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LEGAL AID IN CANADA

2022-2023

Research and Statistics Division and
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Legal aid in Canada
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Introduction

Background

In Canada, responsibility for criminal justice is shared between the federal government for criminal law making and criminal procedure and the provincial and territorial governments for the administration of the justice system, outside of criminal prosecutions in the territories which are a federal responsibility. Given these authorities under the Constitution, both levels of government have a mutual interest in working together to ensure a fair, relevant, and accessible system of justice.

Legal aid is one component of the legal system and it is essential to fulfilling the government's obligations under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* including the right to a fair trial (section 11(d)); to life, liberty and security (section 7) and to equal protection and equal benefit of the law (section 15). Legal aid helps to ensure effective and fair representation in the criminal justice system and it is necessary to address the imbalance of power by ensuring that economically disadvantaged individuals have equal access to justice in our society.

Legal Aid Program

There are 13 recognized legal aid plans in Canada, the organizations responsible for providing legal aid services to those who cannot afford a lawyer. The federal government supports legal aid services in the provinces and territories through two sources. The Department of Justice Canada's (Justice Canada) Legal Aid Program provides funding to all provinces for criminal legal aid through contribution agreements. There are also agreements to support immigration and refugee (I&R) legal aid in seven provinces: Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia. In Nova Scotia, I&R legal aid is provided by a legal service clinic. The federal government also supports criminal and civil legal aid in the territories through consolidated Access to Justice Services Agreements.[1] Federal support for civil legal aid in the provinces is covered under the Canada Social Transfer (CST), which is a block transfer payment provided to each province and territory for health care, postsecondary education, social assistance and social services. Civil legal aid is an eligible expenditure under the CST.[2]

While policy development related to criminal legal aid is a shared federal/provincial/territorial responsibility, each province and territory is responsible for the delivery of legal aid services based on their own policies and procedures. This report provides national level statistics[3] on revenues, expenditures, personnel, and caseloads from legal aid service providers across Canada. Justice Canada

[1] https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/fund–fina/gov–gouv/access.html

[2] It is not possible to track the amount of Canada Social Transfer funding expended on civil legal aid.

[3] Data from the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are not available for 2022-23.

has produced the *Legal Aid in Canada* report since 2016-17, and this is the seventh annual edition. This year's report includes data from the 2022-23 fiscal year, as well as trend data from the past five years.

In 2022-23 the remaining pandemic public health measures were removed and courts had largely resumed normal operations. Despite the return to normal, the justice system continued to experience the repercussions from the pandemic on the already overtaxed system, with reports of growing backlogs and longer case processing times.[4,5,6] In the legal aid context, data from 2022-23 show that the legal aid system has continued to show signs of recovery, with duty counsel and I&R services even surpassing pre-pandemic levels in terms of case volumes and expenditures.

The data collection for *Legal Aid in Canada* is done at a national level; however, some legal aid plans may be unable to report all or some data elements in certain years. Due to these limitations, Canada-level totals may not include all provinces and territories, which is noted where applicable.

Revenues and expenditures

Revenues are all monies received by the legal aid plan for the provision of legal aid services, which come from three main sources: government contribution funding, client contributions and cost recoveries, and contributions from the legal profession. Federal government contributions are the federal contribution funding amounts for criminal and where applicable, I&R legal aid. Federal funding for criminal legal aid flows to the consolidated revenue fund of each province or territory, and is subsequently allocated by the provinces or territories to their respective legal aid plans. In 2022-23, three of the seven agreements for I&R legal aid were with service providers, meaning funding was allocated directly to these orgnizations. Provincial/territorial contributions are the funding amounts received for legal aid services from the legal aid plan's respective government. Client contributions are all monies received from the client for legal assistance. Cost recoveries refer to the party costs ordered or agreed to be recovered in the case (this includes monies recovered from a judgement, award or settlement). Contributions of the legal profession and interest earned from lawyers' trust accounts are all monies received from the law profession (e.g., provincial/territorial law foundation funding, levies) as well as other revenues that have not already been accounted for in the other categories.

Expenditures are payments made by legal aid plans to private law firms for the delivery of legal services, and the costs of legal services delivered by legal aid plan staff. These expenditures include monies spent on the provision of legal advice and representation to clients. All legal aid office and contracted community clinic expenditures are a combination of direct and indirect service delivery

[4] https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/state-etat/2022rpt-rap2022/pdf/RSD-2022-SOCJS_Covid-19_Report-en.pdf
[5] https://www.fja.gc.ca/COVID-19/Progress-Report-Bilan-202223-eng.html
[6] https://www.advocates.ca/Upload/Files/PDF/Advocacy/CivilJustice/2023/The_Advocates_Society_Delay_No_Longer_Final_Published_June_29_2023.pdf

costs. Direct service delivery costs are expenses related to providing services directly to clients, while indirect service delivery costs are expenses not directly related to providing legal aid services to clients, but are reasonably attributable to the delivery of legal aid.

Provinces and territories contributed over half of legal aid revenues in 2022-23

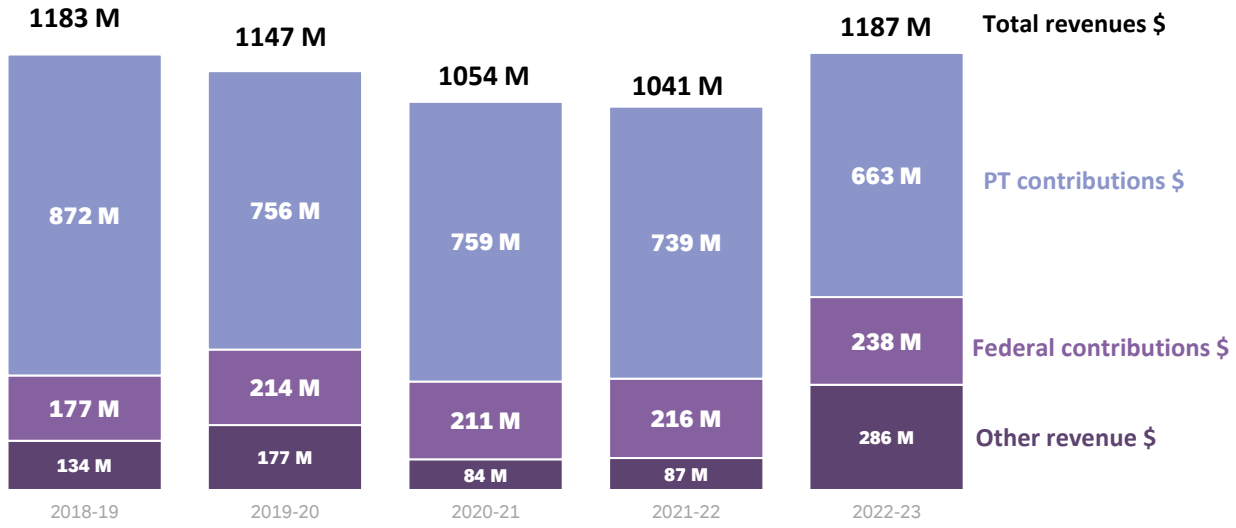
Legal aid plan revenues totaled over $1.14 billion in 2022-23. Federal and provincial/territorial government sources contributed just over three-quarters (76%) of the total, which was a decrease from previous years. This decrease is largely attributed to the quintupling of contributions from the legal profession in Ontario, which increased from $45 million in 2021-22 to over $232 million in 2022-23 (Table 1).

In 2022-23, direct funding from provincial and territorial (P/T) governments contributed more than $635 million to legal aid plans across Canada, which amounted to 56% of total legal aid revenues. Using a constant 2023 dollar comparison, this was a 10% decrease from the previous year.

In 2022-23, Justice Canada contributed over $228 million to the provinces and territories for the delivery of criminal legal aid, civil legal aid (in the territories only), and I&R legal aid (where applicable). This amounts to 20% of total legal aid revenues (Table 1). Using constant 2023 dollars, this represents a 10% increase from the previous year. Ontario and Quebec are the largest legal aid plans, comprising 51% and 16% of all legal aid plan revenues respectively, or 67% for the two plans combined (Table 1).

Figure 1 shows the breakdown between legal aid revenue sources over the past five years, using constant 2023 dollars, which are used to account for the impact of inflation over time. There has been a gradual increase in amount of federal contributions to legal aid revenues over time, in parallel to a reduction in P/T contributions. However, this trend levelled off in 2020-21 and the proportion of federal versus P/T contributions remained more consistent. This trend started to change again in 2022-23, when P/T contributions decreased by 10% while federal contributions increased by 10% — a difference largely driven by a decrease in Ontario. In 2022-23, total revenues had rebounded from pandemic lows and were on par with total revenues from five years ago, and up 14% from the previous year (using a 2023 constant dollar comparison).

Figure 1
In 2022-23 legal aid plan revenues rebounded from pandemic lows, with total revenues up 14% since previous year and on par with revenues from five years ago.



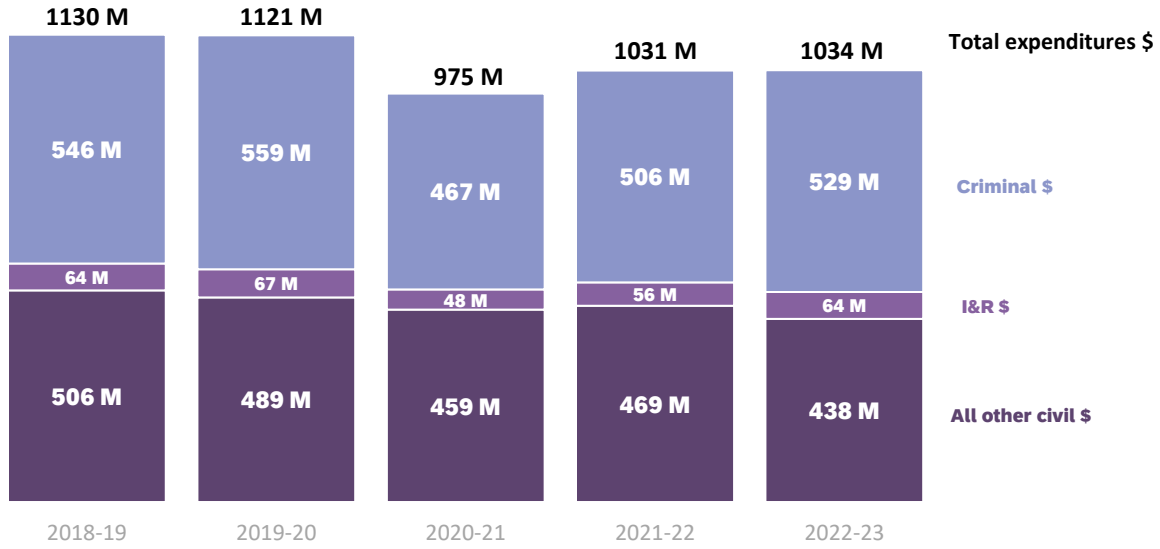
Source: Table 1 - Legal aid plan revenues, by type of revenue, 2018-19 to 2022-23 (Figure uses constant 2023 dollars as calculated February 28, 2024).

In 2022-23 legal aid plan expdenditures had returned to near pre-pandemic levels

Using unadjusted figures, in 2022-23 legal aid plan expenditures were over 1 billion dollars. Broken down by type of expenditure, 51% were related to criminal matters, 42% were related to all other civil matters, and 6% were related to I&R matters(Table 2a). While in most jurisdictions there is roughly an even split between expenditures on criminal and civil matters, a large proportion spend more on criminal matters. The jurisdictions with the highest proportion of total legal aid expenditures on criminal matters (of all legal aid expenditures for that jurisdiction) were Saskatchewan (80%), Alberta (76%), and Manitoba (72%). Only three jurisdictions, Quebec (60%), Prince Edward Island (57%), and Ontario (55%) spend more on civil matters (including I&R in Quebec and Ontario only, not Prince Edward Island). At the national level, however, half of legal aid expenditures are related to criminal matters. This is because Quebec and Ontario spend more overall, thus contributing more to the average.

Figure 2 shows the breakdown of expenditures by type of matter over the past five years using constant 2023 dollars. Expenditures have gradually trended towards pre-pandemic levels in 2022-23, down 8% from five years ago. In 2022-23, criminal expenditures were up 5% from the previous year, I&R expenditures were up 15%, and civil were down 7%.

Figure 2
In 2022-23 legal aid plan expenditures approached near pre-pandemic levels, down 8% from five years ago.



Source: Table 2a - Legal aid plan expenditures, by type of expenditure, 2018-19 to 2022-23 (Figure uses constant 2023 dollars as calculated May 6, 2024).

The two largest legal aid plans, Ontario and Quebec, had the highest legal aid expenditures in the country in 2022-23, with 47% of all expenditures as a proportion of the national total from Ontario and 21% from Quebec.

Table 2b breaks out the total administrative costs for legal aid plans in 2022-23. These expenses are also reflected under “Legal Services Expenditures” in Table 2a, and they amounted to over 106 million dollars, down from the previous year.

Legal aid applications

A legal aid application is a request for legal aid assistance. An application can result in either a client receiving summary or full legal representation, or the denial of legal aid service. Summary services include the provision of legal advice, information, or any other type of minimal legal service granted to an individual, while full legal representation constitutes more extensive legal assistance. The total number of applications reported for the fiscal year includes all applications filed during that time, irrespective of when the application was approved or rejected.

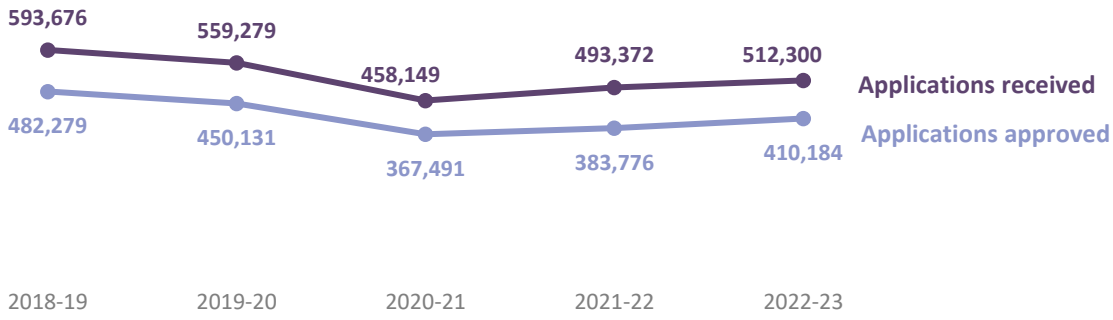
In this report, an application for legal aid is counted as approved only for those clients that receive full legal representation. Also, the total number of applications reflects the number of individual requests for assistance, rather than the total number of persons seeking assistance. Once an application is approved for full legal representation by the legal aid plan, the certificate may then be brought to a

private bar lawyer who bills the legal aid plan, or the service may be provided by a legal aid staff lawyer.[7]

Over 512,000 legal aid applications were received in 2022-23

As noted above, the number of applications for legal aid reflects the number of individual requests for assistance, rather than the total number of persons seeking assistance. This means that a single individual could file multiple applications, or in the case of I&R, one application could include multiple applicants if it represents a family. Figure 3 shows the trends in legal aid applications received and approved over the past five years. The number of applications received and approved reached a low during the pandemic, and they have both gradually increased since 2020-21. In 2022-23, the number of received applications was up by 4% from the previous year, while the number of approved applications was down slightly (1%) from the previous year. Compared to five years ago, applications are still down, though recovering slowly (down 14% for received applications and 21% for approved applications).

Figure 3
Legal aid applications continue to increase from the low during the pandemic, with received applications up 4% from the previous year, but still down about 14% since 2018-19.

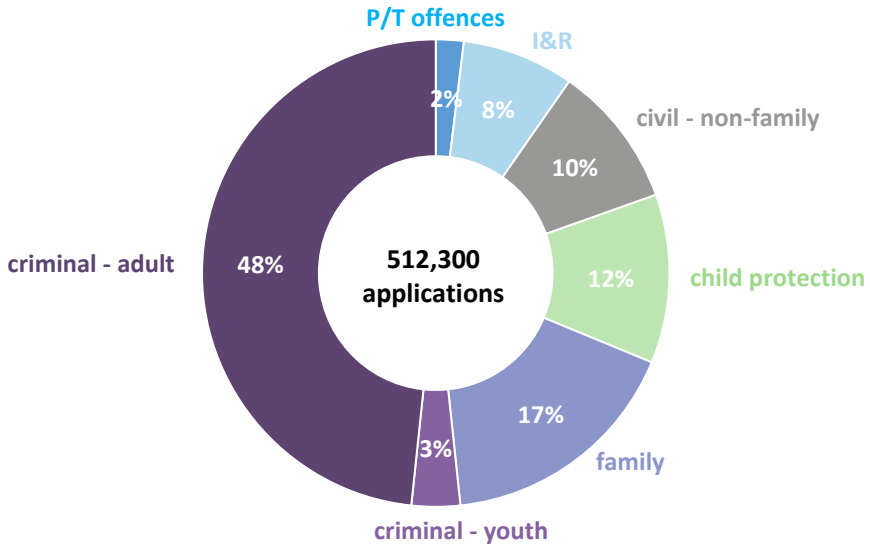


Source: Table 3 - Legal aid applications received by type of matter, 2018-19 to 2022-23; and Table 4 - Legal aid applications approved for full legal representation, by staff and private bar lawyers, 2018-19 to 2022-23.

Of the 512,300 legal aid applications received in 2022-23, just over half (51%) were for criminal matters (adult and youth), while 47% were for civil matters (17% family, 12% child protection, 10% civil non-family[8], and 8% I&R), and 2% for P/T offences (Figure 4). Of the 264,794 applications for criminal legal aid, 94% were from adults and 6% were from youth. The highest proportion of civil matter applications was for family matters (41%), followed by child protection (26%), non-family matters (e.g., landlord and tenant disputes, poverty law) (21%), and I&R (7%) (Figure 5).

[7] Staff lawyers are employed directly by the legal aid plan.
[8] Non-family matters are all other civil proceedings that are not of a family nature (e.g., landlord and tenant disputes, human rights complaints, and employment matters).

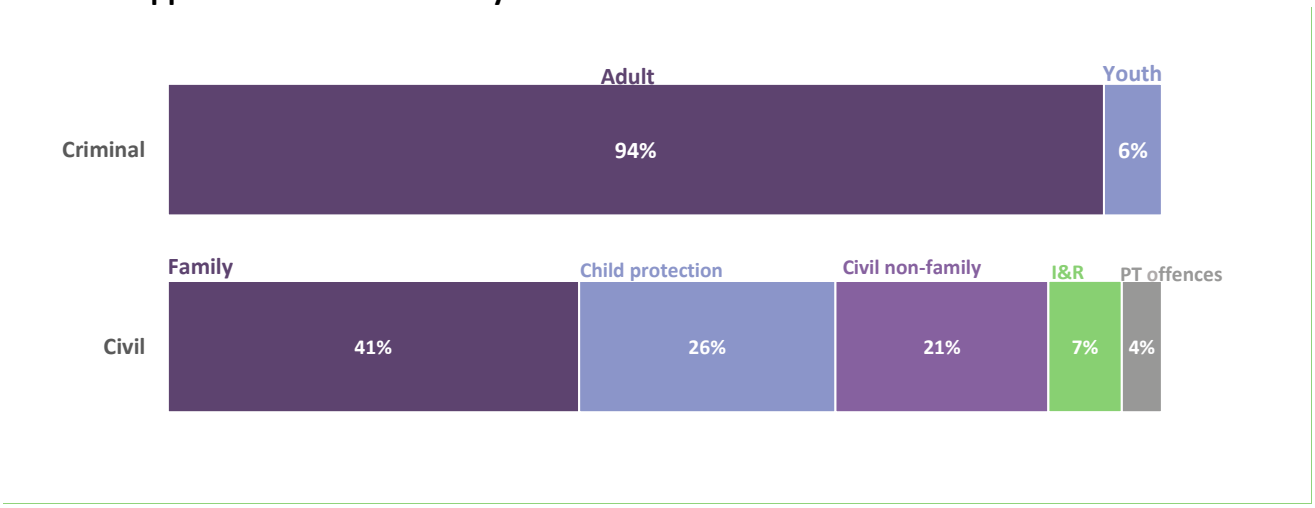
Figure 4
Criminal matters made up just over half of all legal aid applications in 2022-23.



Source: Table 3 - Legal aid applications received, by type of matter, 2022-23.

Quebec received the most applications at 219,754, which accounted for 43% of all applications received nationally in 2022-23. Ontario and Nova Scotia were the next two provinces that received the most applications (24% and 7% respectively). The breakdown between criminal and civil applications within each province and territory shows that Prince Edward Island (79%), Alberta (79%), and Yukon (76%) had the highest proportion of criminal applications compared to civil. Quebec (57%) Ontario (48%), and New Brunswick (45%) had the highest proportion of civil applications among the jurisdictions (Table 3).

Figure 5
In 2022-23 the vast majority of criminal legal aid applications were for adult matters, while just under half of civil applications were for family matters.



Source: Table 3 - Legal aid applications received, by type of matter, 2022-23.

