services available in the Lower Mainland.



Legal Referral Workshop

**B. PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION**

The goal of the Public Legal Education department is to provide adults with skills and legal information so that they can become more effective and responsible members of the community. The activities of the program include the funding of agencies active in public legal education, disseminating and clearinghouse activities, the providing of technical and production assistance to develop public legal education materials, and co-ordinating and encouraging involvement in public legal education programs by other law and education institutions.

i) Funded Organizations

The Public Legal Education department funds a number of public legal education organizations. The Vancouver People's Law School Society receives funding for the development, production and distribution of nine public legal education booklets, and support for a newspaper column distributed to 300 newspapers and newsletters. The Vancouver People's Law School Society also receives funding for a portion of its operating expenses. Through their regular programs they gave

208 courses in twenty-eight communities in 1978/79. The Vancouver People's Law School Society also produces a weekly cablevision program which is circulated and broadcast on the majority of cable stations throughout the province.

The Interior Public Legal Awareness Society received an operating grant for the continuation of its public legal education programs and workshops in the Kamloops and surrounding area. In 1978/79 the Society produced 75 courses in thirteen communities reaching 3,000 people in lectures and workshops. In addition they worked closely with the Justice Councils and with the schools in encouraging the use of law-related materials.

The Ethnic You and the Law program received an operating grant to produce a radio program on CJVB in Punjabi and Chinese. In 1978/79, 99 short programs on fourteen subject areas were recorded in Punjabi and ninety-seven programs on nineteen subject areas in Chinese. The program has also developed a number of short pamphlets in Punjabi and Chinese.

ii) **Special Grants**

The Public Legal Education department also provides smaller grants to community organizations to develop materials and workshops for their constituencies. These smaller grants have included: a series of rape and sexual assault workshops, twenty-one workshops on environmental law, a slide tape and teaching materials for farm and domestic workers, and a number of native public legal education workshops.

The Public Legal Education Program has also funded the development of a number of publications produced by community law offices, including the Law Centre's (Victoria) *Witness Demystification* booklet, Westminster Community Legal Services Society's *When I'm 64* booklet, and Abbotsford Community Services Society's *A Guide to Wills. The Courtwatchers Manual* was also completed in the fiscal year to assist teachers taking students to visit courts.

C. SCHOOLS LEGAL EDUCATION PROJECT

The purpose of the Schools Legal Education Project is to improve the quantity and quality of legal education in the British Columbia school system so that students may become more familiar with their responsibilities and rights as citizens under the rule of law and the concepts underlying this rule.

The Schools Legal Education Project has developed a number of curriculum materials for teachers, both in audiovisual and print format. The activities of the program also include teacher training, liaison with numerous legal and educational organizations, the production of a newsletter for teachers,

the organization of a courtwatching program, and the distribution of publications for use in the classroom.

i) **Curriculum Materials**

In the 1978/79 fiscal year, the Schools Legal Education Project developed sixteen new curriculum projects, a list of which is set out in Table VI. Most of these productions are aimed at the senior secondary level, primarily for use in Law 11 and General Business 12, although a major project for grades 4 to 7 was undertaken which will result in the production of two story books for children on legal issues accompanied by a teacher's manual.

ii) **Social Studies Curriculum Revision**

The Ministry of Education has set up a system for the revision of the Social Studies curriculum for grades 1 to 11, including the senior electives. The Schools Legal Education Project established a committee and wrote a brief to the Ministry of Education arguing for the inclusion of law in the revised curriculum. The brief was then followed up with specific recommendations on grades 7 to 11. This committee has continued to work with the Ministry to implement its proposals.

iii) **Teacher Workshops**

In 1978/79 the Schools Legal Education Project organized a total of fourteen workshops on substantive law and methodology. Workshops ranged from two-day in-depth sessions to hour-long participation in teacher professional days. In addition, the Schools Project staff conducted workshops on law at the annual Social Studies and Business

