

# Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Legal Aid Commission 2016 - 2017



Photo taken by Stephanie Whitecloud-Brass Defence Counsel



Government of Northwest Territories  
Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

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## **Executive Summary**

The Legal Aid Commission administers the *Legal Aid Act* and *Legal Aid Regulations*, and promotes access to justice throughout the Northwest Territories by:

1. providing legal aid services to eligible persons;
2. promoting public knowledge of the law;
3. encouraging flexibility and innovation in the provision of services;
4. recognizing the diversity of legal needs; and
5. Operating within an independent but accountable framework.

Over the course of the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the Commission oversaw the provision of 3,973 presumed eligibility duty counsel services, 639 full service criminal matters, 385 full service family matters and 4,402 court worker services.

## **Résumé**

La Commission d'aide juridique est chargée de l'application de la *Loi sur l'aide juridique* et ses règlements, et fait la promotion de l'accès à la justice à l'échelle des Territoire du Nord-Ouest en :

1. fournissant des services d'aide juridique aux personnes admissibles;
2. encourageant la connaissance de la loi;
3. favorisant la souplesse et l'innovation dans la prestation de programmes et de services d'aide juridique;
4. reconnaissant la variété des besoins sur le plan juridique des personnes admissibles;
5. exerçant ses activités indépendamment du gouvernement, mais en étant transparent à l'égard de ce dernier.

Au cours de l'exercice 2016-2017, la Commission a supervisé la prestation de services d'avocats à 3,973 clients présumés financièrement admissibles, en offrant notamment des services généraux en droit criminel à 639 clients, des services généraux en droit de la famille à 385 clients, et des services d'assistance parajudiciaire à 4,402 clients.

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The following organizational chart reflects the structure of the Legal Aid Commission as at March 31, 2017.



## **A Message from the Chair**

Caroline Wawzonek

It is an honour to serve as the Chair of the Legal Aid Commission; we believe that our program is a pillar of access to justice in the Northwest Territories. We are proud of the breadth of the services that are provided to a vast geographical area and a highly diverse population: from robust presumed eligibility coverage in criminal law to full coverage in family law where issues affecting children are present. In addition, 2017 marked the launch of a full time program of outreach services.

The Outreach Legal Aid Clinic opened its doors in March 2017 in separate office space in YK Centre East. Staffed by a full time lawyer and court worker, the Outreach Legal Aid Clinic offers three weekly clinics, monthly clinics to the Yellowknives Dene First Nations communities and mobile clinics into our remote communities. In addition, family law duty counsel services are provided by the Outreach lawyer two days per week. The launch of this program has been years in the making, and the Commission commends the efforts of staff and other justice stakeholders who have brought this project to its current state. The Legal Aid Commission is committed to expanding public awareness of our services with the goal of building knowledge, awareness and competency in those who find themselves involved in the justice system.

Excellence in programming must necessarily be supported by excellence in policy and procedure. During this fiscal year, the Commission has formally adopted comprehensive and revised Policy Guidelines in the areas of Criminal Law practice, Outreach legal aid services and Conflict of Interest. Careful consultation and thorough research have made these documents practical, accessible and client-focused.

The Northwest Territories Legal Aid Commission participates actively in the Association of Legal Aid Plans of Canada – the national organization for and voice of legal aid across the country. A strategic initiative of this group is the development of a statement in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, and we are proud to have taken a leadership role in this development. We are even prouder to work on behalf of Indigenous clients in a manner that is respectful and educated in relation to the unique history of those who walked this land long before others arrived.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.



## **THE LEGAL AID COMMISSION**

### **Commission Members**

The Minister of Justice appoints members of the Legal Aid Commission under subsection 4(4) of the *Legal Aid Act*. By convention various regions are represented on the Commission. The 2016/17 Commission was composed of the following:

Roberta Hamilton	Representing the South Slave
Giselle Marion	Representing the Tlicho and North Slave communities
Alana Mero	Representing the Beaufort Delta
Mark Aitken	Representing the Public Service
Caroline Wawzonek, Chair	Representing the Law Society of the Northwest Territories

### **Mandate of the Legal Aid Commission**

The Commission sets policy, makes recommendations to the Minister with respect to the hiring of the Executive Director, administers legal aid clinics, maintains a panel of private lawyers for eligible clients for criminal, family and civil matters, and hears appeals in cases where legal aid has been denied or lawyers feel their accounts have been reduced without justification. Additional powers are prescribed under subsection 4(9) of the *Legal Aid Act*.

The Government of the Northwest Territories has been responsible for providing legal aid since 1971. The Legal Services Board was established and given responsibility for providing legal aid, court worker services and public legal education and information services throughout the Northwest Territories.

On December 28, 2014, the new *Legal Aid Act* and *Legal Aid Regulations* were brought into force, and the Legal Services Board was continued as the Legal Aid Commission.

In 2016/17 the Commission closed the Beaufort Delta Legal Aid Clinic and moved the family lawyer position to Yellowknife. Three legal aid clinics in Yellowknife continued to offer criminal defence and family law services to clients in all NWT communities. A new Outreach Legal Aid Clinic commenced operation in March 2017.

The Legal Aid Commission is established as a corporation by the *Legal Aid Act*. The Commission reports to the Minister of Justice, and is a public agency listed in Schedule A to the *Financial Administration Act*. All employees of the Commission are members of the GNWT Public Service.

## **Legislative Objectives**

The purpose of the *Legal Aid Act*, as set out in section 2, is to promote access to justice throughout the Northwest Territories by:

1. providing legal aid services to eligible persons;
2. promoting public knowledge of the law;
3. encouraging flexibility and innovation in the provision of services;
4. recognizing the diversity of legal needs;  
and
5. Operating within an independent but accountable framework.