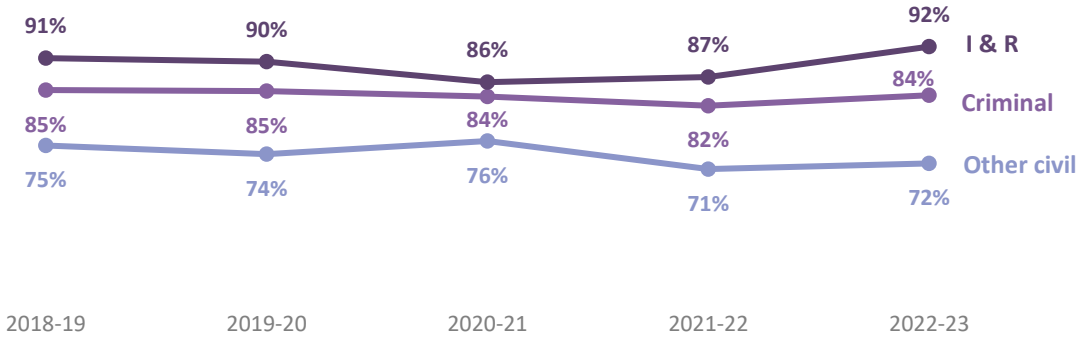
Application approvals

Eight in ten legal aid applications received were approved for full legal representation

In 2022-23, out of the 512,300 legal aid applications received (Table 3), 410,184 applications, or 80%, were approved for full representation. This approval rate is down 3% from the previous year, and 1% compared to 2018-19 when 81% of applications were approved. The application approval rate varies by application type.

Figure 6 shows the variation in approval rates by application type over the past five years. Immigration and refugee matters have the highest approval rates at 92% in 2022-23, up 6% from the previous year. The approval rates for other civil applications are the lowest, with just under three quarters (72%) of applications approved in 2022-23. The approval rate for other civil applications has been lower in the past two years from a high of 76% in 2019-20. Application approvals for criminal legal aid have remained relatively stable over time staying consistently in the low to mid eighties the previous five years.

Figure 6
Application approval rates have mostly been stable over time, however approval rates for all application types trended upwards since the previous year.



Source: Table 3 - Legal aid applications received by type of matter, 2018-19 to 2022-23; and Table 4 - Legal aid applications approved for full legal representation, by staff and private bar lawyers, 2018-19 to 2022-23.

Of the applications approved for full representation in 2022-23, more than half (54%) were for criminal legal aid, 44% were for civil legal aid (including I&R), and the remainder (2%) for provincial/territorial offences. Of the criminal applications, the majority (92%) were for adult matters, and 8% were for youth matters. For civil matters, just under a third (30%) were for family matters, 29% were for child protection matters, and 21% were for non-family related matters. I&R matters made up 20% of civil applications in the provinces where I&R legal aid services are available, doubled from the previous year (Table 4).

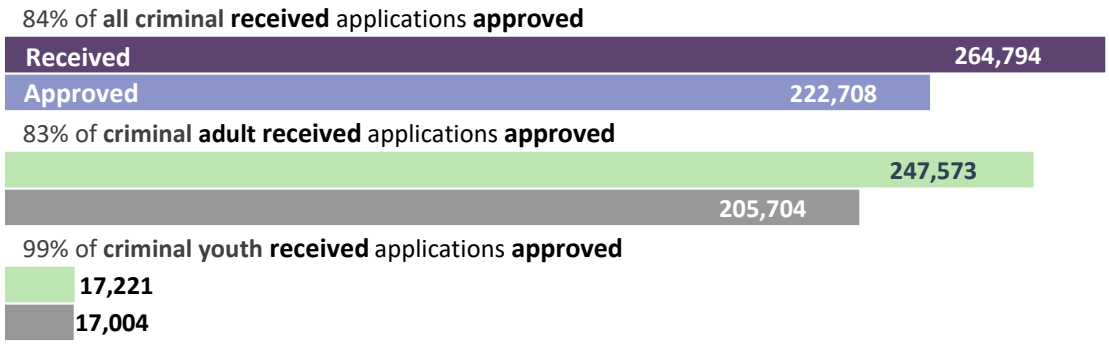
When looking at the proportion of approved applications by province/territory and type of matter, Prince Edward Island had the highest proportion of approved applications that were criminal as opposed to civil (89% versus 11%). Quebec had the highest proportion of civil applications approved compared with criminal, with 57% of civil and 40% of criminal legal aid applications approved for full legal representation (Table 4).

There are around 500 legal clinics across the country with differing levels of services offered.[9] Ontario has the most developed system of community legal clinics which are funded by Legal Aid Ontario and operate independently.[10] In Ontario, there were 1,687 adult and 181 youth applications managed by legal clinics, which made up less than 1% of total approved criminal applications in the province in 2022-23.

Figures 7 to 9 show the approval rates of applications broken down by type of matter. Figure 7 shows that criminal youth applications have the highest rate of approval, with 99% of received applications approved. Youth applications have a high approval rate as a result of the eligibility criteria set out in the Canada-Province contribution agreements, which gives priority to young people.

Criminal adult applications are approved at a rate just above the average approval rate of all applications (80%), at 83%. The overall approval rate for criminal applications, both adult and youth was 84% (Figure 7).

Figure 7
More than 8 in 10 adult criminal applications were approved; while almost all youth criminal applications were approved due to eligibility criteria that prioritizes youth.

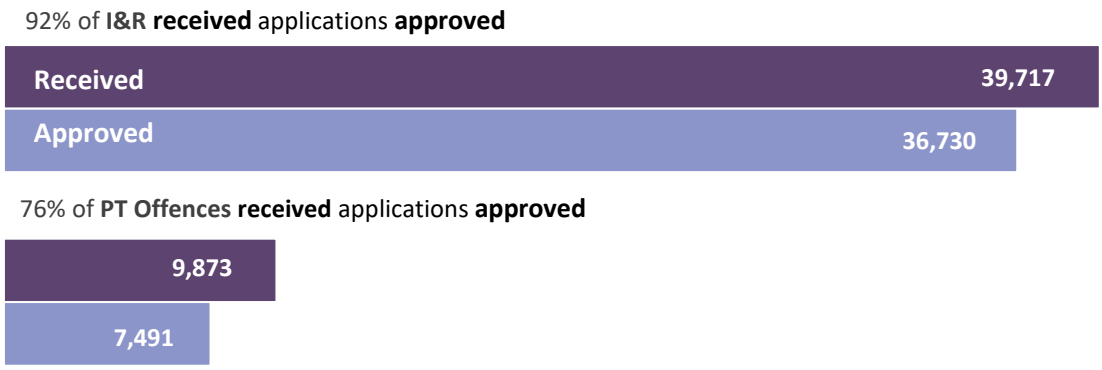


Source: Table 3 - Legal aid applications received by type of matter, 2022-23; and Table 4 - Legal aid applications approved for full legal representation, by staff and private bar lawyers, 2022-23.

[9] https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/clinics-cliniques/toc-tdm.html
[10] https://www.legalaid.on.ca/services/legal-clinics/

Legal aid applications for I&R matters had an approval rate higher than the overall average, at 92%, while P/T offence applications were approved at a rate just above the overall average, at 76% (Figure 8).

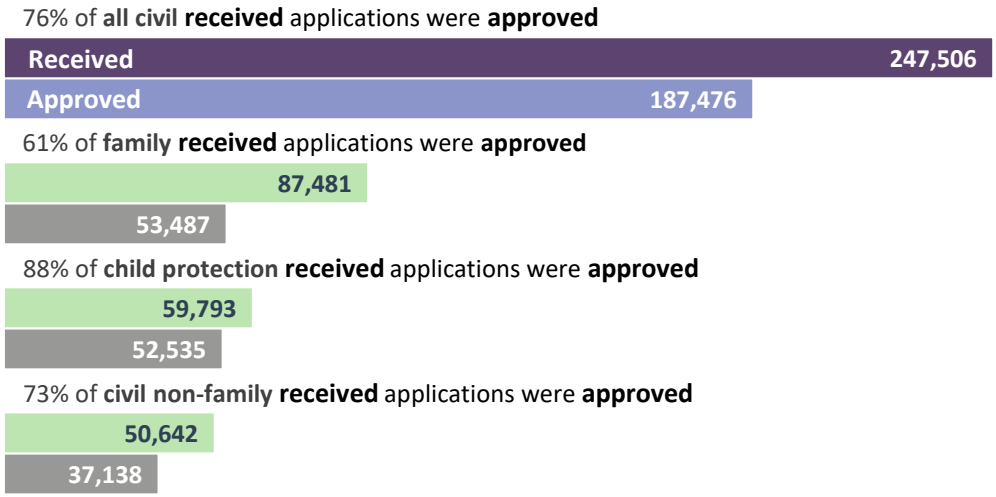
Figure 8
Applications for immigration and refugee matters had an approval rate higher than other types of matters, with just over 9 in 10 applications approved.



Source: Table 3 - Legal aid applications received by type of matter, 2022-23; and Table 4 - Approved legal aid applications for full legal representation, by staff and private bar lawyers, 2022-23.

For other civil legal aid applications (Figure 9), child protection matters had the highest rate of approval (88%) followed by civil-non family applications (73%) and family applications (61%).

Figure 9
Applications for child protection matters had the highest rate of approval among other civil matters, with almost 9 in 10 approved.



Source: Table 3 – Legal aid applications received by type of matter, 2022-23; and Table 4 – Legal aid applications approved for full legal representation, by staff and private bar lawyers, 2022-23.

Application refusals

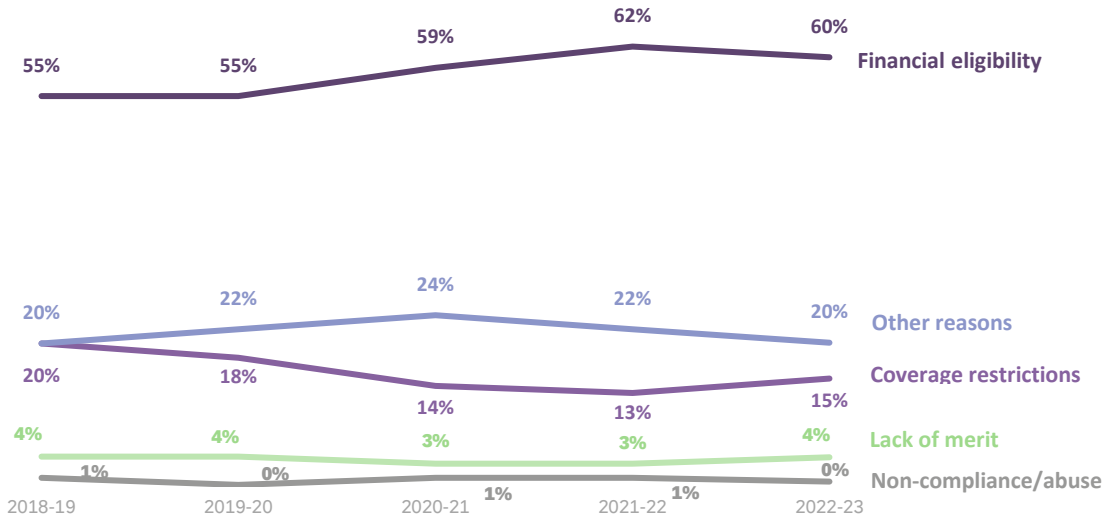
Financial eligibility was the most common reason for application refusal

Refused applications are all requests for legal aid that have been denied legal services. This includes applications for which no services have been approved, as well as those applications denied for full legal representation that subsequently received summary services. In 2022-23, of the 84,263 applications (both criminal and civil) where a reason for refusal was reported, 60% were refused for financial eligibility, which is based on financial information disclosed by the applicant (e.g., income level, assets, liabilities) which indicates that the applicant does not meet the financial eligibility requirements set by the legal aid plan and therefore does not qualify for legal aid. Financial eligibility criteria are set out by each legal aid plan and therefore the criteria differ across the provinces and territories. The next most common reasons for refusal were “other reasons” for refusal and “coverage restrictions” (20% and 15%, respectively). Coverage restrictions are applications refused on the grounds that the legal matter is not covered by the legal aid plan. For example, some plans do not cover wills and estates or workplace injury claims (Table 5).

When looking at the breakdown of reasons for refusal by P/T, Prince Edward Island (93%) and Yukon (93%) had the highest proportions of applications refused for financial eligibility. Ontario (33%) and New Brunswick (32%) had the highest proportions of applications refused for coverage restrictions (Table 5).

Figure 10 shows the trends in legal aid application reasons for refusal over the past five years. After gradually increasing over the past three years, the proportion of applications refused for financial eligibility decreased slightly in 2022-23, down 2% from previous year, but still up 10% compared to 2018-19. The proportion of applications refused for other reasons has remained relatively stable over time, but has seen a slight downturn over the past three years. Coverage restriction refusals have decreased between 2018-19 and 2020-21, but have started to increase and were up 16% in 2022-23 from the previous year.

Figure 10
After a gradual increase over the past three years, the proportion of legal aid applications refused for financial eligibility saw a slight downturn in 2022-23.



Source: Table 5 - Refused legal aid applications, by reason for refusal, all legal aid matters, 2018-19 to 2022-23.

Over half of refused criminal legal aid applications were refused for financial eligibility

Looking at criminal legal aid applications, financial eligibility was the most common reason for refusal (59%), followed by other reasons (24%) and coverage restrictions at 15% (Table 6). By province and territory, Prince Edward Island had the highest proportion of financial eligibility refusals (100%) and Ontario had the highest proportion of coverage restriction refusals (45%), while lack of merit refusals were highest in Manitoba and Yukon (7%) and these were under 6% across all other jurisdictions. An application refused for lack of merit is refused because the nature of the case or seriousness of the matter is deemed to not warrant legal assistance and includes criteria such as the type of legal problem and the merit of the case. Nova Scotia also had the highest rate of refusal of all jurisdictions for non-compliance or abuse, at 12%, while all other jurisdictions had a rate of 1% or lower. Non-compliance or abuse refusals include cases where similar services were already rendered, services applied for are abusive of the legal process, or because the client fails to co-operate with the legal aid lawyer.

Table 7 shows refused civil and I&R applications by reasons for refusal. The proportions for civil and I&R applications were consistent with criminal applications, with 62% of all applications refused for financial eligibility, and 15% falling under coverage restrictions. Aside from Yukon, which refused all civil applications for financial eligibility, Quebec and Prince Edward Island had the highest proportions of other civil applications refused for financial eligibility (79% and 73%, respectively). Alberta had the highest proportion of other civil applications refused for coverage restrictions (40%), and Prince Edward Island had the highest proportion of other civil applications refused for lack of merit (27%). For I&R applications, Quebec had the highest proportion refused for financial eligibility (87%), Alberta had the

highest proportion refused for coverage restrictions (32%), and Newfoundland and Labrador had the highest proportion of lack of merit refusals (39%) (Table 7).

Application outcomes among Indigenous clients

More than eight in ten applications for full legal representation from self-identified Indigenous clients were approved

Figure 11 shows the number and proportions of applications received and approved for full legal representation from individuals who self-identified as Indigenous in the provinces and territories that collect these data (see Table 8). Of the 58,332 applications received from individuals who self-identified as Indigenous for all matters in 2022-23, 81% were approved. The approval rate for self-identified Indigenous applicants for criminal matters was slightly lower than the general approval rate for all criminal applications (81% versus 84%, respectively), and for other civil matters (including PT offences) the approval rate for Indigenous clients was higher than the rate for all applications (78% versus 76%, respectively).

By jurisdiction, Prince Edward Island and Ontario had the highest proportions of criminal applications from self-identified Indigenous clients approved (95%, and 92%), while Newfoundland and Labrador had the lowest (72%). For civil applications, Ontario, and New Brunswick had the highest proportions of applications from self-identified Indigenous clients approved (100%, 91%), while Newfoundland and Labrador had the lowest (61%) (Table 8).

Figure 11
Applications from self-identified Indigenous clients were approved at a similar rate for all types of matters.

Source: Table 8 - Applications for full legal representation, approved and refused, by self-identified Indigenous population, criminal and civil, 2022-23.

Duty counsel services

Duty counsel is legal assistance rendered without charge to unrepresented individuals who, in many cases, are about to make an appearance in court. Duty counsel services refer to services provided by a

lawyer at a location other than a legal aid office, generally at court or a place of detention.[11] Most often, the services provided are brief, and pertain to provision of summary services, docket court appearances, or representation at a first appearance or plea court.

As a result of the Supreme Court of Canada decision in *R. v. Brydges*, all provinces and territories offer temporary access to duty counsel through telephone in the immediate period after an accused has been arrested or detained. These services are provided to accused persons without application, and they are free of charge.

For criminal matters, duty counsel services (either Brydges telephone services or in person court services) are available in all provinces and territories. Civil duty counsel services are available in six provinces: Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia (Nova Scotia offers family duty counsel, which is referred to as summary advice counsel), New Brunswick, Ontario (Ontario offers family duty counsel, tenant duty counsel is offered through the clinic system), Manitoba (for child protection matters), and British Columbia. Immigration and refugee duty counsel services are available in Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, and British Columbia.

A majority of provinces and territories do not apply eligibility criteria for duty counsel services. Of those that do, New Brunswick applies scope of service eligibility criteria, but not financial eligibility criteria,[12] while Ontario applies financial and legal eligibility criteria which are outlined on their website.[13] British Columbia applies eligibility criteria only to family duty counsel services.[14]

[11] In Ontario duty counsel services have been offered in a hybrid model since COVID, with guidelines set by the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General.

[12] New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission (NBLASC) is responsible to assign duty counsel to criminal and youth courts to advise and assist anyone who has to appear before a Provincial Court judge on eligible charges and is without counsel. NBLASC also provides duty counsel to specialized courts. Duty Counsel services are not available for: Default Hearings; Variation of Undertakings; Firearms applications; Rowbotham Hearings; Bail Reviews in King's Bench; and providing advice to those who have plead not guilty and have obtained a trial date. Family Law: Scope of service for family law can be found at the following link http://www.legalaid-aidejuridique-nb.ca/family-law-services/family-duty-counsel/

[13] See: https://www.legalaid.on.ca/will-legal-aid-pay-for-my-lawyer/

[14] In British Columbia, there are no financial or merit eligibility criteria for criminal or immigration duty counsel services, but financial eligibility criteria are applied for family duty counsel, at a higher level than for family representation contracts. Additional coverage criteria are applied for some expanded criminal duty counsel services.

Over 1.2 million duty counsel assists were provided in 2022-23

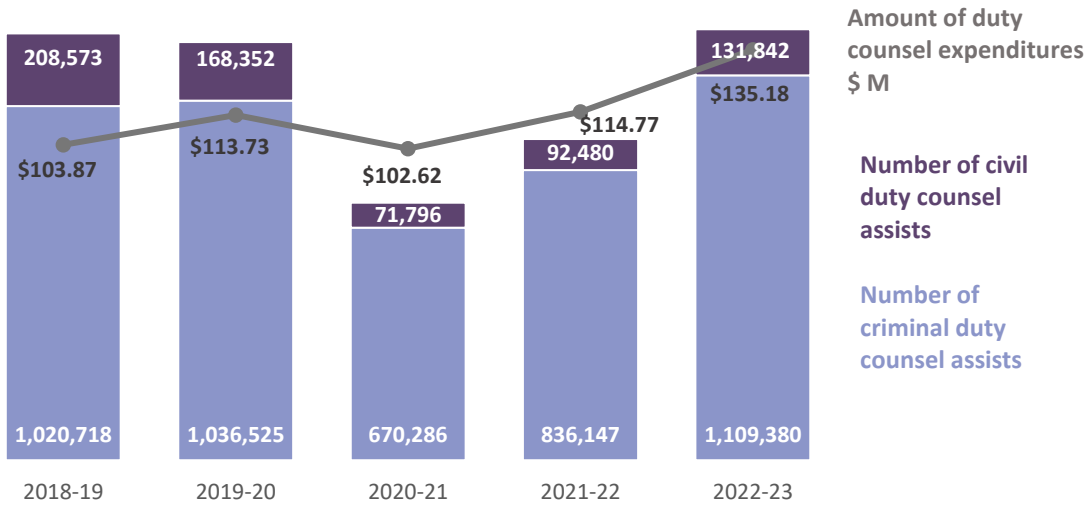
There were 1,241,222 duty counsel assists provided to legal aid clients in 2022-23. Of these, 89% were for criminal matters, and 10% were for civil matters (including I&R). Figure 12 shows that the number of duty counsel assists was relatively stable between 2018-19 and 2019-20, when the number of duty counsel assists dropped by 38% in 2020-21 in the wake of the pandemic. From 2021-22 to 2022-23, the data show duty counsel services have had a strong recovery post-pandemic. The number of criminal duty counsel assists has surpassed pre-pandemic levels, up by 8% in 2022-23 compared to 2018-19. Civil duty counsel assists are still below pre-pandemic levels, but continue to increase from a pandemic low, up 47% from the previous year.