TABLE VI

CURRICULUM MATERIALS DEVELOPED IN 1978/79

1. **Children's Rights: Teacher Guide** This teaching package draws on two earlier publications of SLEP's but has considerably revised and updated the information to incorporate new legislation. Twenty-six lesson plans with a variety of suggested activities are included. There is also background reading material for the teacher and handouts for the students, as well as an annotated list of audiovisual materials on the subject.
2. **A Guide to Courtwatching** Prepared by lawyer Michael Kierans, this guide contains charts on the court system and a brief outline of the procedures involved in criminal and civil court cases. Designed for use by students visiting the courts.
3. **Criminal Law 12** SLEP provided funding for the implementation of a locally-developed Law 12 course at Chilliwack Senior Secondary School during the 1978-79 school year. The course consisted of an in-depth study of criminal law. SLEP provided teacher release time, materials, and student field trips.
4. **Family Law: Teacher Guide** A teaching package on family law was developed by former co-director of SLEP, Peter Ellis, based on materials produced by a summer student program funded by the Department of Justice. The package includes lesson plans, suggested activities, and numerous newspaper articles, and provides information on the recently-passed Family Relations Act.
5. **History of the Law: Parts I and II** "Common Law", the first in this two-part audiovisual production, traces the development of early English common law and explains the influence of common law on our present legal system. The second part, "Statute Law", examines the origins of government-made law in England and Canada. Extensive use is made of historical paintings, photographs, and cartoons.
6. **Law in the Elementary School** Two comic books on the adventures of two mythical characters, B. Justice and Wutz Fair, have been developed for school children in Grades 4/5 and 6/7. Both comic books are accompanied by teacher guides to give elementary teachers the necessary background.
7. **Mock Trial on Small Claims** This videotape shows Law 11 students and a judge in Powell River taking roles in a Small Claims Court mock trial depicting the purchase of a used car.
8. **Student Newspaper** A publication designed for direct student use, at both the junior and senior secondary level, this "newspaper" uses fictionalized newspaper reportage, cross-words, cartoons, and "Letters to the Editor" to convey legal information.
9. **B.C. Forestry Act** A teacher guide is currently being developed which will examine forestry licensing procedures and how representations can be made to effect these procedures. The history of forestry legislation and the development of current legislation will also be examined.
10. **Canadian Criminal Procedure - The Preliminary Inquiry and The Trial** An audiovisual dramatization which follows the arrest of an 18-year-old for theft over \$200 through the preliminary hearing to trial and sentencing. Teacher guide and student handbook describe Canadian criminal trial procedures and some fundamental principles of criminal law.

11. **Environmental Law** An introduction to environmental law and legislation illustrating the roles of the courts and government agencies involved. Emphasis will be on policy considerations upon which the law is based, as a means of understanding its growth and current status.
12. **Immigration Law** An illustrated history of Canadian immigration and immigration policy in an audiovisual presentation. An accompanying teacher guide provides information, questions, and suggested activities for an understanding of Canadian immigration law and its implications.
13. **Legal Implications of Mining** This project is part of a locally-developed course in Port Hardy called Mining 11. The legal unit will include studies of federal and provincial legislation and its effect on the mining industry and its employees.
14. **The Legal Situation of Farm and Domestic Workers** An audiovisual presentation combining interviews, narrative comment, and original photographs to outline the historical situation of farm and domestic workers. Accompanied by a teacher guide and student handbook which explores the legal issues related to these groups of people.

Education conferences, and displayed materials at other law-related conferences.

- iv) **Student Workshops**
In 1978/79 the Schools Legal Education Project organized four student workshops on topics such as women and the law, and youth and the law for secondary school students.
- v) **Newsletter**
The Schools Legal Education Project publishes a newsletter four times a school year for law teachers, librarians, and others involved in law and education throughout the province. Each issue is organized around a theme and includes a resource handbook section consisting of a bibliography on the theme, audiovisual materials and relevant legislation. Themes covered in this fiscal year include consumer law and

mock trials. The newsletter also contains regular columns on new cases and legislation.

