

February 16, 2024

Dear clients,

You may have seen [yesterday's exciting announcement](#) from the Government of BC about a \$29 million legal aid expansion for people experiencing family violence. We have received some questions from clients already about what this means for them. As you may have seen from the announcement, very few specific details have been released at this point, but we want to assure you that we will be paying extremely close attention in the coming months to any information released by Legal Aid BC about how these changes may impact new and existing cases.

If you have an active file at Rise our staff will let you know if these changes will impact you as soon as they are able. We want to assure you that you don't need to reach out to us and ask us (though you may wish to reach out to simply celebrate! And we would love to celebrate with you!). We will let you know as soon as we know.

We are truly thrilled by this announcement and what it may mean for some of our clients. We pride ourselves on our legal aid advocacy, and we will continue to advocate for all of our clients to get the maximum legal aid coverage that they are entitled to.

Finally, we want to say congratulations to you all – this is a victory for every single one of you. The courageous efforts of the women and mothers involved in this fight have created a win for all women in BC, and we are very grateful to the individuals involved, and to West Coast LEAF and the Centre for Family Equity.

Sincerely,



Kim Hawkins
Executive Director
Rise Women's Legal Centre