For jurisdictions that provided data on both criminal and civil duty counsel services, British Columbia had the lowest proportion of criminal matter assists, with 74% criminal assists and 26% civil assists (Table 9).

Over 129 million dollars spent on duty counsel services in 2022-23

Nationally, there were total expenditures of $129,431,063 for duty counsel services in 2022-23 ($135 million in constant 2023 dollars). This was an increase of 18% from the previous year, and 23% compared to 2018-19 (Figure 12). Using unadjusted 2022-23 data, criminal duty counsel services represented the highest proportion of duty counsel expenditures, at $100,800,298, or 78% of total expenditures in 2022-23. Civil duty counsel services made up 21% of expenditures. Within criminal duty counsel services, 97% of expenditures went towards adult matters (Table 10).

Figure 12
Duty counsel services continue to increase, mostly surpassing pre-pandemic levels; expenditures are up 18% from the previous year, while duty counsel assists are up 34% in the same time period.



Source: Table 9 - Duty counsel services, by type of matter, 2018-19 to 2022-23; and Table 10 - Duty counsel service expenditures, by type of matter, matter, 2018-19 to 2022-23. (Figure uses constant 2023 dollars calculated on February 28, 2024).

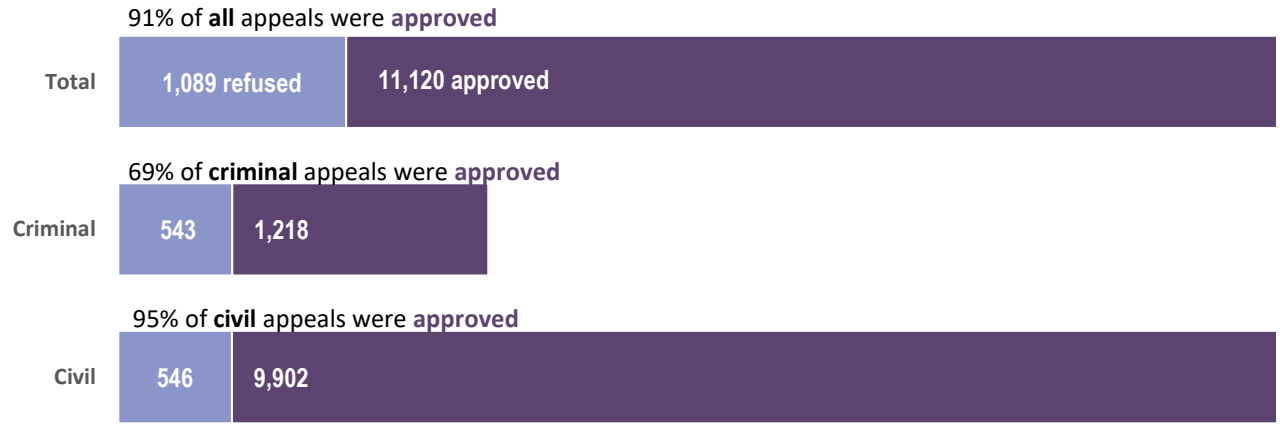
Appeals

Just over nine in ten applications for legal aid services to deal with an appeal were approved

Out of the 12,209 applications in 2022-23 for legal aid services for an appeal case for any type of matter, 91% were approved for legal aid services, up from just over three-quarters the previous year. Proportionally, there are more appeal applications for civil matters compared to criminal matters (86% for civil, 14% for criminal), which differs from regular legal aid files which are dominated by criminal matters. For criminal matters, 69% of appeal applications were approved, and for civil matters, 95% were approved, an increase from 79% from the year prior (Figure 13).

Aside from Saskatchewan, where all appeal applications were approved in 2022-23, Ontario and Nova Scotia had the highest proportions of appeal cases approved for legal aid services (98% and 80%). In Prince Edward Island, all (100%, or two applications) were refused, while in New Brunswick and Manitoba half of cases were approved (50%). For criminal cases, Saskatchewan and Ontario had the highest proportion of criminal appeal applications approved (100% and 88%), and British Columbia had the lowest proportion of approved criminal applications at 29%. For civil cases, Saskatchewan's only reported application was approved and Manitoba had the lowest approval rate at 23% (Table 11).

Figure 13
Legal aid applications for appeal proceedings were more often approved for civil matters compared to criminal matters.



Source: Table 11 - Appeal applications, approved and refused for legal aid services, by criminal and civil matters, 2022-23.

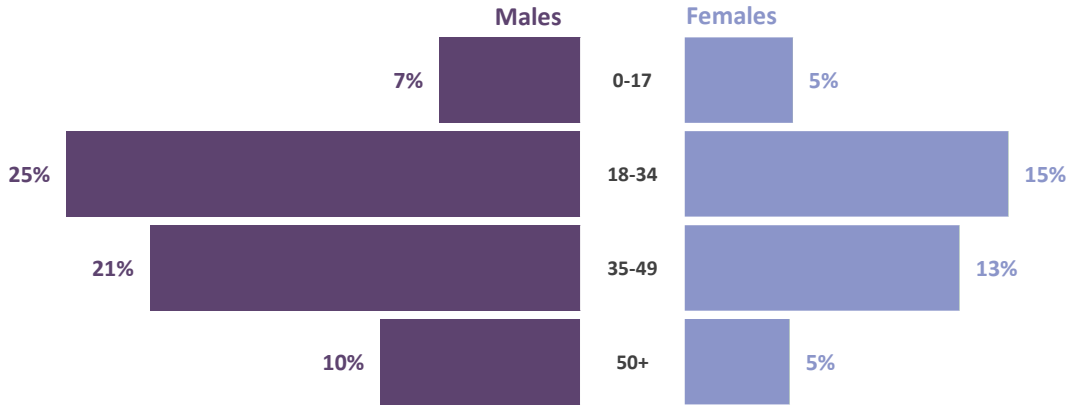
Legal aid clients

Legal aid plans provide services to clients to help them with their legal problems in the areas of criminal, family, child protection, civil non-family (e.g., landlord and tenant disputes, poverty law), and immigration and refugee law. Data in this section show the gender and age of legal aid clients who received summary service and full legal representation in 2022-23 by type of matter. Data on immigration and refugee matters are excluded from this section because many legal aid plans only collect data for the principal claimant (i.e., head of family), so gender–based data may not reflect the total amount of individuals being served.

Most legal aid clients were male, and accessed criminal legal aid services

In 2022-23, of the over 404,000 legal aid clients, 61% percent were male, while 38% were female, with the remaining category of "other" representing gender diverse people, and unknown responses. The most common age category of legal aid clients was 18-34 (40%) (Table 12). These proportions have remained consistent over the past five years. Figure 14 shows the gender and age breakdown of legal aid clients for all types of matters combined, with males aged 18-34 making up the highest proportion of clients (25%), followed by males aged 35-49 (21%) and females aged 18-34 (15%).

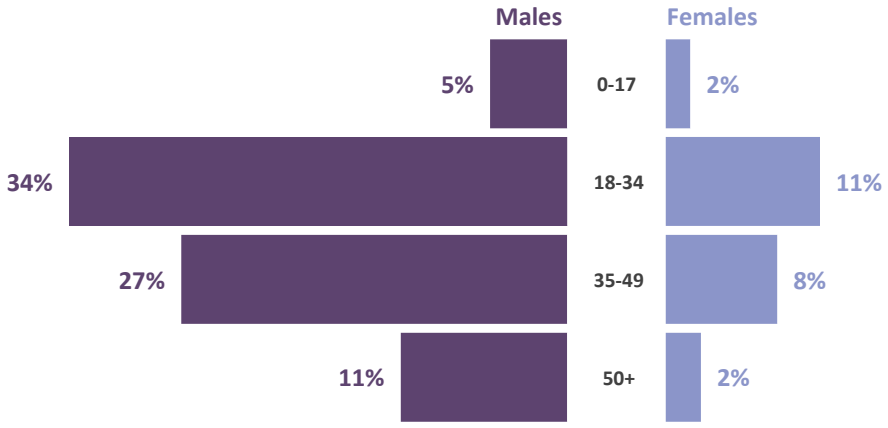
Figure 14
Males aged 18-34 made up the highest proportion of legal aid clients overall.



Source: Table 12 - Age and gender distribution of legal aid clients, Canada, 2022-23 (excludes 'other' category – gender diverse people, and unknown responses, which represents 2% of all clients).

Figure 15 shows the age and gender breakdown of criminal legal aid clients. For criminal matters, young males made up a significant proportion, with males aged 18-34 (34%) representing the largest group followed by males 35-49 (27%).

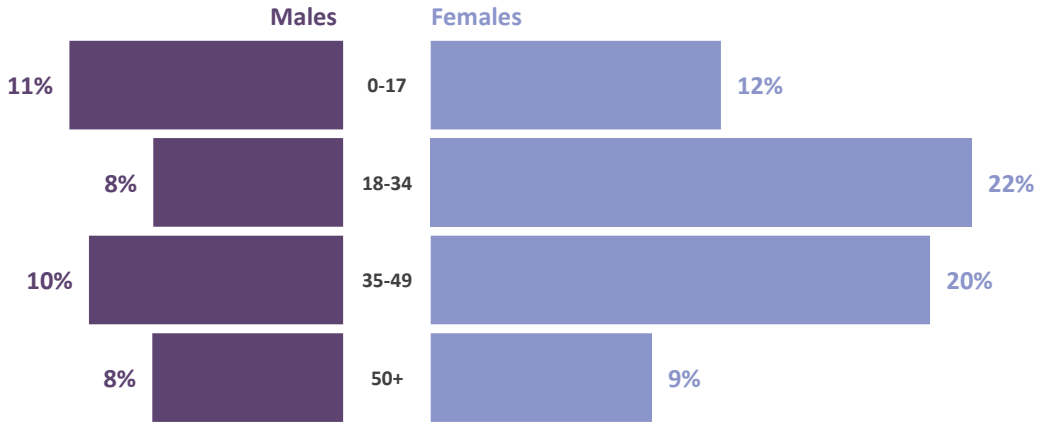
Figure 15
Males aged 18-34 made up the highest proportion of criminal legal aid clients.



Source: Table 12 - Age and gender distribution of criminal legal aid clients, Canada 2022-23 (excludes 'other' category – gender diverse people, and unknown responses, which represents 2% of all clients).

Figure 16 shows the gender and age breakdown of civil legal aid clients. For civil matters, females made up the highest proportion of clients, with those aged 18-34 (22%) and 35-49 (20%) making up almost of half of these clients.

Figure 16
Females aged 18-49 made up almost half of civil legal aid clients.



Source: Table 12 - Age and gender distribution of civil legal aid clients, Canada 2022-23 (excludes 'other' category – gender diverse people, and unknown responses, which represents 2% of all clients).

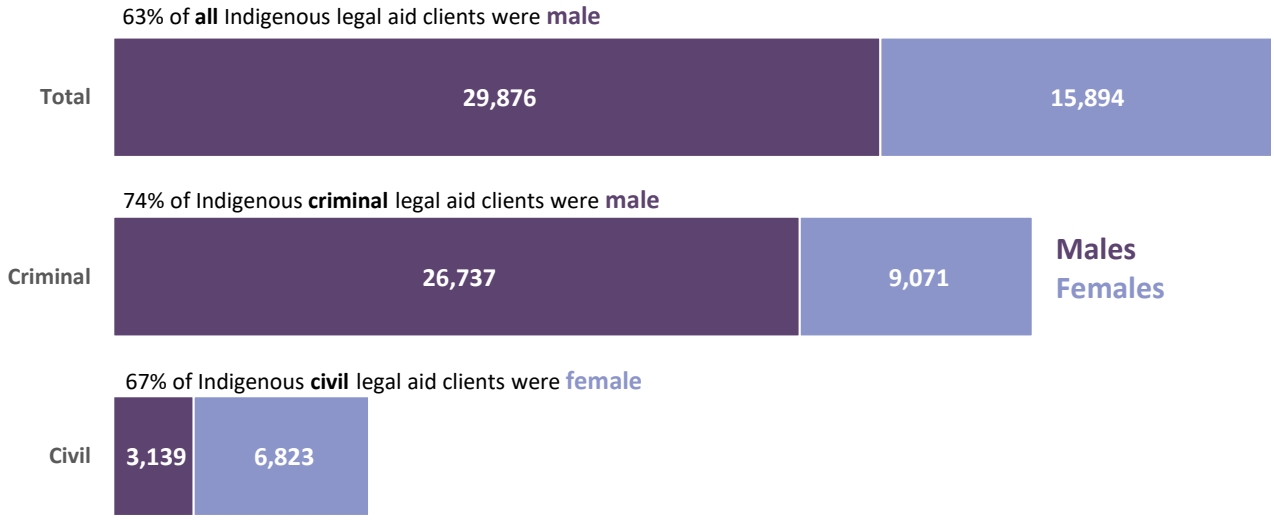
Indigenous clients

Just under 6 in 10 Indigenous legal aid clients were males accessing criminal legal aid services

Legal aid plans from Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and Yukon provided data on self-identified Indigenous legal aid clients. Out of the 47,088[15] Indigenous clients that self-identified in these provinces and territory in 2022-23, 77% accessed criminal legal aid (adult and youth), while 22% accessed civil legal aid (table 13). This is significantly higher than the proportion of all of legal aid clients, where 56%[16] of clients accessed criminal legal aid.

Overall, just under two thirds (63%) of Indigenous legal aid clients were male, a proportion slightly higher than the general population of clients where 61% were male. Males represented 74% of Indigenous adult and youth criminal legal aid clients, but only 31% of Indigenous civil legal aid clients (Figure 17).

Figure 17
Indigenous males made up three quarters of Indigenous criminal legal aid clients, while Indigenous females made up more than two-thirds of Indigenous civil legal aid clients.



Source: Table 13 - Indigenous legal aid clients receiving full legal representation and summary services, by gender and type of matter, 2022-23 (excludes 'other' category which includes gender diverse people, and unknown responses).

[15] Includes 750 clients under the 'other' category. The other category could include gender diverse people, as well as unknown responses.
[16] Includes adult and youth criminal only, and adult and youth criminal and civil combined categories.

Cases and expenditures

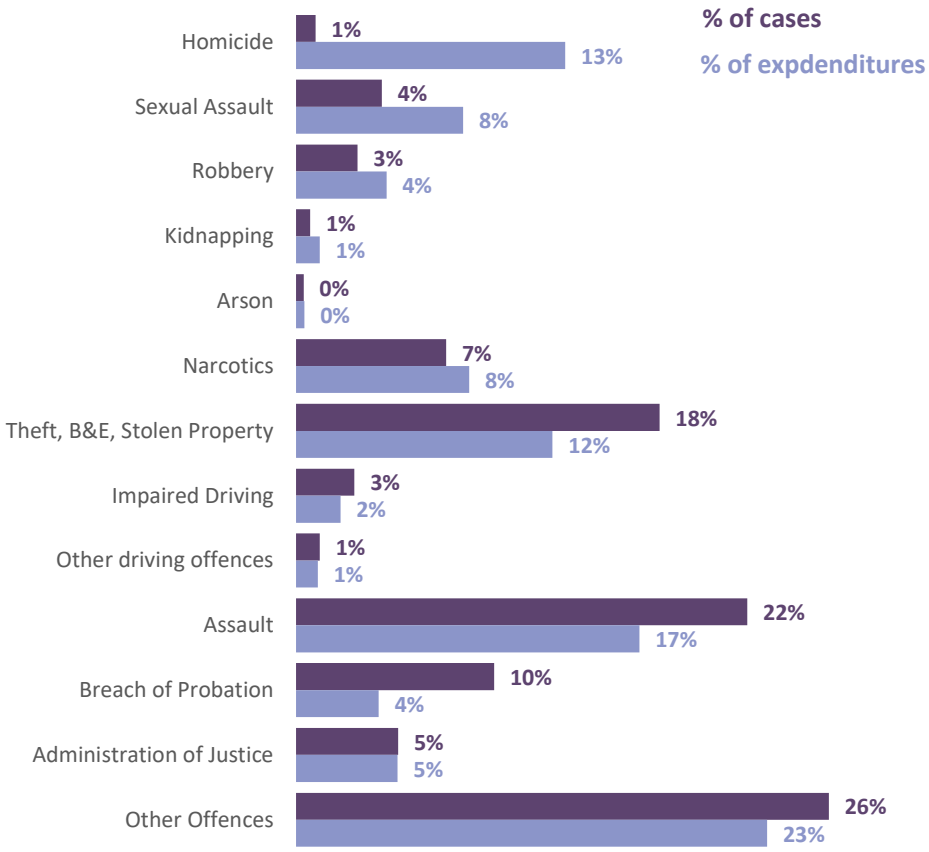
Tables 14 and 15 provide a breakdowns of adult and youth criminal legal aid cases that were approved for full legal representation, and incurred expenditures in 2022-23, in addition to cases that were ongoing from previous years and incurred expenditures in 2022-23. These are broken down by general offence categories, as well as the proportion of in-year expenditures dedicated to each offence category. Note that the offence categories do not refer to specific offences under the *Criminal Code.* Rather, they represent groupings of similar offence types.

Other offences was the most frequent offence category, with the highest proportion of in-year expenditures for adult criminal legal aid

The category other offences made up the highest proportion of both in-year expenditures at 23% and case volume at 26% in 2022-23. Assault made up the next highest proportion of case volume at 22% (17% of in-year expenditures). The next most common offence category was theft, break and enter, possession of stolen property (18% of case volume and 12% of in-year expenditures) (Figure 18).

Figure 18 shows that there were a few categories of offences that made up a very small proportion of case volumes, but a comparatively higher proportion of in-year expenditures. These included homicide, which accounted for 1% of cases, but 13% of in-year expenditures and sexual assault, which made up 4% of case volume and 8% of expenditures. The reverse is true for breach of probation offences, which made up a high proportion of case volume (10%), but a relatively low proportion of expenditures (4%).

Figure 18
For adult criminal cases, homicides and sexual assault cases have disproportionately high case expenditures in relation to case volume.



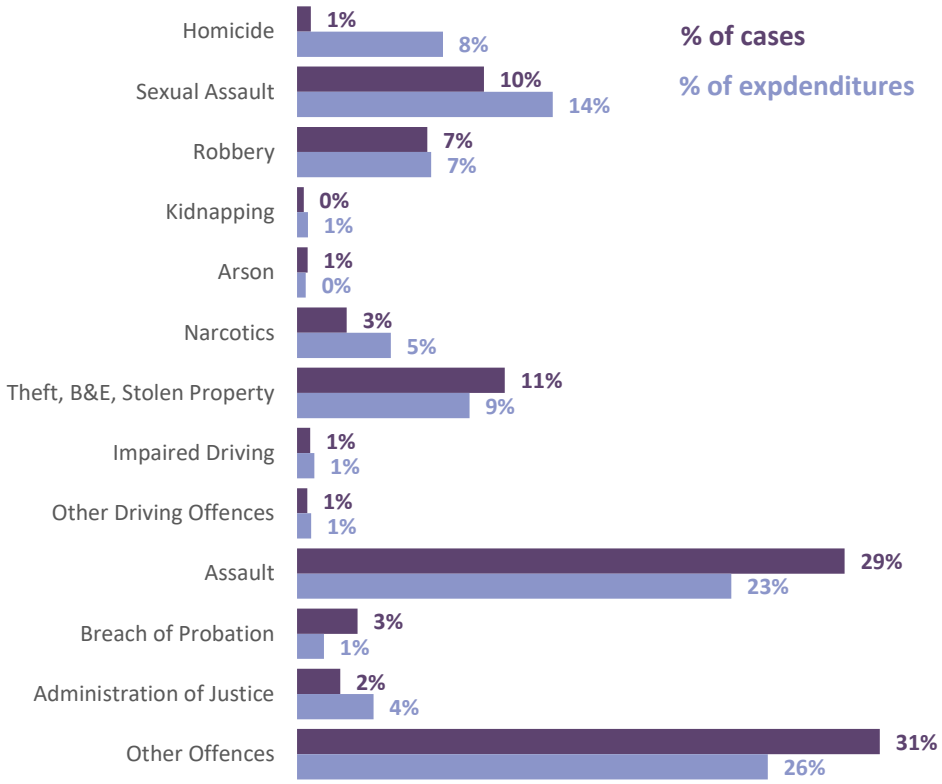
Source: Table 14 - Adult criminal legal aid by percentage of cases and percentage of in-year expenditures, Canada, 2022-23 (excluding appeals, mental disorder and *Extradition Act* cases).

Assault was the most frequent offence category, with the highest proportion of in-year expenditures for youth criminal legal aid

Figure 19 shows that the case volume (proportion of cases) is largely in line with expenditures for youth offences, and the differences for youth cases are very similar to adults. Other offences made up the highest proportion of case volume (31%) and the highest proportion of in-year expenditures (26%), followed by assault which made up 29% of cases, and 23% of in-year expenditures in 2022-23. Theft, break and enter, possession of stolen property and sexual assault were the next two most common offence categories with 11% and 10% of case volumes respectively; however the expenditures reflect the differing levels of complexities of these cases, with theft, break and enter, possession of stolen property expenditures at 9% while sexual assault expenditures were at 14% of in-year expenditures.