- vi) **Courtwatching Program**
In 1978/79, 3,000 students in Greater Vancouver and Victoria participated in a courtwatching program. The program matched students from the University of British Columbia and University of Victoria Law Faculties with secondary level classes who visit Provincial or Supreme Court. The law student attends court with the school students and teachers, and answers questions regarding court process. Pre-court and follow-up visits are also conducted upon request. The program is assisted by the *Courtwatcher's Manual*, a publication developed by the Public Legal Education department and the Schools Legal Education Project.

vii) Publications

The Project is also continually involved in the revision and distribution of its publications to teachers and other interested individuals. A total of 12,224 publications were sold in the 1978/79 fiscal year, a three-fold increase over the previous year.

D. TRAINING

The training department is responsible for the training of community legal information workers and staff lawyers throughout the province. The goal of the department is to ensure competent delivery of direct and indirect legal services to the public by providing training programs for staff and personnel in funded agencies. The training department organizes workshops in various areas of the province for staff and provides funding for staff to attend programs organized by other agencies such as Continuing Legal Education and the law programs of community colleges.

Table VII sets out a list of workshops

conducted by the Legal Services Commission or attended by Commission funded staff in 1978/79. In addition, the Legal Aid Society conducted quarterly training sessions for staff lawyers and introductory courses for Legal Aid secretaries.

A major project of the training department has been the development of adequate training materials for para-legals. The Legal Services Commission brought together a group representing community law offices and the Vancouver People's Law School Society. The group was successful in receiving funding from the Department of Justice, the Law Foundation and Legal Services Commission to prepare training materials and a curriculum for a basic course for community legal information workers. Areas of law selected included legal institutions, family law, criminal law and administrative law. Researchers worked for eight months to develop the basic materials. The testing of the curriculum design of the materials will be completed with an evaluation of the project in two parallel training sessions to be conducted November 19-30, 1979 and December 3-14, 1979.

TABLE VII
TRAINING WORKSHOPS 1978/79

Date	Subject	Location	#attending funded by LSC
April 6-8 1978	The Law & The Elderly Conference (organized by Continuing Legal Education)	Vancouver	10
April 22 1978	Challenge of Change '78 Conference (organized by Greater Vancouver Legal Secretaries Association)	Vancouver	1
May 17-19 1978	Family Law Conference (organized by Continuing Legal Education)	Vancouver	33
*May 17 1978	Family Law Workshop	Vancouver	17

continued next page.

May 17-20 1978	Family Conciliation Courts (organized by Continuing Legal Education)	Vancouver	2
June 2 1978	Sentencing Seminar (organized by Continuing Legal Education)	Vancouver	6
June 12-14 1978	Developing Skills in Working with Boards & Committees (organized by Chautauqua by the Pacific)	Vancouver	4
June 15-16 1978	Consumer Law Seminar (organized by Continuing Legal Education)	Vancouver	5
*July 4-21 1978	Wills & Estates & Criminal Law	Vancouver	11
September-December 1978	Litigation Course (organized by Moore/Parry Ltd.)	Vancouver	2
*October 26-27 1978	Wills & Estates and Workers' Compensation	Vancouver	17
October 30- November 3, 1978	Legal Aid - Intro. Course (organized by the Legal Aid Society)	Vancouver	7
November 16-17 1978	Volunteer Board/Staff Workshop (organized by Continuing Legal Education)	Vancouver	4
*December 7-8 1978	Protection of Children & Family Law Workshop	Vancouver	20
*January 15-16 1979	Public Legal Education, Community Development & Native Legal Workshop	Vancouver	40
January 29- February 2, 1979	Female Offender Symposium (organized by Continuing Studies Simon Fraser University)	Vancouver	1
February 13-15 1979	Public Legal Education - P.A.C.I.F.I.C. (co-ordinated by Commission staff)	Richmond	10
March 2 1979	Greater Vancouver Legal Secretaries Association (organized by Greater Vancouver Legal Sec. Assoc.)	Vancouver	1
*March 6 1979	In-house Workshop with Legal Aid	Vancouver	35
March 1979	National Conference on Freedom of Information (co-ordinated by University of Victoria)	Victoria	1
March 1979	Prevention of Crime Corrections Conference (co-ordinated by Fraser Valley College & Canadian Association for Prevention of Crime)	Harrison Hot Springs	3
March 16 1979	Management by Results Workshop (organized by Management & Fund Raising Centre - Toronto)	Vancouver	12
*March 26-28 1979	Small Claims Workshop	Vancouver	19

continued next page.

