



## Mandate, funding and governance

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### Mandate

The Legal Services Society (LSS) provides legal aid in British Columbia. Created by the Legal Services Society Act in 1979, LSS is a non-profit organization that remains independent of government. Our priority is to serve the interests of people with low incomes.

Under section 9 of the LSS Act, the society's mandate is: to help people resolve their legal problems and to facilitate access to justice; to establish and administer an effective and efficient system for providing legal aid to people in BC; and to provide advice to the Attorney General about legal aid and access to justice for people in BC.

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### Vision and mission

Our vision is a British Columbia where all people are able to find timely and lasting solutions to their legal issues.

Our mission is to provide innovative and collaborative legal aid services that enable people with low incomes to effectively address their issues within the justice system.

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### Funding

The society receives approximately 90% of its revenues from the provincial government. It also receives funding from the Law Foundation of BC and the Notary Foundation of BC, which collect interest earned on lawyer and notary trust accounts and pay a portion to LSS. The federal government reimburses the province for legal aid costs related to immigration and federal prosecutions. In 2010/2011, LSS had revenues of \$76.9 million, including \$71.5 million from the provincial government, \$3.7 million from the Law Foundation, and \$470,000 from the Notary Foundation.

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### Governance

The society is governed by a nine-member board of directors. Five are appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Attorney General, and four are appointed by the Law Society of BC after consultation with the executive of the BC Branch of the Canadian Bar Association.

LSS is committed to strong corporate governance practices that enable public accountability and transparency. The society adheres to the governance principles established by the Board Resourcing and Development Office (BRDO) and is in full compliance with BRDO guidelines. To maintain excellence in board governance, LSS reviews its governance framework regularly to ensure it meets the society's ongoing business needs while being consistent with recognized best practices.