The main outlier was homicide cases, which made up a very small proportion of case volume, but a comparatively higher proportion of in-year expenditures, accounting for 1% of cases but 8% of in-year expenditures.

Figure 19
For youth criminal cases, homicides have disproportionately high case expenditures in relation to case volume while assaults and 'other offences' have the opposite variance.



Source: Table 15 - Youth criminal legal aid by percentage of cases and percentage of in-year expenditures, Canada, 2022-23 (excluding appeals, mental disorder and *Extradition Act* cases).

Immigration and refugee legal aid

Refugee claimants have the right, under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA), to be represented at I&R proceedings. Through the Legal Aid Program, the federal government contributes annual funding to the seven provinces where I&R legal aid services are provided (Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec). I&R matters are primarily proceedings of persons (individuals, or principal applicants and family) involved in the immigration and refugee determination system under the provisions of *IRPA*, but also include some other immigration proceedings under the *IRPA*, such as immigration detention hearings and removal order appeals. I&R legal aid covers the provision of legal advice, assistance and representation for immigration or refugee proceedings before the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB), the Federal Court, or Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada officials on post-determination actions.

There were over 46,000 I&R legal aid cases in 2022-23, a 82% increase from the previous year

Table 16 shows the volume of I&R legal aid cases as well as expenditures for I&R legal aid for 2022-23, including cases and expenditures carried over from previous fiscal years for matters that are ongoing. In 2022-23, there were 46,233 legal aid cases, with 4,307[17] carried over from previous fiscal years in the provinces that reported these data, for a total of 50,540 cases. A majority of (current and previous fiscal years) cases were handled by private bar lawyers (77%), while 19% were handled in specialized clinics, and 4% were handled by staff lawyers. Over two thirds of expenditures from the current (2022-23) and previous fiscal years related to I&R legal aid were associated with private bar certificates (68%).

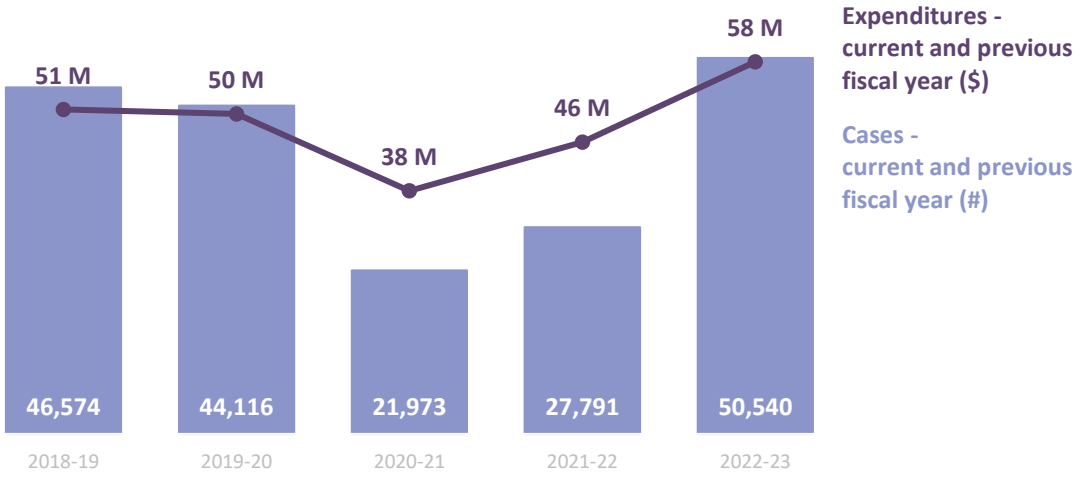
Newfoundland and Labrador and Alberta had the highest proportion of staff lawyersworking on I&R matters (100% and 43%) in 2022-23, while in British Columbia, 100% of I&R legal aid cases were handled by private bar lawyers. Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec are the only jurisdictions with cases handled through specialized clinics, which account for 92% of previous and current fiscal caseloads in Nova Scotia, 24% in Ontario, and 11% in Quebec) (Table 16).

Figure 20 shows the trends in I&R legal aid caseload volumes and expenditures over the past five years. The number of previous and current fiscal year cases has continued to climb over the past two years from a low of 21,973 during the onset of the pandemic in 2020-21. In 2022-23 previous and current fiscal year cases have increased beyond pre-pandemic levels[18], up 82% from last year, and up 9% compared to 2018-19 using a constant 2023 dollar comparison. Similarly, expenditures have gradually increased over the past two years from the low during the onset of the pandemic in 2020-21. In 2022-23, expenditures were up 28% from the previous year and 15% compared to 2028-19.

[17] Ontario did not report on cases carried over from previous fiscal years, so the number of these applications does not reflect the true count.

[18] Note that federal funding for I&R legal aid in Nova Scotia only began in 2021-22.

Figure 20
Immigration and refugee legal aid caseloads and expenditures surpassed pre-pandemic levels in 2022-23.



Source: Table 16 - Immigration and refugee legal aid number of certificates and amount of expenditures, 2018-19 to 2022-23. (Figure uses constant 2023 dollars as calculated February 28, 2024).

Legal aid plan personnel

Legal aid plans in Canada currently operate under one of three service delivery models: the staff lawyer model, the judicare model and the mixed model. In the staff lawyer model, lawyers providing legal aid services are employed directly by legal aid plans. In the judicare model, legal services are provided by lawyers in private practice who are paid by the legal aid plan based on tariff rates. The mixed model uses a combination of staff and private lawyers to provide legal aid services. The following section of the report provides information on the service delivery models at legal aid plans by detailing the type of staff working in legal aid, and cases they work on. This includes information on both lawyers and non-lawyers.

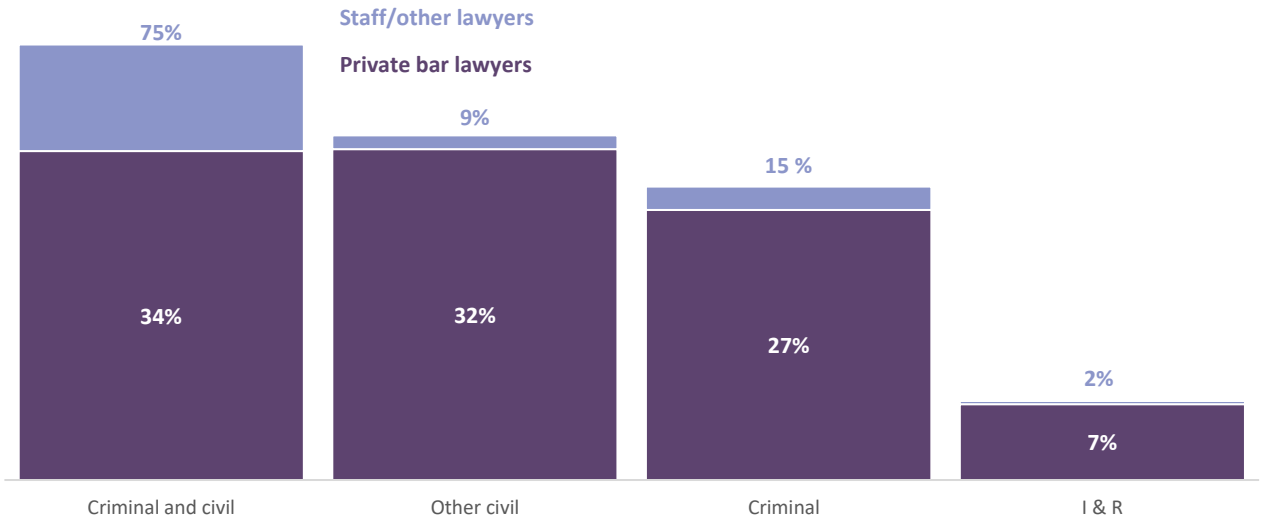
Legal aid services are delivered primarily by private bar lawyers

Table 17 provides an overview of the proportion of staff lawyers versus private bar lawyers delivering legal aid services across the country. While these data provide a picture of the number of lawyers providing services, these figures do not reflect the differences between the legal aid case loads of private bar versus staff lawyers. In some cases, a legal aid plan may have a higher proportion of private bar lawyers, but the staff lawyers at that plan may be managing a higher proportion of cases. Over the past five years, the proportion of staff lawyers versus private bar lawyers delivering legal aid services has remained consistent.

In 2022-23, 87% of the 10,533 lawyers providing legal aid services in Canada were private bar lawyers (Table 17). Staff lawyers made up 12% of lawyers providing direct legal aid services to clients, and other lawyers (such as Executive Directors) made up 1%. In 2022/23, among private bar lawyers, 34% provided both criminal and civil law services. There were more private bar lawyers providing only civil law legal aid services as compared to only criminal (34% and 27%, respectively), while 7% of private bar lawyers provided legal aid services for I&R matters. Of the staff lawyers and other lawyers, the highest proportion provided both criminal and civil law services (75%), while 15% provided only criminal services and 9% provided only civil law services. The remaining 2% provided services for I&R matters (Figure 21).

Overall, 32% of the 10,533 lawyers providing legal aid services in Canada were in Ontario, 26% were in Alberta and 21% were in Quebec. When looking at the breakdown between private and staff lawyers within each province/territory, British Columbia and Alberta had the highest proportions of private bar lawyers (97% and 96%, respectively), while Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador had the highest proportions of staff lawyers (94% and 80%, respectively) (Table 17).

Figure 21
Most lawyers delivering legal aid services provide both civil and criminal services.



Source: Table 17 - Legal aid service delivery by private bar, staff and other lawyers, 2022-23.

Non-lawyers made up 16% of legal aid plan personnel

Legal aid plans employ a variety of non-lawyer personnel to support the delivery of legal aid services to clients. Over the past five years the proportions of various legal aid plan personnel have remained relatively stable. In 2022-23 lawyers made up 84% of legal aid plan personnel and non-lawyers made up the other 16% (Table 18). Of the 2,025 non-lawyers working for legal aid plans, intake workers/support staff (83%) were most common, followed by paralegals/legal assistants (13%), and articling students/other (i.e., managers) (4%) made up the remaining non-lawyer personnel (Figure 22).

Figure 22
Legal aid plan personnel include a variety of staff, with intake/support workers making up the largest cohort outside of the private bar.

Source: Table 18 - Legal aid personnel as of March 31, 2023.

Specialized courts

Specialized courts are used in the majority of provinces and territories and provide invaluable services to legal aid clients

Specialized or problem-solving courts focus on a particular type of offence or accused. They typically involve an interdisciplinary team that is focused on addressing the underlying causes of offending bringing the accused into contact with the criminal legal system. The following section provides information on the specialized courts operating in Canada. Figure 23 provides an overview of the service delivery models available at specialized courts across Canada.

Mental Health and Wellness/Community Courts

Mental health courts are designed to assist accused persons who have mental health issues. This typically involves specially trained personnel and processes that take into consideration the difficulties that a person with mental health issues may encounter in the criminal justice process. Wellness/community courts offer integrated supports and services designed to offer a more compassionate and effective response for those who enter the system due to their mental health struggles and to address the problems associated with repeat offenders struggling to reintegrate into society.

There are 11 jurisdictions that operate mental health and wellness/community courts: Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, and Yukon.

Drug Treatment Courts

Drug Treatment Courts contribute to reducing criminal recidivism associated with substance use by offering eligible adult accused with a substance use disorder the opportunity to complete a court monitored drug treatment program as an alternative to a finding of guilt or incarceration. Drug Treatment Courts and other therapeutic justice programs with a substance use treatment component currently operate in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Nunavut.

Indigenous Peoples Court (IPC)/Gladue Courts

Indigenous Peoples Court/Gladue courts offer restorative justice and traditional approaches to proceedings through the regular court systems for Indigenous people. These courts currently operate in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia.

Youth Courts

Youth between the ages of 12 and 17 who are accused of a crime have their matters heard in youth court, which is a separate court division. Youth courts currently operate in every province and territory in Canada.

Family/Domestic Violence Courts

Family/domestic violence courts are designed to handle cases of family/domestic violence by offering an integrated, collaborative approach focusing on supporting victims, increasing accused responsibility, and providing early intervention. These courts currently operate in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon, and Northwest Territories.

Pandemic relief funding

Legal aid plans were provided with additional criminal legal aid funding in 2022-23 to address pressures resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding was provided for both technological and service delivery improvements to help mitigate the impact of the pandemic on criminal legal aid operations. Table 19 provides a detailed inventory of the funded initiatives. Overall, there was a roughly even breakdown in spending between technological and service delivery initiatives. Many jurisdictions used the technological funding to purchase equipment (e.g., laptops, webcams) to support/improve the ability of counsel to participate in remote appearances or to increase their information technology

capacities (e.g., hiring an IT manager). Service delivery funds were often spent to expand access to court time, through hiring additional counsel, or creation of expanded hours for bail hearings.

Figure 23 - Specialized courts by province/territory and type of legal aid service delivery, 2022-23

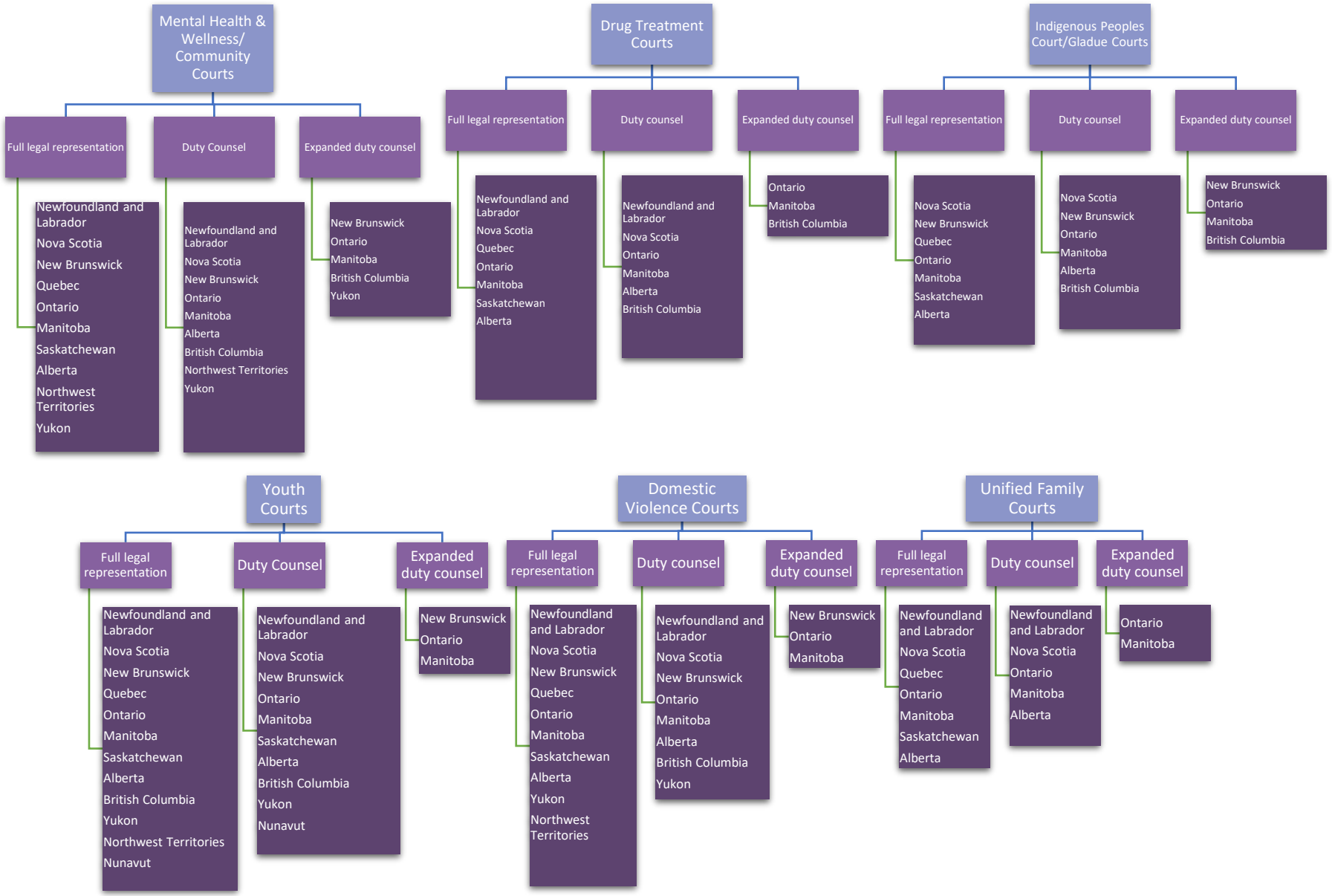


Table 1 - Legal aid plan revenues, by type of revenue, annual, 2022-23

	Type of Revenue													
	Total legal aid plan revenues[1] Dollars (%)		Federal contributions from 2022-23 agreements				P/T contributions to legal aid plans[4] Dollars (%)		Client contributions and cost recoveries to legal aid plans[5] Dollars (%)		Contributions of the legal profession and interest earned from lawyers' trust accounts[6] Dollars (%)		Other legal aid plan revenues Dollars (%)	
			Criminal (+civil in territories) Dollars (%)[2]		I&R[3] Dollars (%)									
N.L.	18,648,644	100%	2,612,824	14%	0	0%	14,424,076	77%	49,641	0%	1,465,679	8%	96,424	1%
P.E.I.	1,021,585	100%	545,887	53%			475,698	47%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
N.S.	32,843,372	100%	4,987,881	15%	836,000	3%	26,534,219	81%	31,397	0%	0	0%	453,875	1%
N.B.	12,719,232	100%	3,107,771	24%			8,358,478	66%	643,969	5%	200,000	2%	409,014	3%
Que.	180,512,857	100%	31,480,868	17%	8,466,095	5%	134,846,137	75%	3,461,249	2%	0	0 %	2,258,508	1%
Ont.	577,745,083	100%	61,190,384	11%	44,224,211	8%	226,214,685	39%	12,919,086	2%	231,786,894	40%	1,409,823	0%
Man.	36,889,162	100%	9,430,933	26%	215,000	1%	23,275,038	63%	1,842,196	5%	1,536,484	4%	589,511	2%
Sask.	29,664,754	100%	8,734,788	29%			20,501,212	69%	5,575	0%	0	0%	423,179	1%
Alta.	120,647,765	100%	21,722,708	18%	924,000	1%	87,458,292	72%	4,923,029	4%	2,728,761	2%	2,890,975	2%
B.C.	122,446,843	100%	21,189,390	17%	6,780,000	6%	90,777,185	74%	0	0%	2,463,311	2%	1,236,957	1%
Yuk.	3,250,533	100%	1,356,163	42%			1,830,518	56%	12,950	0%	902	0%	50,000	2%
N.W.T.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Nvt.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Canada	1,136,389,830	100%	166,359,597	15%	61,445,306	5%	634,695,538	56%	23,889,092	2%	240,182,031	21%	9,818,266	1%

– Refers to data that were not available, collected, or provided by the jurisdiction as reported in the Final Annual Report.

Rounding may impact totals balancing.

1. Revenues are all monies received by the legal aid plan for assistance in the provision of legal aid services. Funding is received by legal aid plans from three main sources: government contributions, client contributions and cost recoveries, and contributions from the legal profession.
2. Federal government contributions are the federal contribution amounts for criminal and where applicable, I&R legal aid. Federal contributions flow directly to the consolidated revenue fund of each province/territory, and are subsequently allocated by the provinces/territories to their respective legal aid plans.
3. Immigration and Refugee (I&R) matters are proceedings of persons (individuals, or principal applicants and family) involved in the immigration and refugee determination system under the provisions of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA). I&R legal aid covers the provision of legal advice, assistance and representation for immigration or refugee proceedings before the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) of Canada, the Federal Court (FC), or Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) officials on post-determination actions. I&R legal aid is available in seven provinces: Newfoundland and Labrador (N.L.), Nova Scotia (N.S.), Quebec (Que.), Ontario (Ont.), Manitoba (Man.), Alberta (Alta.), and British Columbia (B.C.).
4. Provincial/Territorial (P/T) contributions are the contribution amounts received for legal aid services from the legal aid plan's respective government. Many legal aid plans are unable to isolate the federal contribution received by the P/T government from JUS. Therefore, these federal contributions may be included in the total "P/T contributions to legal aid plans" table.
5. Client contributions are to all monies received from the aided person for legal assistance; flat user fees are included. The amount of client contribution is established in an agreement between the jurisdiction and the client. Agreements may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Cost recoveries refer to the party costs ordered or agreed to be recovered in the case. Includes monies recovered from a judgement, award or settlement.
6. Contributions of the legal profession and interest earned from lawyers' trust accounts are all monies received from the law profession (e.g., provincial/territorial law foundation funding, levies) as well as other revenues that have not already been accounted for in the above categories. This may include interest from lawyers' trust accounts, revenues from investments, research sales, general interest earnings and any other revenue.