March 27-30 1979	The Incarcerated Offender (organized by Fraser Valley College & the Canadian Association for the Prevention of Crime)	Harrison Hot Springs	1
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* These training workshops were organized by LSC staff.

E. RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

The staff Commission Counsel is responsible for research into the legal services issues and the evaluation of services and programs funded by the Commission. Counsel's work in this area included implementation of a client information reporting system and activity report system for community law offices, designing and administering community feedback questionnaires and client satisfaction questionnaires, attending external evaluation meetings at community law offices, and participating in the Federal Department

of Justice evaluations of the Burnaby Criminal Defence Project, the Mental Patients Advocacy Project, and the Native Courtworker and Counselling Association.

In addition, Commission Counsel was also responsible for the legal work within the Commission. The work in this area included the drafting of funding contracts for community law offices, negotiation of leases, preparing legal opinions for the Commissioners or the Executive Director, and reviewing proposed publications for legal content.



Penny Bain, Executive Director, Legal Services Commission



Bryan Ralph, Executive Director, Legal Aid Society

The Commission is required by Section 14 of the Legal Services Commission Act to include in this Report an audited financial statement for the preceding fiscal year. Such a statement is set out in Appendix A to this Report.

The Act also requires the Commission to submit a draft budget for the next fiscal year. A synopsis of this draft budget for the year April 1, 1978 to March 31, 1979 is set out as Appendix B to this Report.

**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR PRECEDING YEAR**

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Attorney-General
Province of British Columbia:

I have examined the statement of financial position of the Legal Services Commission as at 31 March 1979 and the statements of income and expenditure and surplus for the year then ended. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Commission as at 31 March 1979 and the results of its operations and changes in surplus for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles which, except for the change relating to the recording of library acquisition costs as referred to in note 2 to the financial statements, have been applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.



Erma Morrison, C.A.
Auditor-General
Victoria, British Columbia
29 June 1979, except
note 6 which is as of
30 July 1979

LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Notes to the Financial Statements
March 31, 1979

1. Significant Accounting Policies

a) Tariffs are amounts billed to and approved by the Legal Aid Society for solicitors fees and costs associated with providing legal aid to persons in need. The approved bills are paid by the Province of British Columbia, through the Ministry of the Attorney-General, and are charged as grants made by the Province to the Legal Services Commission.

b) Fixed asset costs of the Commission are amortized over five years on a straight line basis.

2. Change in Accounting Policy

A change in accounting policy in regard to library expenditures was adopted by the Commission during the 1979 fiscal year. In accordance with this change library acquisitions are being charged to expenditures in the current fiscal year and an adjustment of \$26,438 relating to prior years' acquisitions was made to surplus.

3. Fixed Asset Amortization

	1979		1978	
	Cost	Amortization	Net Book Value	Net Book Value
Furniture & Equipment	\$ 44,960	\$ 21,812	\$ 23,148	\$ 26,693

4. Recoveries from Projects

Under the terms of the contracts between the Commission and the Community Law Offices and other Societies, any surpluses accumulated by the grantees from funds paid by the Commission at each fiscal year-end are refundable to the Commission. During the 1978/79 fiscal

year \$31,915 was recovered. As at 31 March 1979 it was estimated that under-expenditures recoverable under contracts will approximate \$50,000. These amounts have been recorded in the accounts. In 1978 a total of \$94,488 was charged to operations as unrecovered surpluses from the 1976/77 fiscal year.

5. Information, education and training

During 1978/79 the operations of this department were segregated into the departments of Public Legal Education, Legal Information Services and Training and the costs are shown separately on exhibit B. The related comparative figures for 1978 have been restated to conform with the presentation adopted for the 1979 fiscal year.