Notes

- For N.L., "Other Legal Aid Plan Revenues" includes interest.
- In N.S., I&R legal aid is delivered by a separate organization, the Halifax Refugee Clinic.
- For N.B., Public Trustee does not fall under the same screening criteria as criminal and family legal aid services; however, their revenue is included in this table as revenue received from the provincial government is also used to cover expenditures related to P/T services.
- For N.B., "Other Legal Aid Plan Revenues" includes liens, Public Trustee Client Recovery, Public Trustee Fee Revenue, Interest, and miscellaneous.
- For Man., "Other Legal Aid Plan Revenues" includes judgements and settlements, interest income, and miscellaneous.
- For Sask. "Other Legal Aid Plan Revenues" includes interest, grants, and miscellaneous.

- For Alta., client contributions and cost recoveries to legal aid plans decreased due to the end of temporary funding.
- For B.C., "Other Legal Aid Plan Revenues" includes investment income and fees.

Table 2a - Legal aid plan expenditures, by type of expenditure, 2022-23

	Total Expenditures[1] Dollars (%)		Legal Services Expenditures (including administrative and other costs)					
			Criminal matters Dollars (%)		Civil matters			
					I&R[2] Dollars (%)		All other civil Dollars (%)	
N.L.	17,547,740	100%	11,314,906	64%	32,357	0%	6,200,477	35%
P.E.I.	2,160,414	100%	938,887	43%			1,221,527	57%
N.S.	32,154,098	100%	19,139,682	60%	836,751	3%	12,177,665	38%
N.B.	11,102,326	100%	6,174,267	56%			4,928,059	44%
Que.	205,121,351	100%	81,299,548	40%	8,466,095	4%	115,355,708	56%
Ont.	468,797,356	100%	210,687,608	45%	44,521,388	10%	213,588,360	46%
Man.	33,771,458	100%	24,445,837	72%	216,059	1%	9,109,562	27%
Sask.	31,635,669	100%	25,151,101	80%			6,484,568	20%
Alta.	100,065,238	100%	75,813,344	76%	726,143	1%	23,525,751	24%
B.C.	96,578,798	100%	57,659,028	60%	7,580,607	8%	31,339,163	32%
Yuk.	3,242,688	100%	–	–			–	–
N.W.T.	–	–	–	–			–	–
Nvt.	–	–	–	–			–	–
Canada	1,002,177,136	100%	512,624,208	51%	62,379,400	6%	423,930,840	42%

– Refers to data that were not available, collected, or provided by the jurisdiction as reported in the Final Annual Report.
Rounding may impact totals balancing.

1. Legal Services Expenditures are payments made by legal aid plans to private law firms for the delivery of legal services and the costs of legal services delivered by legal aid plan staff. These expenditures include monies spent on the provision of legal advice and representation services to clients including special target groups. All legal aid office and contracted community clinic expenditures are a combination of direct and indirect service delivery costs. Direct service delivery costs are expenses related to providing services directly to clients, while indirect service delivery costs are expenses not directly related to providing legal aid services to clients, but are reasonably attributable to the delivery of legal aid. These costs are required to support the day-to-day operations of the legal aid plan and are provided at a service delivery location. These costs should not be included under administrative costs. Administrative costs and other costs are excluded.
2. Immigration and Refugee (I&R) matters are proceedings of persons (individuals, or principal applicants and family) involved in the immigration and refugee determination system under the provisions of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA). I&R legal aid covers the provision of legal advice, assistance and representation for immigration or refugee proceedings before the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) of Canada, the Federal Court (FC), or Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) officials on post-determination actions. I&R legal aid is available in 7 provinces: Newfoundland and Labrador (N.L.), Nova Scotia (N.S.), Quebec (Que.), Ontario (Ont.), Manitoba (Man.), Alberta (Alta.), and British Columbia (B.C.).

Note

• In N.S., I&R legal aid is delivered by a separate organization, the Halifax Refugee Clinic.

Table 2b - Total administrative and other costs, 2022-23	
	Dollars
N.L.	2,061,953
P.E.I.	220,047
N.S.	2,692,548
N.B.	1,376,002
Que.	30,046,372
Ont.	46,896,921
Man.	5,448,525
Sask.	3,624,157
Alta.	6,893,939
B.C.	7,034,631
Yuk.	493,416
N.W.T.	—
Nvt.	—
Canada	106,788,511
Note: Total legal aid plan expenditures from Table 2a include these administrative costs in all jurisdictions.	

Table 3 - Legal aid applications received, by type of matter, 2022-23

	Total legal aid applications[1] Number (%)		Criminal legal aid applications				P/T offences Number (%)[3]		Civil legal aid applications				
			Total criminal applications Number (%)		Adult	Youth[2]			Total civil applications (including I&R) Number (%)		Child Protection[4]	Family[5]	Non-family[6]	I&R[7]
N.L.	7,234	100%	4,476	62%	4,199	277	0	0%	2,758	38%	2,691	—	—	67
P.E.I.	1,109	100%	878	79%	807	71	0	0%	231	21%	26	193	12	
N.S.[8]	38,300	100%	24,114	63%	23,197	917	459	1%	13,727	36%	1,556	10,028	2,059	84
N.B.	4,766	100%	2,619	55%	2,449	170	10	0%	2,137	45%	356	1,779	2	
Que.	219,754	100%	87,293	40%	79,393	7,900	7765	4%	124,696	57%	44,992	30,065	39,102	10,537
Ont.	120,626	100%	63,212	52%	59,924	3,288	0	0%	57,414	48%	3,810	20,171	8,216	25,217
Man.	27,012	100%	18,690	69%	17,215	1,475	46	0%	8,276	31%	1,762	5,545	708	261
Sask.	22,007	100%	15,527	71%	13,956	1,571	0	0%	6,480	29%	911	5,569	0	
Alta.	33,116	100%	26,137	79%	25,572	565	150	0%	6,829	21%	1,303	4,888	430	208
B.C.	36,638	100%	20,533	56%	19,605	928	1443	4%	14,662	40%	2,386	8,933	0	3,343
Yuk.	1,738	100%	1,315	76%	1,256	59	0	0%	423	24%	–	310	113	
N.W.T.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Nvt.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Canada	512,300	100%	264,794	52%	247,573	17,221	9,873	2%	237,633	46%	59,793	87,481	50,642	39,717

– Refers to data that were not available, collected, or provided by the jurisdiction as reported in the Final Annual Report.

Rounding may impact totals balancing.

1. An application for legal aid is a request for legal aid assistance that results in the provision of summary or full legal representation on behalf of the legal aid plan, or the denial of legal aid service. Summary services include the provision of legal advice, information, or any other type of minimal legal service granted to an individual. Full legal representation constitutes more extensive legal assistance. The total number of applications reported for the fiscal year includes all applications filed during that time, irrespective of when the application was approved or rejected.
2. Youth are persons who are at least 12 years of age, but under 18 years of age and charged under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.
3. Provincial/Territorial (P/T) offences are those offences under provincial or territorial statutory responsibility. Also included are infractions under municipal by-laws.
4. Child protection matters are those that involve children who come into the care of child protection agencies for reasons such as allegations of abuse, neglect, or abandonment.
5. Family matters are proceedings related to divorce, separation, maintenance, and all other matters of a family law nature, excluding child protection.
6. Non-family matters are all other civil proceedings that are not of a family nature (e.g., landlord and tenant disputes, poverty law).
7. Immigration and Refugee (I&R) matters are proceedings for persons (individuals, or principal applicants and family) involved in the immigration and refugee determination system under the provisions of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA). I&R legal aid covers the provision of legal advice, assistance and representation for immigration or refugee proceedings before the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) of Canada, the Federal Court (FC), or Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) officials on post-determination actions. I&R legal aid is available in 7 provinces: Newfoundland and Labrador (N.L.), Nova Scotia (N.S.), Quebec (Que.), Ontario (Ont.), Manitoba (Man.), Alberta (Alta), and British Columbia (B.C.).
8. The actual number of applications received by NS Legal Aid in 2021-22 may be greater than the number of applications reported here because of differences in the way applications are counted (specifically related to gender).

Notes

- N.L. civil legal aid applications data are only available in aggregate form, so 2,691 includes applications for child protection, family and non-family matters.
- In N.S., I&R legal aid is delivered by a separate organization, the Halifax Refugee Clinic; data include both Nova Scotia Legal Aid and Halifax Refugee Clinic.
- For Alta., applications approved and refused may relate to current and previous fiscal years, while those received are restricted to current year only.

Table 4 - Legal aid applications approved for full legal representation, by staff and private bar lawyers, annual, 2022-23

	Total approved legal aid applications[1] Number (%)		Criminal applications[2]				P/T offences[5] Number (%)		Civil applications[3]				
			Total approved criminal applications Number (%)		Adult	Youth[4]			Total approved civil legal aid applications Number (%)		Child Protection[6]	Family[7]	Non-Family[8]	I&R[9]
N.L.	3,733	100%	2,784	75%	2,535	249	0	0%	949	25%	909	7	1	32
P.E.I.	862	100%	767	89%	696	71	0	0%	95	11%	—	—	—	
N.S.	17,004	100%	12,293	72%	11,561	732	25	0%	4,686	28%	910	2,818	885	73
N.B.	3,344	100%	2,021	61%	1,863	158	6	0%	1,317	39%	280	1,037	0	
Que.	175,999	100%	70,025	40%	62,434	7,591	6,175	4%	99,799	57%	42,191	19,983	27,839	9,786
Ont.	108,733	100%	58,147	53%	54,678	3,469	0	0%	50,586	47%	3,395	15,488	8,022	23,681
Man.	31,645	100%	26,071	82%	24,291	1,780	12	0%	5,562	18%	1,404	3,710	240	208
Sask.	16,649	100%	12,737	77%	11,212	1,525	0	0%	3,912	23%	783	3,129	0	
Alta.	22,226	100%	19,229	87%	18,743	486	123	1%	2,874	13%	991	1,711	43	129
B.C.	28,256	100%	17,319	61%	16,435	884	1,150	4%	9,787	35%	1,672	5,294	0	2,821
Yuk.	1,733	100%	1,315	76%	1,256	59	0	0%	418	24%	–	310	108	
N.W.T.	0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Nvt.	0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
CDA	410,184	100%	222,708	54%	205,704	17,004	7,491	2%	179,985	44%	52,535	53,487	37,138	36,730

- Refers to data that were not available, collected, or provided by the jurisdiction as reported in the Final Annual Report.

Rounding may impact totals balancing.

- In this table, approved legal aid application counts are full legal representation applications only. When aggregated, the total number of applications reflects the number of individual requests for assistance, rather than the total number of persons seeking assistance. Full legal representation (may also be called "certificate") refers to the provision of full legal aid representation by a private bar lawyer, approved by the legal aid plan or by a staff lawyer. An approved application for full legal representation refers to an application for legal assistance which is granted as described in a certificate, referral, or any other authorization denoting that the applicant is entitled to legal aid services. Once an application is approved for full legal representation by the legal aid plan, the certificate may then be brought to a private bar lawyer who bills the legal aid plan once the service is completed, or the service may be provided by a legal aid staff lawyer.
- For criminal matters, there can be multiple charges per application and these can be handled separately by different lawyers.
- For civil matters, there is one matter per application. In some jurisdictions one application may be associated with multiple matters.
- "Youth" are persons who are at least 12 years of age, but under 18 years of age and charged under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.
- Provincial/Territorial (P/T) offences are those offences under provincial or territorial statutory responsibility. Also included are infractions under municipal by-laws.
- Child protection matters are those where measures of child protection are sought and proceedings when a client is involved with a child protection agency.
- Family matters are proceedings related to divorce, separation, maintenance, and all other matters of a family law nature, excluding child protection.
- Non-family matters are all other civil proceedings that are not of a family nature (e.g., landlord and tenant disputes, poverty law).
- Immigration and Refugee (I&R) matters are proceedings of persons (individuals, or principal applicants and family) involved in the immigration and refugee determination system under the provisions of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA). I&R legal aid covers the provision of legal advice, assistance and representation for immigration or refugee proceedings before the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) of Canada, the Federal Court (FC), or Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) officials on post-determination actions. I&R legal aid is available in 7 provinces: Newfoundland and Labrador (N.L.), Nova Scotia (N.S.), Quebec (Que.), Ontario (Ont.), Manitoba (Man.), Alberta (Alta), and British Columbia (B.C.).

Notes

- Totals may include applications that were withdrawn, or were received in a previous fiscal year, but approved or refused this fiscal year.
- N.L. civil legal aid date is only available in aggregate form for matters handled by staff solicitors, so 949 includes applications for child protection, family and non-family matters. The 7 and 1 refer to matters handled by the private bar.
- P.E.I.: Civil data are only collected in aggregate form. No breakdown is available.
- In N.S., I&R legal aid is delivered by a separate organization, the Halifax Refugee Clinic; data include both Nova Scotia Legal Aid and Halifax Refugee Clinic.
- For N.B., data only include approved applications where the attorney was assigned before March 31st.
- For Ont., total approved legal aid applications for full legal representation by staff lawyers is included in criminal adult matters. Data not captured separately for adult and youth criminal matters by staff lawyers.

- In Man., an application may result in more than one legal matter. It is more likely that a criminal adult or youth application will result in multiple legal matters (e.g., breaches added to the original charge) than a civil application.
- For Alta., applications approved and refused may relate to current and previous fiscal years, while those received are restricted to current year only.

Table 5 - Refused legal aid applications, by reason for refusal, all legal aid matters, 2022-23

	Total reasons for refusal[2] Number (%)		Reasons for refusal[1]									
			Financial eligibility[3] Number (%)		Coverage restrictions[4] Number (%)		Lack of merit[5] Number (%)		Non-compliance or abuse[6] Number (%)		Other reasons for refusal[7 & 8] Number (%)	
N.L.	2,759	100%	400	14%	0	0%	350	13%	0	0%	2,009	73%
P.E.I.	142	100%	132	93%	0	0%	10	7%	0	0%	0	0%
N.S.	1,817	100%	927	51%	308	17%	161	9%	265	15%	156	9%
N.B.	486	100%	228	47%	154	32%	7	1%	0	0%	97	20%
Que.	39,831	100%	32,921	83%	3,632	9%	783	2%	44	0%	2,451	6%
Ont.	8,641	100%	5,119	59%	2,835	33%	431	5%	0	0%	256	3%
Man.	8,718	100%	3,785	43%	2,075	24%	1174	13%	74	1%	1,610	18%
Sask.	3,164	100%	2,192	69%	599	19%	328	10%	19	1%	26	1%
Alta.	10,268	100%	3,908	38%	2459	24%	29	0%	0	0%	3,872	38%
B.C.	8,382	100%	1,289	15%	609	7%	0	0%	0	0%	6,484	77%
Yuk.	55	100%	51	93%	1	2%	3	5%	0	0%	0	0%
N.W.T.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Nvt.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Canada	84,263	100%	50,952	60%	12,672	15%	3,276	4%	402	0%	16,961	20%

– Refers to data that were not available, collected, or provided by the jurisdiction as reported in the Final Annual Report.

Rounding may impact totals balancing.

1. An application can be refused, appealed and still refused. Only the initial refusal is counted.
2. If an application involves more than one reason for refusal, only the most important reason is counted. This is determined by the hierarchy of the table (reasons are ordered from highest to lowest importance, from left to right).
3. "Financial eligibility" are refusals for legal aid based on financial information disclosed by the applicant (e.g., income level, assets, liabilities) which indicates that the applicant does not meet the financial eligibility requirements set by the legal aid plan and therefore does not qualify for legal aid. Financial eligibility criteria are set out by each legal aid plan and therefore the criteria differ across the provinces and territories.
4. "Coverage restrictions" are applications refused on the grounds that the legal matter is not covered by the legal aid plan. For example, some plans do not cover wills and estates or workplace injury claims.
5. "Lack of merit" are applications refused because the nature of the case or the seriousness of the matter does not warrant legal assistance. This eligibility criterion does not depend on finances, it includes criteria such as the type of legal problem and the merit of the case.
6. "Non-compliance/abuse" are refusals for legal aid based on either an applicant's prior or current experience with the legal aid plan. These refusals include applications where similar services were already rendered, services applied for are abusive of the legal process, or because the client fails to cooperate with the legal aid lawyer.
7. "Other reasons for refusal" refer to all other reasons for refusing an application that has not already been accounted for in the above categories.
8. A proportion of Quebec refusals are due to the fact that some legal aid applicants have not submitted the required documents to assess their financial eligibility.

Notes

- In N.S., I&R legal aid is delivered by a separate organization, the Halifax Refugee Clinic; data include both Nova Scotia Legal Aid and Halifax Refugee Clinic.
- For Alta., applications approved and refused may relate to current and previous fiscal years, while those received are restricted to current year only.
- B.C.'s current system does not support effective tracking of refusals, so many applications refused for coverage or eligibility may be incorrectly identified as "Other reasons for refusal". Financial eligibility criteria are a set of caps rather than a reflection of the client's ability to pay. In addition, the caps are based on a market basket measure of poverty.

Table 6 - Refused legal aid applications, by reason for refusal, criminal matters, 2022-23

	Total reasons for refusal[2] Number (%)	Reasons for refusal[1]				
		Financial eligibility[3] Number (%)	Coverage restrictions[4] Number (%)	Lack of merit[5] Number (%)	Non-compliance or abuse[6] Number (%)	Other reasons for refusal[7] [& 8] Number (%)
N.L.	1,261 100%	208 16%	0 0%	47 4%	0 0%	1,006 80%
P.E.I.	105 100%	105 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
N.S.	596 100%	317 53%	84 14%	30 5%	69 12%	96 16%
N.B.	288 100%	99 34%	111 39%	5 2%	0 0%	73 25%
Que.	14,753 100%	13,446 91%	564 4%	22 0%	6 0%	715 5%
Ont.	4,261 100%	2,024 48%	1,919 45%	205 5%	0 0%	113 3%
Man.	5,076 100%	2203 43%	1,360 27%	335 7%	34 1%	1,144 23%
Sask.	1,623 100%	1168 72%	405 25%	30 2%	12 1%	8 0%
Alta.	6,200 100%	2050 33%	845 14%	15 0%	0 0%	3,290 53%
B.C.	3,214 100%	445 14%	291 9%	0 0%	0 0%	2,478 77%
Yuk.	43 100%	39 91%	1 2%	3 7%	0 0%	0 0%
N.W.T.	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –
Nvt.	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –	– –
Canada	37,420 100%	22,104 59%	5,580 15%	692 2%	121 0%	8,923 24%

– Refers to data that are not available, provided, or collected by the jurisdiction as reported in the Final Annual Report.

Rounding may impact totals balancing.

1. Refused applications are all requests for legal aid that have been denied legal services. This total includes applications for which no services have been approved, as well as those applications denied for full service that subsequently receive summary service. An application can be refused, appealed and still refused. Only the initial refusal is counted.
2. If an application involves more than one reason for refusal, only the most important reason is counted. This is determined by the hierarchy of the table (reasons are ordered from highest to lowest importance, from left to right).
3. "Financial eligibility" are refusals for legal aid based on financial information disclosed by the applicant (e.g., income level, assets, liabilities) which indicates that the applicant does not meet the financial eligibility requirements set by the legal aid plan and therefore does not qualify for legal aid. Financial eligibility criteria are set out by each legal aid plan and therefore the criteria differ across the provinces and territories.
4. "Coverage restrictions" are applications refused on the grounds that the legal matter is not covered by the legal aid plan. For example, some plans do not cover wills and estates or workplace injury claims.
5. "Lack of merit" are applications refused because the nature of the case or the seriousness of the matter does not warrant legal assistance. This eligibility criterion does not depend on finances, it includes criteria such as the type of legal problem and the merit of the case.
6. "Non-compliance/abuse" are refusals for legal aid based on either an applicant's prior or current experience with the legal aid plan. These refusals include applications where similar services were already rendered, services applied for are abusive of the legal process, or because the client fails to co-operate with the legal aid lawyer.
7. Other refers to all other reasons for refusing an application that have not already been accounted for in the above categories.
8. A proportion of Quebec refusals are due to the fact that some legal aid applicants have not submitted the required documents to assess their financial eligibility.

Notes:

- In N.S., I&R legal aid is delivered by a separate organization, the Halifax Refugee Clinic; data include both Nova Scotia Legal Aid and Halifax Refugee Clinic.
- For Alta., applications approved and refused may relate to current and previous fiscal years, while those received are restricted to current year only.
- B.C.'s current system does not support effective tracking of refusals, so many applications refused for coverage or eligibility may be incorrectly identified as "Other reasons for refusal". Financial eligibility criteria are a set of caps rather than a reflection of the client's ability to pay. In addition, the caps are based on a market basket measure of poverty.