6. Subsequent event

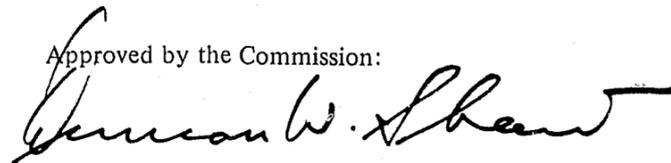
On 30 July 1979 Bill No. 27 entitled the Legal Services Society Act was passed by the Legislative Assembly. The Act provides for the amalgamation of the Legal Aid Society and the Legal Services Commission and repeals the Legal Services Commission Act. The Act comes into force on a date to be fixed by proclamation.

LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Statement of Financial Position
As at March 31, 1979

	1979	1978
Assets		
Cash and term deposits	\$ 159,779	\$ 238,362
Accounts receivable	142,090	256
Provision for recoveries from projects (note 4)	50,000	—
Prepaid expenses	972	5,000
Fixed assets (note 3)		
Furniture & equipment	23,148	26,693
Library (note 2)	—	36,438
	<u>\$ 375,989</u>	<u>\$ 306,749</u>
Liabilities and Surplus		
Accounts payable	\$ 208,730	\$ 120,111
Surplus — EXHIBIT C	<u>167,259</u>	<u>186,638</u>
	<u>\$ 375,989</u>	<u>\$ 306,749</u>

Approved by the Commission:



Duncan W. Shaw — Chairman



David G. Smith — Member

The six accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

EXHIBIT A

LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Statement of Income and Expenditure
For the Year Ended March 31, 1978

	1979	1978
Income		
Province of British Columbia	\$ 9,912,500	\$ 7,275,491
Government of Canada	423,779	350,000
Interest income	31,547	29,088
Miscellaneous income	13,270	4,819
Law Foundation of British Columbia	—	25,000
	<u>10,381,096</u>	<u>7,684,398</u>
Expenditure		
Funding:		
Legal Aid Society — operating grants	1,745,191	1,048,766
Legal Aid Society — tariffs (note 1)	4,696,125	3,805,249
Native Courtworker and Counselling Association	1,106,225	957,725
Community law offices	1,187,003	943,750
Public schools	206,306	147,252
Public legal education	215,065	152,930
Legal information services	187,607	103,383
Training	94,584	65,745
Native programs	525,400	441,581
Other projects	109,416	114,894
Recoveries from projects (note 4)	(81,915)	94,488
	<u>9,991,007</u>	<u>7,875,763</u>
Administration costs	<u>373,030</u>	<u>405,617</u>
	<u>10,364,037</u>	<u>8,281,380</u>
Excess of income over expenditure (expenditure over income) — EXHIBIT C	<u>\$ 17,059</u>	<u>\$ (596,982)</u>

EXHIBIT B

LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Statement of Surplus
For the Year Ended March 31, 1979

	1979	1978
Surplus -- beginning of year	\$ 186,638	\$ 783,620
Excess of income over expenditure for the year (excess of expenditure over income) -- EXHIBIT B	17,059	596,982
Deduct -- adjustment of prior years' surplus Library costs (note 2)	36,438	-
Surplus -- end of year -- EXHIBIT A	<u>\$ 167,259</u>	<u>\$ 186,638</u>

EXHIBIT C

LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Projects
For the Year Ended March 31, 1979

	1979	1978
Community Law Offices	\$ 66,910	\$ 55,605
Nanaimo Community Law Office	113,565	98,296
Smithers Community Law Centre Society	67,407	57,000
Legal Information Service -- Maple Ridge	139,382	76,683
Matsqui, Sumas, Abbotsford Community Services	116,505	102,630
Greater Victoria Community Action Legal Assistance	64,004	61,569
Kamloops Civil Liberties Society	77,808	70,805
South Okanagan Civil Liberties	77,767	70,170
Powell River Civil Liberties	91,869	61,044
Quesnel Human Rights and Civil Liberties Association	62,096	52,387
Williams Lake Human Rights and Civil Liberties Association	70,000	40,000
Vancouver Community Legal Assistance Society	127,932	115,334
New Westminster Legal Assistance Society	106,123	82,227
Elizabeth Fry Society	5,635	-
B.C. Civil Liberties Association		
EXHIBIT B	<u>\$ 1,187,000</u>	<u>\$ 943,750</u>

Schedule 1

continued next page.