Table 7 - Refused legal aid applications, by reason for refusal, civil matters, 2022-23

		Total refused[1,2] Number (%)		Financial eligibility[3] Number (%)		Coverage restrictions[4] Number (%)		Lack of merit[5] Number (%)		Non-compliance or abuse[6] Number (%)		Other reasons for refusal [7 & 8] Number (%)	
N.L.	Other Civil	1,470	100%	191	13%	0	0%	292	20%	0	0%	987	67%
	I&R	28	100%	1	4%	0	0%	11	39%	0	0%	16	57%
	Total	1,498	100%	192	13%	0	0%	303	20%	0	0%	1,003	67%
P.E.I.	Other Civil	37	100%	27	73%	0	0%	10	27%	0	0%	0	0%
	I&R												
	Total	37	100%	27	73%	0	0%	10	27%	0	0%	0	0%
N.S.	Other Civil	1,190	100%	602	51%	216	18%	128	11%	186	16%	58	5%
	I&R	9	100%	6	67%		0%	3	33%		0%		0%
	Total	1,199	100%	608	51%	216	18%	131	11%	186	16%	58	5%
N.B.	Other Civil	194	100%	128	66%	41	21%	2	1%	0	0%	23	12%
	I&R												
	Total	194	100%	128	66%	41	21%	2	1%	0	0%	23	12%
Que.	Other Civil	22,985	100%	18,049	79%	2,580	11%	726	3%	37	0%	1,593	7%
	I&R	647	100%	566	87%	16	2%	25	4%	1	0%	39	6%
	Total	23,632	100%	18,615	79%	2,596	11%	751	3%	38	0%	1,632	7%
Ont.	Other Civil	3,721	100%	2,732	73%	753	20%	117	3%	0	0%	119	3%
	I&R	659	100%	363	55%	163	25%	109	17%	0	0%	24	4%
	Total	4,380	100%	3,095	71%	916	21%	226	5%	0	0%	143	3%
Man.	Other Civil	3,546	100%	1,548	44%	690	19%	817	23%	40	1%	451	13%
	I&R	70	100%	27	39%	17	24%	18	26%	0	0%	8	11%
	Total	3,616	100%	1,575	44%	707	20%	835	23%	40	1%	459	13%
Sask.	Other Civil	1,541	100%	1,024	66%	194	13%	298	19%	7	0%	18	1%
	I&R												
	Total	1,541	100%	1,024	66%	194	13%	298	19%	7	0%	18	1%
Alta.	Other Civil	3,946	100%	1,822	46%	1,584	40%	14	0%	0	0%	526	13%
	I&R	93	100%	36	39%	30	32%	0	0%	0	0%	27	29%
	Total	4,039	100%	1,858	46%	1614	40%	14	0%	0	0%	553	14%
B.C.	Other Civil	4,353	100%	614	14%	180	4%	0	0%	0	0%	3,559	82%
	I&R	522	100%	180	34%	121	23%	0	0%	0	0%	221	42%
	Total	4,875	100%	794	16%	301	6%	0	0%	0	0%	3,780	78%
Yuk.	Other Civil	12	100%	12	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	I&R												
	Total	12	100%	12	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Canada	**Other Civil**	42,995	100%	26,749	62%	6,238	15%	2,404	6%	270	1%	7,334	17%
	I&R	2,028	100%	1,179	58%	347	17%	166	8%	1	0%	335	17%
	Total	45,023	100%	27,928	62%	6,585	15%	2,570	6%	271	1%	7,669	17%

Rounding may impact totals balancing.

1. Refused applications are all requests for legal aid that have been denied legal services. The total includes applications for which no services have been approved, as well as those applications denied for full service that subsequently receive summary service. An application can be refused, appealed and still refused. Only the initial refusal is counted.
2. Other civil legal aid includes child protection matters; proceedings related to divorce, separation, maintenance, and all other matters of a family law nature; as well as all civil matters that are not of a family nature (e.g., landlord and tenant disputes, poverty law). This category also includes immigration and Refugee (I&R) matters. Note that I&R legal aid is available in seven provinces: Newfoundland and Labrador (N.L.), Nova Scotia (N.S.), Quebec (Que.), Ontario (Ont.), Manitoba (Man.), Alberta (Alta.), and British Columbia (B.C.).

3. If an application involves more than one reason for refusal, only the most important reason is counted. This is determined by the hierarchy of the table (reasons are ordered from highest to lowest importance, from left to right).
4. "Financial eligibility" are refusals for legal aid based on financial information disclosed by the applicant (e.g., income level, assets, liabilities) which indicates that the applicant does not meet the financial eligibility requirements set by the legal aid plan and therefore does not qualify for legal aid. Financial eligibility criteria are set out by each legal aid plan and therefore the criteria differ across the provinces and territories.
5. "Coverage restrictions" are applications refused on the grounds that the legal matter is not covered by the legal aid plan. For example, some plans do not cover wills and estates or workplace injury claims.
6. "Lack of merit" are applications refused because the nature of the case or the seriousness of the matter does not warrant legal assistance. This eligibility criterion does not depend on finances, it includes criteria such as the type of legal problem and the merit of the case.
7. "Non-compliance/abuse" are refusals for legal aid based on either an applicant's prior or current experience with the legal aid plan. These refusals include applications where similar services were already rendered, services applied for are abusive of the legal process, or because the client fails to co-operate with the legal aid lawyer.
8. Other refers to all other reasons for refusing an application that have not already been accounted for in the above categories.

Notes

- In N.S., I&R legal aid is delivered by a separate organization, the Halifax Refugee Clinic; data include both Nova Scotia Legal Aid and Halifax Refugee Clinic.
- For Alta., applications approved and refused may relate to current and previous fiscal years, while those received are restricted to current year only.
- B.C.'s current system does not support effective tracking of refusals, so many applications refused for coverage or eligibility may be incorrectly identified as "Other reasons for refusal." Financial eligibility criteria are a set of caps rather than a reflection of the client's ability to pay. In addition, the caps are based on a market basket measure of poverty.

Table 8 - Applications for full legal representation, approved and refused, by self-identified Indigenous population, criminal and civil, and province/territory, 2022-23

	All criminal and civil applications[1]						Criminal legal aid applications						Civil legal aid[4] applications					
	Total received Number (%)		Total approved[2] Number (%)		Total Refused[3] Number (%)		Total received	Total approved Number (%)		Total refused Number (%)			Total received	Total approved Number (%)		Total refused Number (%)		
N.L.	642	100%	456	71%	186	29%	578	417	72%	161	28%		64	39	61%	25	39%	
P.E.I.	68	100%	64	94%	4	6%	63	60	95%	3	5%		5	4	80%	1	20%	
N.S.	2,507	62%	1,458	58%	105	4%	1,865	1,121	60%	42	2%		642	337	52%	63	10%	
N.B.	379	100%	339	89%	40	11%	281	250	89%	31	11%		98	89	91%	9	9%	
Que.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		–	–	–	–	–	
Ont.	18,356	93%	17,110	93%	0	0%	14,690	13,444	92%	0	0%		3,666	3,666	100%	0	0%	
Man.	14,745	91%	9,573	65%	3,887	26%	11,626	7,465	64%	2,772	24%		3,119	2,108	68%	1,115	36%	
Sask.	13,102	100%	11,410	87%	1,692	13%	10,087	9,105	90%	982	10%		3,015	2,305	76%	710	24%	
Alta.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		–	–	–	–	–	
B.C.	7,965	100%	6,374	80%	1,591	20%	5,539	4,792	87%	747	13%		2,426	1,582	65%	844	35%	
Yuk.	568	100%	568	100%	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		–	–	–	–	–	
N.W.T.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		–	–	–	–	–	
Nvt.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		–	–	–	–	–	
Canada	58,332	94%	47,352	81%	7,505	13%	44,729	36,654	82%	4,738	11%		13,035	10,130	78%	2,767	21%	

– Refers to data that are not available, provided, or collected by the jurisdiction as reported in the Final Annual Report.

Counts of approved and received applications may not equal the total received because they could be received and approved or refused in different years.

Rounding may impact totals balancing.

Indigenous refers to an individual who self-identifies as First Nations (North American Indian), Inuk (Inuit), or Métis, whether they live on or off-reserve and whether or not they have Registered or Treaty Indian status.

1. An application for legal aid is a request for legal aid assistance that results in the provision of summary or full legal representation on behalf of the legal aid plan, or the denial of legal aid service. Summary services include the provision of legal advice, information, or any other type of minimal legal service granted to an individual. Full legal representation constitutes more extensive legal assistance. The total number of applications reported for the fiscal year includes all applications filed during that time, irrespective of when the application was approved or refused.
2. Approved legal aid application counts refer to full legal representation applications only. When aggregated, the total number of applications reflects the number of individual requests for assistance, rather than the total number of persons seeking assistance. Full legal representation (or "certificate") refers to the provision of full legal aid representation by a private bar lawyer approved by the legal aid plan or by a staff lawyer. An approved application for full legal representation refers to an application for legal assistance which is granted as described in a certificate, referral, or any other authorization denoting that the applicant is entitled to legal aid services. Once an application is approved for full legal representation by the legal aid plan, the certificate may then be brought to a private bar lawyer who bills the legal aid plan once the service is completed, or the service may be provided by a legal aid staff lawyer.
3. Refused applications refer to all requests for legal aid that have been denied legal services. This total includes applications for which no services have been approved, as well as those applications denied for full legal representation that subsequently receive summary service. An application can be refused, appealed and still refused. Only the initial refusal is counted.
4. Other civil legal aid includes child protection matters; proceedings related to divorce, separation, maintenance, and all other matters of a family law nature; as well as all civil matters that are not of a family nature (e.g., landlord and tenant disputes, poverty law). This category also includes immigration and Refugee (I&R) matters. Note that I&R legal aid is available in seven provinces: Newfoundland and Labrador (N.L.), Nova Scotia (N.S.), Quebec (Que.), Ontario (Ont.), Manitoba (Man.), Alberta (Alta), and British Columbia (B.C.).

Notes

- In N.S., Ont., and Man., there is not a one-to-one relationship between applications received and applications approved or refused in a year so totals do not balance to 100%.
- Yuk. does not provide a breakdown of Indigenous clients for criminal or civil cases. Yukon only started collecting self-identifying information mid-way through the reporting year. Individuals in-custody are automatically deemed eligible and don't always go through the standard applcation process. It's during a thorough/full application process that Yukon Legal Services Society (YLSS) asks if someone identifies as Indigenous. YLSS is not currently collecting/recording that information for everyone in custody, therefore, the numbers reported for Indigenous individuals approved for representation will be understated.

Table 9 - Duty counsel services, by type of matter, 2022-23

	Total duty counsel services Number (%)		Criminal duty counsel services[1]				Provincial Statute Offences Number (%)		Civil duty counsel services[2]			
			Total criminal duty counsel services Number (%)		Adult matters	Youth[3] matters			Total civil duty counsel services Number (%)		I&R[4]	Other civil matters[5]
N.L.[P]	12,279	100%	11,714	95%	11,457	257	0	0%	565	5%	0	565
P.E.I.	703	–	703	100%	703	0	0	0%	0	0%		0
N.S.[A]	17,822	100%	15,143	85%	14,875	268	370	2%	2,309	13%	0	2,309
N.B.[A]	21,707	100%	19,744	91%	19,100	644	764	4%	1,199	6%		1,199
Que.	18,056	100%	18,056	100%	18,056		0	0%	0	0%	0	0
Ont.[A]	993,122	100%	893,221	90%	879,995	13,226	0	0%	99,901	10%	122	99,779
Man.[A]	54,416	100%	50,964	94%	46,768	4,196	0	0%	3,452	6%	0	3,452
Sask.[A]	35,537	100%	34,753	98%	32,637	2,116	784	2%	0	0%		0
Alta.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
B.C.[A]	86,221	100%	63,751	74%	62,454	1,297		0%	22,470	26%	–	22,470
Yuk.	1,359	–	1,331	98%	1,301	30	3	0%	25	2%		25
N.W.T.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		–
Nvt.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		–
Canada	1,241,222	100%	1,109,380	89%	1,087,346	22,034	1,921	0%	129,921	10%	122	129,799

– Refers to data that are not available, provided, or collected by the jurisdiction as reported in the Final Annual Report.

Rounding may impact totals balancing.

[P] – Count is by number of persons assisted.

[A] - Count is by number of assists - the number of times duty counsel was provided for each category of service provided for adult and youth criminal legal aid, provincial statute offences, I&R, and civil legal aid.

1. Criminal duty counsel are legal services in criminal matters that are generally provided at a court or place of detention.
2. Civil duty counsel are legal services in civil matters that may additionally be provided at locations other than a court or place of detention (e.g., psychiatric hospital, senior citizens' home).
3. "Youth" are persons who are at least 12 years of age, but under 18 years of age and charged under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.
4. Immigration and Refugee (I&R) matters are proceedings of persons (individuals, or principal applicants and family) involved in the immigration and refugee determination system under the provisions of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA). I&R legal aid covers the provision of legal advice, assistance and representation for immigration or refugee proceedings before the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) of Canada, the Federal Court (FC), or Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) officials on post-determination actions.
5. Other civil matters refer to all other civil proceedings including family matters.

Notes

- Yuk. duty counsel services data are an undercount as all data from private bar lawyers are not included.
- For N.S., duty counsel data do not include business hours telephone duty counsel services. In N.S. I&R legal aid is delivered by a separate organization, the Halifax Refugee Clinic.
- Legal Aid Manitoba does not track by matter type; therefore, for Brydges total assists, the service handles police custody calls throughout the province. For provincial statute offences, Legal Aid Manitoba does not track duty counsel assists by individual offences; the services rendered for provincial statute offences (if any) would be included in total criminal and youth matters. Legal Aid Manitoba does not track the number of persons assisted by duty counsel. For Man., civil includes all child protection and civil duty counsel matters.
- In Sask., duty counsel services are provided to individuals on remand at all court points including circuit points. There is a five hour limit on duty counsel so if the matter cannot be resolved immediately, then a full-service application is taken. Civil duty counsel services are not available in Sask.

Table 10 - Duty counsel service expenditures, by type of matter, 2022-23

	Total duty counsel services[1] Dollars (%)		Criminal duty counsel services[2]				Provincial Statute Offences Dollars (%)		Civil duty counsel services[3]			
			Total criminal duty counsel services Dollars (%)		Adult matters	Youth[4] matters			Total civil duty counsel services Dollars (%)		I&R[5]	Other civil matters[6]
N.L.	197,220	100%	197,220	100%	196,636	584	–	–	–	–	–	–
P.E.I.	68,093	–	68,093	100%	68,093	–	–	–	–	–		–
N.S.	3,009,865	100%	2,594,263	86%	2,562,934	31,329	–	–	415,602	14%	–	415,602
N.B.	1,685,985	100%	1,495,068	89%	1,490,639	4,429	4,904	0%	186,013	11%		186,013
Que.	1,053,171	100%	1,053,171	100%	1,053,171	–	–	–	-	0%	–	–
Ont.	78,269,806	100%	56,062,618	72%	55,120,854	941,764	–	–	22,207,188	28%	10,536	22,196,652
Man.	3,011,615	100%	2,825,280	94%	2,597,429	227,851	–	–	186,335	6%	–	186,335
Sask.	5,789,836	100%	5,775,802	100%	5,553,170	222,632	7,784	0%	6,250	0%		6,250
Alta.	20,038,712	100%	20,038,712	100%	19,401,012	637,700	–	–	–	–	–	–
B.C.	16,173,045	100%	10,690,071	66%	10,214,366	475,705	693,060	4%	4,789,914	30%	325,926	4,463,988
Yuk.	133,715	100%	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		–
N.W.T.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		–
Nvt.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		–
Canada	129,431,063	100%	100,800,298	78%	98,258,304	2,541,994	705,748	1%	27,791,302	21%	336,462	27,454,840

– Refers to data that were not available, provided or collected by the jurisdiction as reported in the Final Annual Report.

Rounding may impact totals balancing.

1. Duty counsel service expenditures are the actual gross dollars expended by the legal aid plan in a given fiscal year for duty counsel services.
2. Criminal duty counsel are legal services in criminal matters that are generally provided at a court or place of detention.
3. Civil duty counsel are legal services in civil matters that may additionally be provided at locations other than a court or place of detention (e.g., psychiatric hospital, senior citizens' home).
4. "Youth" are persons who are at least 12 years of age, but under 18 years of age and charged under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.
5. Immigration and Refugee (I&R) matters are proceedings of persons (individuals, or principal applicants and family) involved in the immigration and refugee determination system under the provisions of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA). I&R legal aid covers the provision of legal advice, assistance and representation for immigration or refugee proceedings before the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) of Canada, the Federal Court (FC), or Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) officials on post-determination actions.
6. Other civil matters are all other civil proceedings including family matters.

Notes

- For Sask., the expenditures reflect the payments made to private bar and staff lawyers.
- Legal Aid Manitoba does not track by matter type; therefore, for Brydges total assists, the service handles police custody calls throughout the province. For provincial statute offences, Legal Aid Manitoba does not track duty counsel assists by individual offences; the services rendered for provincial statute offences (if any) would be included in total criminal and youth matters. Legal Aid Manitoba does not track the number of persons assisted by duty counsel. For Man., civil includes all child protection and civil duty counsel matters.
- In N.S., I&R legal aid is delivered by a separate organization, the Halifax Refugee Clinic.
- N.B. is unable to report adult/youth/provincial offences expenditures separately as this level of detail is not recorded in their accounting system or case management system. Brydges Program pro-rated based on number of calls received.
- Yuk. is not able to disaggregate duty counsel expenditure data.

Table 11 - Appeal applications, approved and refused, for legal aid services, by criminal and civil matters, 2022-23

	Total criminal and civil matters						Criminal matters (adult and youth)						Civil matters (including I&R)					
	Total Approved and refused appeals[1] N (%)		Total Approved appeals N (%)		Total Refused appeals N (%)		Approved and refused appeals N (%)		Approved appeals N (%)		Refused appeals N (%)		Approved and refused appeals N (%)		Approved appeals N (%)		Refused appeals N (%)	
N.L.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
P.E.I.	2	100%	0	0%	2	100%	2	100%	0	0%	2	100%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%
N.S.	84	101%	67	80%	17	20%	55	100%	46	84%	9	16%	29	100%	21	72%	8	28%
N.B.	32	102%	16	50%	16	50%	20	100%	13	65%	7	35%	12	100%	3	25%	9	75%
Que.	688	100%	431	63%	257	37%	269	100%	197	73%	72	27%	419	100%	234	56%	185	44%
Ont.	10,084	100%	9,872	98%	212	2%	881	100%	771	88%	110	12%	9,203	100%	9,101	99%	102	1%
Man.	142	100%	71	50%	71	50%	120	100%	66	55%	54	45%	22	100%	5	23%	17	77%
Sask.	4	125%	4	100%	0	0%	3	100%	3	100%	0	0%	1	100%	1	100%	0	0%
Alta.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
B.C.	1,164	100%	654	56%	510	44%	402	100%	117	29%	285	71%	762	100%	537	70%	225	30%
Yuk.	9	106%	5	56%	4	44%	9	100%	5	56%	4	44%	0	100%	0	100%	0	100%
N.W.T.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Nvt.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Canada	12,209	100%	11,120	91%	1,089	9%	1,761	100%	1,218	69%	543	31%	10,448	100%	9,902	95%	546	5%

– Refers to data that were not available, collected, or provided by the jurisdiction as reported in the Final Annual Report.

Rounding may impact totals balancing.

1. Appeal is an appeal of a lower court or administrative tribunal decision, not an appeal of a refused application. Each case is counted despite the fact that the matter may have been dealt with by the legal aid plan in the past.

Table 12 - Legal aid clients, by age, gender, and type of matter, Canada, 2022-23

	Type of matter								Total	
	Criminal		I&R[1]		Civil		Criminal and Civil (combined)[2]			
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Male 17 and under	10,214	7%	207	1%	15,715	30%	856	4%	26,992	11%
Male 18-34	65,738	44%	12,995	55%	10,900	21%	8,712	41%	98,345	40%
Male 35-49	50,942	34%	8,263	35%	14,595	28%	8,555	40%	82,355	33%
Male 50+	21,974	15%	2,238	9%	10,961	21%	3,055	14%	38,228	16%
Total Males	148,868	100%	23,703	100%	52,171	100%	21,178	100%	245,920	100%
Female 17 and under	3,248	8%	183	2%	16,642	19%	630	5%	20,703	13%
Female 18-34	20,322	47%	5,550	49%	31,045	35%	5,067	42%	61,984	40%
Female 35-49	14,708	34%	3,984	35%	28,651	32%	5,317	44%	52,660	34%
Female 50+	4,625	11%	1,691	15%	12,696	14%	1,076	9%	20,088	13%
Total Females	42,903	100%	11,408	100%	89,034	100%	12,090	100%	155,435	100%
Other 17 and under	163	10%	*	0%	140	8%	92	62%	396	11%
Other 18-34	637	40%	131	64%	661	39%	34	23%	1,463	41%
Other 35-49	443	28%	58	28%	314	19%	19	13%	834	23%
Other 50+	336	21%	15	7%	563	34%	*	3%	918	25%
Total Other[3]	1,579	100%	205	100%	1,678	100%	149	100%	3,611	100%
Total 17 and under	13,625	7%	391	1%	32,497	23%	1,578	5%	48,091	12%
Total 18-34	86,697	45%	18,676	53%	42,606	30%	13,813	41%	161,792	40%
Total 35-49	66,093	34%	12,305	35%	43,560	30%	13,891	42%	135,849	34%
Total 50+	26,935	14%	3,944	11%	24,220	17%	4,135	12%	59,234	15%
Canada	193,350	100%	35,316	100%	142,883	100%	33,417	100%	404,966	100%

Rounding may impact totals balancing.