Public Schools

	1979	1978
Salaries and benefits	\$ 46,569	\$ 25,355
Travel	6,723	7,311
Court watching	6,671	7,220
Curriculum development	23,306	13,080
Liaison and Newsletter	9,394	3,499
Reports, printing, proposals	16,592	5,728
Consultants	6,590	2,021
Workshops	6,463	8,201
Teaching aids	53,963	29,261
Teacher's contracts	27,572	37,939
Resource people	1,363	5,002
Evaluations	1,100	2,635
EXHIBIT B	<u>\$ 206,306</u>	<u>\$ 147,252</u>

Public Legal Education

Salaries and benefits	\$ 38,051	\$ 21,052
Travel	4,075	3,836
Consultants fees	675	-
Vancouver People's Law School	26,093	16,500
You and the Law	35,000	30,014
Interior Public Legal Awareness	65,000	47,600
Media programs	3,289	3,670
West Coast Environmental Law	4,600	-
Rape Relief	3,500	-
Vancouver Status of Women	3,500	-
Labour Advocacy and Research Association	5,000	-
Public Legal Education projects	26,282	30,258
EXHIBIT B	<u>\$ 215,065</u>	<u>\$ 152,930</u>

Legal Information Services

Salaries and benefits	\$ 72,701	\$ 71,751
Travel	6,300	3,836
Consulting fees	3,167	-
Public and School library grants	24,153	25,621
Commission Library (1978 \$33,478 in Administration)	15,281	-
B.C. Legislative Digest	17,000	-
Legal Services Directory	18,269	-
Community Law Office and Native Office libraries	5,424	-
Miscellaneous administrative expenses	3,491	-

continued next page.

	1979	1978
Audiovisual equipment and material	11,144	—
Media programs	2,307	—
Training	8,370	—
Wills and estates	—	2,175
EXHIBIT B	\$ 187,607	\$ 103,383

Training		
Salaries and benefits	\$ 34,393	\$ 20,795
Travel	2,830	3,836
Training conferences and workshops	31,648	41,114
Indian Act training manual	3,600	—
U.B.C. summer program	3,476	—
Training materials project	18,637	—
EXHIBIT B	\$ 94,584	\$ 65,745

Native Programs		
Salaries and benefits	\$ 67,121	\$ 75,867
Travel	15,795	22,834
Operating expenses	3,946	—
Friendship Centres — Fort St. John	30,069	\$ 17,923
— Mission	23,770	17,330
— Port Alberni	28,269	21,124
— Smithers	22,544	13,044
Upper Skeena Counselling and Legal Assistance Society	102,040	38,146
P.A.C.I.F.I.C.	49,103	37,474
Nicola Valley Friendship and Counselling Society	72,736	53,954
Haida Counselling and Legal Association	110,007	101,268
Special projects and miscellaneous expense	—	42,617
EXHIBIT B	\$ 525,400	\$ 441,581

Other Projects		
Public Hearings	\$ —	\$ 15,052
F.M. Zemans	—	4,583
University of B.C. — Summer Students	20,000	20,000
University of Victoria — Summer Students	23,165	13,500
University of Victoria — Law Centre	—	23,087
Research	40,668	30,799
Lawyer Referral Service	5,000	—
Miscellaneous disbursements	20,583	7,873
EXHIBIT B	\$ 109,416	\$ 114,894

Appendix B

DRAFT BUDGET FOR 1979-1980

LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSION

1979-1980 Budget Proposal

1. DIRECT SERVICES

Legal Aid Society	
(includes \$550,000 from the Law Foundation)	\$ 9,000,138
Native Courtworkers	1,225,800
Elizabeth Fry Society	115,796
Community Law Offices	1,434,110
Native Legal Services	573,739
University Students	61,000
Total Direct Services	12,410,583

2. PUBLIC EDUCATION SERVICES

Schools Legal Education Project	237,339
Public Legal Education	304,265
Legal Information Services	220,500
Training	105,052
Total Public Education Services	867,156

3. ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT

Administration	368,450
Research and Development	364,175
Total Administration Support	732,625

TOTAL	\$14,010,364
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END