*cell count under 5 supressed.

1. I&R legal services are only available in seven provinces: Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia. Many provinces only collect data related to the principal claimant, so these figures do not capture age/gender for all family members accessing I&R legal aid.
2. Criminal and civil (combined) are cases where a legal aid client received summary and/or full legal aid representation for both criminal and civil legal aid.
3. The other categories could include gender diverse people, as well as unknown responses; data for the other category are not included for Quebec and Yukon.

Notes

- Prince Edward Island data are not included due to missing data.

Table 13 - Indigenous legal aid clients receiving full legal representation and summary services, by gender and type of matter, 2022-23

	Total criminal and civil[1] Number (%)		Criminal								Civil[3]			
			Total criminal adult Number (%)		Adult			Youth[2]			Total criminal youth Number (%)				Total civil Number (%)	
					Male	Female	Other	Male	Female	Other			Male	Female	Other		
N.L.	642	100%	571	2%	440	131	0	6	*	0	7	0%	26	38	0	64	1%
N.B.	603	100%	384	1%	280	104	0	34	*	0	38	2%	50	131	0	181	2%
N.S.	1681	100%	1214	4%	863	342	9	61	16	0	77	3%	108	280	*	390	4%
Ont.	17,110	100%	12,751	38%	9,395	3,265	91	448	241	*	693	28%	1,279	2,315	72	3,666	36%
Man.	9,583	100%	6,981	21%	5,287	1,653	41	368	121	5	494	20%	702	1,395	11	2,108	21%
Sask.	10,943	100%	7,735	23%	5,576	1,815	344	628	231	44	903	37%	547	1,636	122	2,305	23%
B.C.	5,958	100%	4,257	13%	3,174	1,079	*	177	68	0	245	10%	427	1,028	*	1,456	14%
Yuk.	568	100%	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Canada	47,088	100%	33,893	72%	25,015	8,389	489	1,722	682	53	2,457	100%	3,139	6,823	208	10,170	100%

– Refers to data that were not available or that were not provided by the jurisdiction as reported in the Final Annual Report.

Rounding may impact totals balancing.

*cell count under 5 suppressed.

Indigenous legal aid clients are those who self-identify as First Nations (North American Indian), Inuk (Inuit), or Métis whether they live on or off-reserve and whether or not they have Registered or Treaty Indian status.

1. Indicates the number of recipients of summary and full services, and excludes duty counsel. Recipients may be counted more than once if they are entitled to receive more than one type of legal aid service.
2. "Youth" are persons who are at least 12 years of age, but under 18 years of age and charged under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.
3. Civil legal aid includes all types of civil legal aid excluding immigration and refugee legal aid.

Note

- Yukon only started collecting self-identifying information mid-way through the reporting year. Individuals in-custody are automatically deemed eligible and don't always go through the standard application process. It's during a thorough/full application process that YLSS asks if someone identifies as Indigenous. YLSS is not currently collecting/recording that information for everyone in custody, therefore, the numbers reported for Indigenous individuals approved for representation will be understated.

Table 14 - Criminal legal aid cases by type of offence and in-year expenditures, adults, Canada, 2022-23				
List of Offences[1] and Appeals	Total cases[2] Number (%)		Total in-year expenditures (fees and disbursements) Dollars (%)	
Homicide	2,172	1%	42,127,056	13%
Sexual Assault	9,496	4%	26,176,753	8%
Robbery	6,826	3%	14,160,230	4%
Kidnapping	1,563	1%	3,710,644	1%
Arson	838	0%	1,316,772	0%
Narcotics	16,623	7%	27,157,587	8%
Theft, Break and Enter, Possession of Stolen Property	40,268	17%	40,346,731	12%
Impaired Driving	6,470	3%	7,060,763	2%
Other Driving Offences	2,636	1%	3,404,894	1%
Assault	49,986	22%	54,019,767	17%
Breach of Probation	21,954	10%	13,124,249	4%
Administration of Justice	11,312	5%	15,889,534	5%
Proceedings under Part XX.1 *Criminal Code* (Mental Disorder)	499	0%	671,353	0%
Proceedings under the *Extradition Act*	3	0%	36,974	0%
Other Offences[3]	59,018	26%	74,899,744	23%
Subtotal – Offences	229,664	100%	324,707,745	99%
Appeals:[4]				
a. Crown	95	0%	944,084	0%
b. Eligible Person Requested	312	0%	1,373,409	0%
c. Proceedings under Part XX.1 *Criminal Code* (Mental Disorder)	2	0%	257	0%
d. Proceedings under the *Extradition Act*	1	0%	33,296	0%
Subtotal – Appeals	410	0%	2,351,046	1%
Total – Criminal Legal Aid	230,074	100%	327,058,791	100%

Rounding may impact totals balancing.

1. The list of offences for which criminal legal aid was provided is similar to the one contained in the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics classification system for reporting offences. The offences are those that generally carry a risk of incarceration upon conviction. The categories do not refer to specific offences under the *Criminal Code*. Rather they represent groupings of similar offence types.
2. Includes cases approved in 2022-23, as well as cases carried over from previous years that were completed or ongoing in 2022-23, but incurred expenditures to the legal aid plan in 2022-23.
3. Other offences includes all other data not captured in the broad offence categories.
4. Excludes Ontario. For Ontario, appeals are counted within the offence, so they are not included in the appeals section.

Notes

- Yuk. not included due to incomplete data.
- For Ont., the total volume of adult approved formal applications includes 1,868 for legal aid clinics and the total in-year expenditures includes $1,952,500 for the delivery of criminal legal aid services by legal aid clinics. Adult legal aid clinic data are not available by offence type.
- P.E.I. expenditures by Criminal Code provision or offence categories are not available for staff lawyer case loads. Only aggregate totals are reported. An adjustment to record the aggregate cost has been included
- N.S expenditures are calculated by taking total expenses and deducting costs for private bar, duty counsel and administration. The remaining amount is the staff lawyer costs. Costs that can be directly attributable to an area of law are allocated in that way. The remaining expense is then allocated between Criminal Adult, Criminal Youth and Civil/Family. The allocation is

done by using the percentage of the staff lawyers' claimable time. Once the totals for criminal adult and youth were determined, the expenditures were allocated to the offences based on the percentage of hours spent by staff lawyers on full service averages for cases completed during the year. Federal Court ordered counsel cases are not included.

Given the legal complexities of each case, not all costs are included in the "Total in-year expenditures" column; therefore, the above data should not be used to calculate cost per case.

Table 15 - Criminal legal aid cases by type of offence and in-year expenditures, youth, Canada, 2022-23

List of Offences[1] and Appeals	Total volume of cases[2] Number (%)		Total in-year expenditures (fees and disbursements) Dollars (%)	
Homicide	144	1%	1,832,396	8%
Sexual Assault	1,946	10%	3,210,053	14%
Robbery	1,357	7%	1,684,066	7%
Kidnapping	69	0%	136,208	1%
Arson	109	1%	109,007	0%
Narcotics	518	3%	1,179,882	5%
Theft, Break and Enter, Possession of Stolen Property	2,165	11%	2,166,173	9%
Impaired Driving	137	1%	216,470	1%
Other Driving Offences	106	1%	176,603	1%
Assault	5,707	29%	5,454,349	23%
Breach of Probation	632	3%	339,186	1%
Administration of Justice	450	2%	962,600	4%
Proceedings under Part XX.1 *Criminal Code* (Mental Disorder)	4	0%	3,662	0%
Proceedings under the *Extradition Act*	0	0%	0	0%
Other Offences[3]	6,073	31%	6,115,060	26%
Subtotal – Offences	19,417	100%	23,748,545	100%
Appeals:				
a. Crown	3	0%	9,249	0%
b. Eligible Person Requested	2	0%	20,290	0%
c. Proceedings under Part XX.1 *Criminal Code* (Mental Disorder)	0	0%	0	0%
d. Proceedings under the *Extradition Act*	0	0%	0	0%
Subtotal – Appeals	5	0%	29,539	0%
Total – Criminal Legal Aid – YOUTH	19,422	100%	23,778,084	100%

Rounding may impact totals balancing.

Youth refers to persons who are at least 12 years of age, but under 18 years of age.

1. The list of offences for which criminal legal aid was provided for are similar to those contained in the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics classification system for reporting offences. The offences are those that generally carry a risk of incarceration upon conviction. The categories do not refer to specific offences under the *Criminal Code*. Rather, they represent groupings of similar offence types.
2. Includes cases approved in 2022-23, as well as cases carried over from previous years that were completed or ongoing in 2022-23 but incurred expenditures to the legal aid plan in 2022-23.
3. Other offences includes all other data not captured in the broad offence categories.

Notes

- N.W.T, Yukon, and Nunavut not included due to incomplete data.
- For Ont., appeals are counted within the offence, so they are not included in the appeals section.
- For Ont., the total volume of youth approved formal applications includes 181 files by legal aid clinics and the total in-year expenditures includes $162,146 for the delivery of criminal legal aid services by legal aid clinics. Youth legal aid clinic data are not available by offence type.

- N.S expenditures are calculated by taking total expenses and deducting costs for private bar, duty counsel and administration. The remaining amount is the staff lawyer costs. Costs that can be directly attributable to an area of law are allocated in that way. The remaining expense is then allocated between Criminal Adult, Criminal Youth and Civil/Family. The allocation is done by using the percentage of the staff lawyers' claimable time. Once the totals for criminal adult and youth were determined, the expenditures were allocated to the offences based on the percentage of hours spent by staff lawyers on full service averages for cases completed during the year. Federal Court ordered counsel cases are not included.

Given the legal complexities of each case, not all costs are included in the 'Total in-year expenditures' column; therefore, the above data should not be used to calculate cost per case.

Table 16 - Immigration and refugee legal aid certificates and expenditures, by province and type of lawyer, 2022-23

	Certificates[1] issued in the fiscal year Number (%)		Expenditures for certificates issued in the fiscal year Dollars	Certificates carried over from previous fiscal year Number (%)		Expenditures for certificates issued in a previous fiscal year Dollars	Total number of certificates (previous and current fiscal year) Number (%)		Total expenditures Dollars (%)	
Alberta										
Private Bar	195	58%	170,318	60	55%	58,532	255	57%	228,850	34%
Staff Lawyer	140	42%	128,251	49	45%	319,026	189	43%	447,277	66%
Specialized Clinics	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Totals	335	100%	298,569	109	100%	377,558	444	100%	676,127	100%
British Columbia										
Private Bar	2,251	100%	3,856,934	1,319	100%	2,636,284	3,570	100%	6,493,218	100%
Staff Lawyer	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0%
Specialized Clinics	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0%
Totals	2,251	100%	3,856,934	1,319	100%	2,636,284	3,570	100%	6,493,218	100%
Manitoba										
Private Bar	148	71%	54,338	36	55%	33,917	184	67%	88,255	50%
Staff Lawyer	60	29%	14,970	30	45%	74,694	90	33%	89,664	50%
Specialized Clinics	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0%
Totals	208	100%	69,308	66	100%	108,611	274	100%	177,919	100%
Nova Scotia										
Private Bar	21	66%	44,315	–	–	–	21	8%	44,315	5%
Staff Lawyer	–	0%	–	–	–	–	0	0%	0	0%
Specialized Clinics	73	78%	792,436	164	100%	–	237	92%	792,436	95%
Totals	94	100%	836,751	164	100%	0	258	100%	836,751	100%
Newfoundland and Labrador										
Private Bar	–	0%	–	–	–	–	0	0%	0	0%
Staff Lawyer	32	100%	–	–	–	28,552	32	100%	28,552	100%
Specialized Clinics	–	0%	–	–	–	–	0	0%	0	0%
Totals	32	100%	0	0	0%	28,552	32	100%	28,552	100%
Ontario										
Private Bar	23,683	71%	11,686,766	0	0%	15,742,093	23,683	71%	27,428,859	69%
Staff Lawyer	1,782	5%	4,677,015	0	0%	0	1,782	5%	4,677,015	12%
Specialized Clinics	8,062	24%	7,465,238	0	0%	0	8,062	24%	7,465,238	19%
Totals	33,527	100%	23,829,019	0	0%	15,742,093	33,527	100%	39,571,112	100%
Quebec										
Private Bar	8,343	85%	1,099,121	2,813	100%	2,851,358	11,156	89%	3,950,479	49%
Staff Lawyer	32	0%	68,853	–	–	–	32	0%	68,853	1%
Specialized Clinics	1,411	14%	4,074,755	0	0%	0	1,411	11%	4,074,755	50%
Totals	9,786	100%	5,242,729	2,813	100%	2,851,358	12,599	100%	8,094,087	100%
Canada										
Private Bar	34,641	75%	16,911,792	4,228	98%	21,322,184	38,869	77%	38,233,976	68%
Staff Lawyer	2,046	4%	4,889,089	79	2%	422,272	2,125	4%	5,311,361	10%
Specialized Clinics	9,546	21%	12,332,429	0	0%	0	9,710	19%	12,332,429	22%
Totals	46,233	100%	34,133,310	4,307	100%	21,744,456	50,540	100%	55,877,766	100%

Rounding may impact totals balancing.

– Refers to data that were not available, collected, or provided by the jurisdiction as reported in the Final Annual Report.

1. Certificate refers to the number of principal claimants receiving legal aid services for each stage of the process.

Notes

- In N.S. 73 represents new client intakes, but the total number of clients is 237. In N.S. I&R legal aid is delivered by a separate organization, the Halifax Refugee Clinic.
- Ontario did not report on certificates cases carried over from previous fiscal years, so the number of these applications does not reflect the true count.

Table 17 - Legal aid service delivery by private bar, staff, and other lawyers, 2022-23

	Total lawyers providing legal aid services Number (%)		Type of lawyer providing legal aid services															
			Private bar lawyers[1]						Staff lawyers[2]						Other lawyers (e.g., Executive Director)[3]					
			Criminal	I&R[4]	Other Civil	Criminal and Civil	TOTAL Number (%)		Criminal	I&R	Other Civil	Criminal and Civil	TOTAL Number (%)		Criminal	I&R	Other Civil	Criminal and Civil	TOTAL Number (%)	
N.L.	87	100%	0	0	0	13	13	15%	0	0	0	70	70	80%	0	0	0	4	4	5%
P.E.I.	29	100%	8		6	6	20	69%	3		4	1	8	28%	0		0	1	1	3%
N.S.	326	100%	0	0	0	216	216	66%	0	3	0	103	106	1%	0	1	0	3	4	0%
N.B.	146	100%	30		46	31	107	73%	24		12	0	36	25%	1		1	1	3	2%
Que.	2,212	100%	–	–	–	1,752	1,752	79%	–	–	–	392	392	18%	–	–	–	68	68	3%
Ont.	3,352	100%	1,225	280	958	480	2,943	88%	155	21	65	142	383	11%	0	0	0	26	26	1%
Man.	344	100%	0	0	0	286	286	83%	23	0	17	12	52	15%	0	0	0	6	6	2%
Sask.	212	100%	0		0	118	118	56%	0		0	83	83	39%	0		0	11	11	5%
Alta.	2,709	100%	702	325	1,567	0	2,594	96%	0	0	0	115	115	2%	0	0	0	0	0	0%
B.C.	1,091	100%	438	75	384	159	1,056	97%	4	1	24	3	32	3%	0	0	0	3	3	0%
Yuk.	25	100%	14		0	0	14	56%	0		0	10	10	40%	0		0	1	1	4%
N.W.T.	–	–	–		–	–	–	–	–		–	–	–	–	–		–	–	–	–
Nvt.	–	–	–		–	–	–	–			–	–	–	–	–		–	–	–	–
Canada	10,533	100%	2,417	680	2,961	3,061	9,119	87%	209	25	122	931	1,287	12%	1	1	1	124	127	1%

– Refers to data that were not available, collected, or provided by the jurisdiction as reported in the Final Annual Report.

Rounding may impact totals balancing.

1. Private bar lawyers are those who were active members of the private bar who delivered legal services and billed the legal aid plan during the fiscal year. Active bar members include the total number of lawyers certified and insured to practice in the jurisdiction. Government-employed and legal aid staff lawyers are excluded.
2. Staff lawyers are lawyers employed by legal aid plans who provide legal aid services to clients. They include duty counsel, staff lawyers at legal clinics, and others.
3. Other lawyers are personnel who are designated as counsel, but not performing in this capacity (e.g., Executive Director). For N.B., other lawyers includes Executive Director and Public Trustee & Director of Family Law Services.
4. Immigration and Refugee (I&R) matters are proceedings of persons (individuals, or principal applicants and family) involved in the immigration and refugee determination system under the provisions of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA). I&R legal aid covers the provision of legal advice, assistance and representation for immigration or refugee proceedings before the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) of Canada, the Federal Court (FC), or Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) officials on post-determination actions. I&R legal aid is available in 7 provinces: Newfoundland and Labrador (N.L.), Nova Scotia (N.S.), Quebec (Que.), Ontario (Ont.), Manitoba (Man.), Alberta (Alta.), and British Columbia (B.C.).

Notes

- N.S. operates under a staff lawyer model and private bar lawyers are not included under personnel. Private bar handle only 25% of cases with 75% being done by staff lawyers. Breakdown of legal aid service delivery by type of lawyer is not available from the province and legal aid. Only aggregate totals are reported. Breakdown also includes data from the legal clinic.
- In N.S. I&R legal aid is delivered by a separate organization, the Halifax Refugee Clinic.
- For N.B., Public Trustee Services staff are listed separately under "Other Civil" as their caseloads are not included in civil statistics reported elsewhere.
- For Man., civil includes all staff lawyers taking I&R, children and family services, as well as domestic and civil matters; private bar lawyers accept cases in all identified categories.
- For Sask., the breakdown between private bar and staff lawyers does not reflect the percentage of work done by private bar lawyers compared to staff lawyers. This number reflects the private bar lawyers on Legal Aid Saskatchewan Panel of Private Bar Lawyers only.

- Yuk. operates a staff lawyer model and does not retain private bar lawyers for family matters.

Table 18 - Legal aid plan personnel as of March 31, 2023

	Total legal aid plan personnel N (%)		Lawyers providing legal aid					Non-lawyers						
			Total lawyers N (%)		Private bar lawyers[1]	Staff lawyers[2]	Other lawyers[3]	Total non-lawyers N (%)		Intake worker[4]	Support Staff[5]	Para-legal[6]	Legal assistant[7]	Articling student[8]	Other[9]
N.L.	158	100%	87	55%	13	70	4	71	45%	13	18	3	27	9	1
P.E.I.	36	100%	29	81%	20	8	1	7	19%	0	7	0	0	0	0
N.S.	418.2	100%	326	78%	216	106	4	92.2	22%	0	12	3	73.2	2	2
N.B.	190	100%	146	77%	107	36	3	44	23%	14	8	0	8	0	14
Que.	2,803	100%	2,212	79%	1,752	392	68	591	21%	73	475	0	26	17	0
Ont.	4,028	100%	3,352	83%	2,943	383	26	676	17%	121	537	15	3	0	0
Man.	444	100%	344	77%	286	52	6	100	23%	22	24	5	35	13	1
Sask.	303	100%	212	70%	118	83	11	91	30%	7	64	0	9	2	9
Alta.	2,892	100%	2,709	94%	2,594	115	0	183	6%	73	56	0	51	3	0
B.C.	1,261	100%	1,091	87%	1,056	32	3	170	13%	37	123	10	0	0	0
Yuk.	0	0%	0	0%	–	–	–	0	0%	–	–	–	–	–	–
N.W.T.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Nvt.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Canada	12,533	100%	10,508	84%	9,105	1,277	126	2,025	16%	360	1,324	36	232.2	46	27

– Refers to data that were not available, collected, or provided by the jurisdiction as reported in the Final Annual Report.

Rounding may impact totals balancing.

1. Private bar lawyers are those active members of the private bar who delivered legal services and billed the legal aid plan during the fiscal year. Active bar members include the total number of lawyers certified and insured to practice in the jurisdiction. Government-employed and legal aid staff lawyers are excluded.
2. Staff lawyers are lawyers employed by legal aid plans who provide legal aid services to clients. They include duty counsel, staff lawyers at legal clinics, and others.
3. Other lawyers refers to personnel who are designated as counsel, but not performing in this capacity (e.g., Executive Director). For N.B., Other Lawyers includes Executive Director and Public Trustee & Director of Family Law Services.
4. Intake workers are staff employed by the legal aid plan who provide intake services, assess clients' needs, make appropriate referrals, prepare and review letters and documents, maintain records and perform other duties as required.
5. Support staff are staff employed by the legal aid plan who provide support in assisting clients but do not provide legal assistance. For example, a receptionist, an administrative person, human resource staff, an IT specialist, etc.
6. Paralegals are legal staff who have the ability to represent clients on many matters, including all provincial offences and summary criminal cases, as well as work for provincial tribunals and boards. Paralegals are non-lawyers providing legal services in specified areas of practice.
7. Legal assistants are staff who work under the supervision of a lawyer, qualified through education, training or work experience to perform substantive legal work. They help lawyers deliver legal services but are prohibited from practicing law independently.
8. Articling students are students-at-law. Under the supervision of a senior lawyer, they can assist with legal advice, duty counsel, legal research, etc. Articling students must complete the articling program and be called to the bar before becoming a lawyer. For the purpose of this survey, articling students are classified as non-lawyers regardless of jurisdictional rules.
9. Other (e.g., managers) are personnel who are not performing tasks directly associated with support, paralegal, legal assistants or articling. For N.B., "Other Non-lawyers" includes and is not limited to HR Manager, Chief Financial Officer, Manager of Trust Accounting and Taxation, Guardian Officers, etc.

Notes

- For N.S., I&R legal aid services are delivered by a separate organization, the Halifax Refugee Clinic. Private bar lawyers are not included under personnel. They handle only 25% of cases with 75% being done by staff lawyers. The total numbers of staff lawyers and non-lawyers includes data from Nova Scotia Legal Aid and the Halifax Refugee Clinic. Legal assistants includes 14 service specialists and 59.2 legal assistants.
- For N.B., Public Trustee Services staff listed separately under "Civil" as their caseloads are not included in civil statistics reported elsewhere.
- For Man., civil includes all staff taking immigration, children and family services, domestic and civil matters. Private bar accepts cases in all identified categories.
- For Sask., private bar lawyers vary in taking files; therefore, the number reported can be a private bar lawyer taking anything from one certificate to a full caseload like a staff lawyer.
- For B.C., support staff include Public Legal Information services delivery.

Name of Innovation/ Initiative(s)	Objective	Timeline	Beneficiary	Expected Outcome
Table 19 - Criminal legal aid funding for innovations, 2022-23				
Newfoundland and Labrador — Technological				
Laptops to support remote work	Building on the success with upgrading laptops for solicitors in the previous year, during 2022-23 all support staff were migrated from desktops to laptops.	2022-23 Permanent	Support staff	Enhanced ability of support staff to work remotely, reducing absenteeism and minimizing interruptions to administrative services and supports.
Modernize IT Infrastructure	Investments towards faster internet services, modern telephone system, and new equipment to support virtual conferences and meetings.	2022-23 Permanent	All staff	Greater employee participation and higher productivity.
Virtual Training and Development	More training and development programs delivered virtually and made available permanently on the intranet for future reference.	2022-23 Permanent	All staff	Enhanced learning and development environment.
Newfoundland and Labrador — Service delivery				
Online applications and virtual risk assessments	Online application portal and technology to facilitate virtual risk assessments was rolled out to all Legal Aid offices across the province.	2022-23 Permanent	Clients and Staff Lawyers	Faster application processing timelines for clients. Reduced travel time and costs for Legal Aid staff.
Nova Scotia —Technological				
Laptops for Lawyers	To upgrade hardware for lawyers.	3 months Permanent	Lawyers/clients	Providing laptops has created a better remote work-life balance and enabled support staff to participate in required teams/web meetings. Upgraded computer equipment created efficiencies for lawyers.
Nova Scotia — Service delivery				
Lawyers to ease Jordan delay and backlog	Additional duty counsel lawyer to reduce backlog and ease Jordan delay.	2022-23 Temporary	Justice system, clients and Nova Scotia Legal Aid (NSLA) staff.	Reduction in pressure on staff lawyers and ensured clients received representation in a timely manner. That also assisted the justice system overall.

Name of Innovation/ Initiative(s)	Objective	Timeline	Beneficiary	Expected Outcome
Increased criminal certificates issued to private lawyers to deal with Covid backlogs in courts	To assist with backlogs where staff lawyers were at max capacity.	2022-23 Temporary	Justice system and clients	Reduction in pressure on staff lawyers and ensured clients received representation as matters proceeded. That also assisted the justice system overall.
Increased per diem duty counsel coverage	Additional duty counsel lawyer to reduce backlog and ease Jordan delay.	2022-23 Temporary	Justice system, clients and NSLA staff	Reduction in pressure on staff lawyers and ensured clients received representation in a timely manner. That also assisted the justice system overall.
Virtual professional development, including annual general meeting	To ensure staff received appropriate professional development in order to satisfy bar requirements and maintain high level of competency.	2022-23 Temporary and permanent	Staff were able to receive the necessary training.	Staff received training safely.
New Brunswick — Service delivery				
Private bar criminal certificate	To meet the increased number of certificates.	2022-23 Permanent	Clients	Consistency in service delivery.
Criminal contact lawyer	To cover staff shortages (sick leaves and vacancies).	2022-23 Permanent		
Prince Edward Island — Technological				
Cell phones, cases, and additional laptop for staff lawyers.	To ensure each criminal legal aid staff lawyer has the capacity to work outside the office setting, facilitating communication with clients, and courts as required.	Permanent	Lawyers, clients, and the criminal justice system generally.	Improved communication facilitating more efficient operation of the courts and the justice system, including probation services and the corrections system.
Prince Edward Island – Service delivery				
Additional lawyer positions and administrative staffing to increase operational capacity and engaging the assistance of the private bar.	To deal with increased complexity of criminal law cases due to significant backlogs, social stressors, lack of correctional capacity, prior significant adjournments causing delays particularly in Provincial Courts.	Permanent	All participants in the criminal justice system including offenders, corrections, police, probation services, victims, and support workers.	Fewer delays, more efficient processing of cases through the justice system, decreased incarcerations, lower costs, less stress on justice participants at every level. Improved long term efficiency through development and participation in new court technology including court appearances via phone and video.
Quebec — Technological				

Name of Innovation/ Initiative(s)	Objective	Timeline	Beneficiary	Expected Outcome
Programme eMAJ	Digital transformation of the legal aid network	2025-03-31 (4 year investment)	Clients and staff and private bar lawyers.	Service improvements.
Acquisition of computer hardware	Upgrading of equipment and staff mobility	2023-03-31 Permanent	Staff and clients.	
Quebec — Service delivery				
Itinerant court (Grand Nord)	Legal representation services.	2023-03-31 Permanent	Indigenous clients.	Service improvements.
Virtual appearances on weekends and holidays	Reduce court delays.	2023-03-31 Permanent	Clients.	
Projet Centaure	Gun control.	2023-03-31 Permanent	Citizens.	Fighting gun violence.
Ontario — Technological				
Service Integration (SI) - Duty Counsel (DC) Worksheets	Deploy and continue to improve online worksheet to capture client information to improve client services and record-keeping, ensure continuity of client files, and improve data collection and reporting to better understand client needs and services delivered. Obtain better data and understanding of issues related to bail and delays in criminal Courts.	Permanent	Clients: improved services and record-keeping. Justice system partners: more accurate records; reduced appearances; more accurate reports resulting in better allocation of scarce resources.	Have system available at all court sites. Have all duty counsel services recorded through the system.
Remote appearances, disclosure review and summary legal advice	LAO adapted to remote services due to the pandemic and to ensure clients could have access to legal advice remotely; developed processes and invested in technology to ensure staff had access to equipment and software necessary to assist clients.	Permanent	Clients: improved services and record-keeping. Access to legal advice and counsel for remote and hybrid court hearings. Justice system partners: more	Ensure that the most vulnerable clients have access to services during and following the pandemic. Assist the courts by ensuring that bail supports are available, and that duty counsel continue to assist eligible clients with disclosure reviews, pre-trials and resolutions.

Name of Innovation/ Initiative(s)	Objective	Timeline	Beneficiary	Expected Outcome
			accurate records; reduced appearances; more accurate reports resulting in better allocation of scarce resources.	
Dedicated phone lines for Summary Legal Advice - Criminal and Family (SLAC and SLAF)	Through the use of these phone lines, LAO offered more summary legal advice in family and criminal law matters, temporarily waiving financial eligibility testing requirement.	Permanent	Clients: Increased access to legal advice.	LAO aimed to ensure clients had easy access to legal advice during the pandemic.
Return to in-person services (Hybrid)	LAO conducted site surveys to ensure compliance with health and safety protocols and public health safety requirements for staff and clients attending court locations. In addition to these assessments, LAO updated equipment and wireless infrastructure.	On-going Permanent	Clients: Improved access to service; Justice system partners: reduced and more meaningful appearances.	Provide safe and reliable access to legal advice to promote access to justice and facilitate court appearances.
Improvements to LAO's client portal	LAO introduced the ability for clients to apply for Legal Aid online in May of 2021. Ongoing improvements to client portal, which allows potential clients to apply for legal aid certificates online.	Ongoing Permanent	Clients: Easier access to apply for Legal Aid; Justice system partners: reduction in administrative appearances for legal aid applications.	Increase access points and simplify the application process for clients.
Lawyer portal changes — outcome reporting	To improve data collection on all certificate matters, including bail and outcome data. This data will also assist with analyzing racial disparities in bails and sentences.	Came into effect April 2023 Permanent	Collecting these data is expected to benefit LAO clients, LAO lawyers, roster lawyers, and the criminal justice system as a whole in the long run.	Better outcome reporting for block and hourly matters — better data collection and ability to analyze, including analysis of racial disparities in outcomes of legally-aided criminal law matters.

Name of Innovation/ Initiative(s)	Objective	Timeline	Beneficiary	Expected Outcome
Added "chat" function to LAO website	LAO introduced the chat function to LAO's public website for general inquiries — https://www.legalaid.on.ca/news/expansion-of-live-chat-feature-for-general-inquiries/	On-going Permanent	Client: fast and improved access to LAO for general inquiries	For website users to get answers to common questions about legal aid services.
Development of service location finder	Tool enables staff to determine which services to refer clients to by answering a series of simple one-click questions. Tool also enables offices to add and update information, such as hours of operation, languages offered and accessibility services, in real time.	On-going Being tested internally Permanent	Client: better referrals, improved interaction with LAO	Improve triaging by LAO staff.
Ontario — Service delivery				
Continuation of criminal COVID measures for in-custody individuals: Coverage for block fee bail hearings, increased hours for bail, waiver of financial eligibility testing for in-custody criminal accused, coverage for Myers detention reviews, etc.	To continue assisting individuals in custody in a timely manner (post-COVID environment presents challenges to accessing individuals in custody, and remand rates are very high).	Ongoing Temporary, with some of the measures to continue as part of tariff reform (see below)	Clients: improved services and access to justice, reduction in in-custody population, reduction in unnecessary court appearances; Justice system partners: reduced and more meaningful appearances, fewer in-custody appearances, fewer adjournments for administrative purposes, increased representation and efficiency.	Ensure that the most vulnerable clients have access to services during the pandemic. Keep assisting the courts by ensuring that bail supports are available and that clients are afforded legal representation at the earliest opportunity.
Support for Judge-led Intensive Case Management	LAO supports the Judge-Led Intensive Case Management Court (JICMC) with time-limited certificates for accused individuals without retained counsel whose matters are more than twelve months old and who have had their	October 2021 and ongoing Temporary	Clients: ensure limited but timely representation is	Increased access to representation and increased efficiency in JICMC courts.

Name of Innovation/ Initiative(s)	Objective	Timeline	Beneficiary	Expected Outcome
Court (JICMC) and Lawyer applications for JICMC	cases adjourned to the JICMC. Clients do not need to contact LAO directly; their lawyer will initiate and complete the application on their behalf. No financial testing is applied to these certificates.		available in JICMC courts without the need for eligibility testing and without submitting an application to LAO.	
Virtual Case Management Court services (VCMC)	LAO continues to provide representation across most locations in Virtual Case management court (VCMC). Duty counsel continues to attend VCMC and will assist clients in a breakout room as required.	Ongoing Temporary	Client: provided easier access to legal aid.	Ensure clients have access to legal aid in response to the pandemic and the lack of in-person services availble.
Training & continuing professional education initiatives	Defending youth (YCJA) and the unment legal needs of individuals in custody • To improve quality of services to LAO clients, LAO put on a three-part series on defending youth charged with criminal offences in early 2023. A three-part series on the unmet legal needs of individuals in custody took place in 2022. • Youth series — webinars took place in March/April 2023. Series recorded and available for viewing to LAO staff and roster lawyers.	Recording available on a permanent basis.	Roster lawyers, LAO staff and LAO clients.	Improve quality of service to LAO clients—youth charged with criminal offences.
Manitoba — Technological				
Increase bandwidth to service move to paperless environment	Reduce use of paper while increasing efficiency.	Ongoing Permanent	Staff, clients, stakeholders.	Increased productivity and reduced paper consumption.
Increase availability of video and other technology	Better contact with clients.	Ongoing Permanent	Staff, clients, stakeholders.	Increased productivity and reduced travel.
Manitoba — Service delivery				
Increase in demand following lifting of restrictions				

Name of Innovation/ Initiative(s)	Objective	Timeline	Beneficiary	Expected Outcome
Increase court capacity to address backlog				
Funding Winnipeg counsel to travel to the north to manage shortage of local counsel	Provide service to northern clients.	2022 to 2025 Temporary	Clients	Clients receive representation in a timely manner.
Equipment and supplies related to covid mitigation measures	Provide a safe working environment.	2022-23 Temporary	Staff and Clients	Risk of contracting covid is reduced.
Saskatchewan —Technological				
Hire IT Manager and IT Support Officer	Modernise and digitize Legal Aid Saskatchewan's (LAS) IT infrastructure in order to meet the demands.	October 2021 to no end date Permanent	Applicants and staff. Clients/applicants will benefit with an individual managing the IT for LAS.	Improved IT services with someone directly responsible for managing IT.
IT cloud processing and migration. Implement O365 and Support (License and Contract); includes costs of eTicket and setup	Modernise and digitize the IT infrastructure in order to meet the demands.	June 2021 to no end date Permanent	Applicants and staff. Clients /applicants will benefit with better access with staff through better IT.	This initiative is intended to move the organization from processes that are either paper or hybrid paper/electronic to more electronic-based processes.
Private bar modernisation	Modernise private bar process and technology to better serve clients; provide portal for efficient billing and payment; and to allow for comparative data analysis.	April 2022 to ongoing	Private bar lawyers; staff; clients.	An efficient and effective private bar billings and payment technological system.
Saskatchewan — Service delivery				

Name of Innovation/ Initiative(s)	Objective	Timeline	Beneficiary	Expected Outcome
Hire Term Lawyer Positions	To reduce waitlists and backlogs for criminal legal aid services.	September 2021 to March 2024 Temporary	Clients/applicants will benefit with more prompt legal services.	Reduced wait times and backlogs.
Contract Private Bar (PB) to assist with backlogs due to Covid	To reduce waitlists and backlogs for criminal legal aid services.	April 2021 to March 2024 Temporary		
Restructuring of head office staff for administrative support of improved service delivery	To improve management, oversight and risk management.	April 2021 to no end date Permanent	Applicants and staff/private bar. Clients/applicants will benefit with additional support from head office for the service delivery by staff and private bar lawyers.	Improved overall management of the legal aid system.
Gladue Database	Hired Gladue Database Coordinator to focus on enhancing practical application for staff and connections with Indigenous Community	July 2022 to ongoing.	Staff and private bar lawyers; justice stakeholders; Indigenous clients.	Improved Gladue submissions and improved outcomes sentencing for Indigenous clients.
Glaude Report Partnership	Develop partnership with IJS and FASD Network to improve access to Gladue Reports	April 2022 to March 2023	Indigenous clients.	Gladue reports for all clients who need them; improved sentencing outcomes for Indigenous clients.
Alberta — Technological				
Modernize and enhance systems and equipment — including client record and case management	Simplify systems, enhance capabilities — including improved support for remote/virtual work.	Ongoing Permanent	Clients, private bar, and staff.	A modernized and enhanced system and equipment that better supports client record and case management, and remote/virtual work.
Alberta — Service delivery				

Name of Innovation/ Initiative(s)	Objective	Timeline	Beneficiary	Expected Outcome
Improved client access to legal aid services	Allow clients better access to services — wherever they live in Alberta.	Ongoing Permanent	Clients.	Allow clients better access to services — wherever they live in Alberta.
British Columbia — Technological				
Online Application for Criminal Clients — Legal Aid British Columbia (LABC)	Allow lawyers to submit legal aid applications on behalf of criminal clients through an online portal. Applications are assessed automatically, speeding up the approval process, which creates efficiencies for lawyers and LABC staff and benefits the clients.	2022-23, 2023-24 Permanent	Legal aid lawyers, legal aid clients	Lawyers can submit applications online, reduced timeline for application approval, reduced staff time for relevant applications.
Duty Counsel Scheduling (LABC)	Modernize the process of scheduling Duty Counsel lawyers across the province by adopting scheduling software. The proejct was initiated in 22/23 and will be completed in 23/24.	2022-23, 2023-24 Permanent	Legal aid lawyers, LABC, legal aid clients	Automating a mostly manual duty counsel scheduling process has increased LABC's ability to achieve efficiencies and adapt to new court processes. This has also supported duty counsel scheduling for the expansion of virtual bail.
Criminal Justice Navigators (LABC)	Criminal Justice Navigators assist clients with time-sensitive matters in accessing help more quickly, and give Intake workers space to focus on assessing applications and providing contracts for clients who are more likely to be eligible for legal aid. By providing clients with ongoing assistance for complex issues outside the responsibility of Intake workers and legal aid lawyers, Criminal Justice Navigators can address each client's underlying needs and connect them to support organizations in their communities, along with helping them through their entire journey via regular check-ins and general support. This improves client legal outcomes which are often strongly correlated with issues like addictions, housing, and mental health. The project was initiated in 22/23 and completed in 23/24.	2022-23, 2023-24 Temporary	Criminal legal aid clients, mainly those engaged in the bail system.	Providing additional supports for those with criminal matters who need information or support in accessing supplemental social services (e.g., mental health community services, treatment centre options, how and where to apply for social assistance).

Name of Innovation/ Initiative(s)	Objective	Timeline	Beneficiary	Expected Outcome
BC First Nations Justice Council Technology Projects (BCFNJC)	"Implementation of technology projects to enhance case management and communication systems for client services within the BC First Nations Justice Council (BCFNJC) and BC Indigenous Justice Centres (IJCs). This includes: - Microsoft Teams Enhancement - Strategic Information Management Review - Case Management Requirements for Future Legal Aid Services - VOIP Service Transition	2022-23, 2023-24 Permanent	Indigenous Legal Aid Clients/ BC First Nation Justice Council.	Improving current service delivery to Indigenous clients while also expanding BCFNJC's capacity for increased service delivery in the future.
British Columbia — Service delivery				
Virtual Bail (LABC)	Support Provincial Court to transition to remote bail hearings province-wide: introduction of regional duty counsel.	2022-2023 Permanent	Criminal legal aid clients in the bail system.	Improved service delivery for virtualized bail services.
One-time grants for West Coast Prison Justice Society (WCPJS) (prison) law program (LABC)	On behalf of LABC, the West Coast Prison Justice Society operates PLS, a legal clinic for federal and provincial prisoners in BC; this includes assisting with issues that affect people's liberty rights under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. In recent years, the demand for representation has exceeded the clinic's capacity with a significant increase following COVID-19 health restrictions in correctional facilities. This grant was used to support some temporary staffing and increased hours for roster lawyers.	2022-2023 Temporary	Criminal legal aid clients in custody in federal /provincial correctional centres.	This grant supplemented core funding to help these organizations meet critical demand, process and staffing challenges that intensified through the pandemic.
One-time grants for Community Legal Assistance Society (CLAS) (mental health) law program (LABC)	On behalf of LABC, the Community Legal Assistance Society (CLAS) provides legal representation for clients who have been involuntarily detained pursuant to the Mental Disorder Provisions of the Criminal Code. The pandemic has acted as a multiplier on the factors leading to individuals being involuntarily detained under the BC Mental Health Act. This grant was provided to assist CLAS to provide more support for clients and advocates	2022-2023 Temporary	Criminal legal aid clients involuntarily detained under Mental Disorder Provisions of the *Criminal Code*.	This grant supplemented core funding to help these organizations meet critical demand, process and staffing challenges that intensified through the pandemic.

Name of Innovation/ Initiative(s)	Objective	Timeline	Beneficiary	Expected Outcome
	including some temporary staffing and increased hours for roster lawyers.			
Establishment of Legal Services Transition Project Team (BCFNJC)	Strategy 5 of the BC First Nations Justice Strategy commits to the establishment of a newly created First Nations Legal Services agency under the control of the BCFNJC to ensure more effective access to justice for Indigenous people. A to design legal aid services for Indigenous people that are better, more effective, and more culturally informed, a Legal Services Transition Project Team was established to develop the architecture for this new model. This work has included: - Community Engagement and Stakeholder Consultation; - Legislation/Policy Research and Analysis; - Service Design.	2022-2023 to 2023-2024 Temporary	Indigenous Legal Aid Clients/ BC First Nation Justice Council.	Guided by the work completed by the Project Team a workplan will be developed to transition legal aid services from LABC to the BCFNJC and implement a new for legal aid service model for Indigenous people.
Yukon – Technological				
Continued development of a customized File Management System (database).	To increase organizational efficiency and employee productivity,and gain the ability to capture and report statistics related to service delivery.	2020-21 to 2024-25	Clients, organization (YLSS), employees, and territorial and federal governments.	Organized data.