Photo taken by Charles Davison Defence Counsel

## **Commission Meetings**

During the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the Legal Aid Commission met in person in Yellowknife on September 26, 2016 and March 17, 2017. The Commission also met by teleconference or electronically on eighteen other occasions.

## **Proposed National Benchmarks for Public Legal Assistance Services**

In 2014 a Joint Working Group of the Canadian Bar Association and the Association of Legal Aid Plans of Canada collaborated to formulate and propose national legal aid benchmarks. Their report stated:

“...the rationale for robust public legal assistance is shifting with a growing appreciation of the sound empirical foundation of current legal needs research, which has shown both the personal impact and spiraling costs of unmet legal need, and a growing understanding of the social return on investment when public funds are spent on legal assistance. This broader perspective is consistent with general concepts of access to justice, including achieving just outcomes and promoting legal health, legal empowerment and social inclusion.”

## A Message from the Executive Director

*Karen Wilford:*

There have been many opportunities for innovation and creativity at the Legal Aid Commission during the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The closing of the Beaufort Delta Legal Aid Clinic led us to a greater focus on how to better serve all communities of the Northwest Territories outside of Yellowknife. The launch of the full time Outreach Legal Aid Clinic was a proud moment for many, and the OLAC will continue to be a leader in the delivery of legal information and advice throughout the NWT. We are already seeing enhanced community relationships and connections and will continue to promote partnership as the best way to deliver services outside of the Territorial capital.

Staffing all positions within the Legal Aid Commission remains a priority for management. We have been joined by a number of new lawyers and an outreach court worker who have brought energy, new perspectives and a commitment to access to justice to the Commission. They are all most welcome. We have bid farewell to others who have moved to new career and life paths and they have departed with our best wishes. While staff vacancies do have an impact on our efficiency, we are optimistic that the long term effects of renewal will serve our clients and the program itself.

Ongoing policy development and revision is creating greater certainty and access to services for clients. In particular, our client appeal process has been simplified with the use of plain language materials. Our application form and process is the subject of continual adjustment to ensure that we get the information we require, while not placing undue burdens upon our clients. Looking ahead, we expect to complete the Policy Guideline project in the next fiscal year which will include policies for family and civil law, for the Commission members and for internal financial transactions.

We are active participants in a number of national meetings: the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Permanent Working Group on Legal Aid, the Tri-partite Working Group on the Aboriginal Court Work Program, the Association of Legal Aid Plans of Canada, and the various sub-committees of these groups. I can say with certainty, and from a position of knowledge, that the Northwest Territories Legal Aid Commission delivers an exceptional service to the citizens of the NWT.



Photo taken by Tracy Bock, Defense Counsel



## **THE PRACTICE OF CRIMINAL LAW**

*Alanhea Vogt, Staff Lawyer*

I am an Aboriginal woman who was raised in Fort Smith, NWT. My career as a criminal lawyer only came later in my life; in my 30's I returned to school, graduating from a Child and Youth Care Counselor program followed by law school. Initially, I thought I would practice in family law because of my background; however, after my first criminal law trial, I had no doubt that specializing in criminal defence work was for me.

Being a criminal defence lawyer demands a lot of time, energy, tenacity, and emotional strength. In representing people that have been charged with a criminal offence it is our job to speak for our clients; therefore, strong communication skills and interpersonal relations are essential. Clients are often in emotional distress, and they look to us to assist them in their court matters. We need to be able to properly advise them of their legal rights, as well as offer compassion.



Photo taken by Charles Davison Defence Counsel

part of their support team.

One of my responsibilities is being assigned as defence counsel for the *Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court* (DVTO). This is a specialized court that deals with domestic violence with a treatment program component. If a person takes responsibility for a spousal offence and they are considered a low risk offender, they are approved to participate in a treatment program provided by the Department of Justice. This treatment program encourages individuals to strive for healthy relationships and gives them the tools needed to help them cope with relationship stressors. All of my clients who have participated in the program have praised it and were proud of the work they had accomplished. Sentencing proceedings in this court are usually very positive, as clients have taken responsibility for their actions and have shown remorse by participating in the program. The court commends the successful completion of this program. The opportunity to assist clients through this specialized court is an honor, as I form

A criminal defence career allows me to help people from all walks of life, various backgrounds and experiences. I also believe that each of our own past experiences and backgrounds enrich our current careers, which allows us to better help our clients. I am happy to say that I love going to work every day. For me, being a criminal defence lawyer is not a job, it's a calling. Legal Aid has an incredible group of people from diverse prior experiences who have committed themselves and work tirelessly to help the people of the North. At Legal Aid, it's not about the punching of a clock, but about doing the work until it's done and done right. Representing our clients to the best of our abilities is of the utmost importance. I am proud to be a member of our team.

## **THE PRACTICE OF FAMILY LAW**

*Staff Lawyer: Candace Seddon, B.A., LL.B.*

The practice of law in the north is both unique and challenging. Almost 14 years ago I was looking for adventure and a rewarding career change, and I definitely found both here in the NWT.

I have spent most of my time in the north doing family law, with a bit of criminal law thrown in for variety over the first few years. I have travelled on small circuit planes to remote communities; interviewed clients in a tiny bathroom while Court proceeded in the school gym on the other side of the wall, and in hockey change rooms before holding trials under disco balls in community centres. I have spent much of my time working independently in a clinic with no other lawyers/colleagues.

Within my first several years, I represented clients at all levels of Court – Territorial, Supreme, and the Court of Appeal – which would be almost unheard of in the south. The North is the place to go to get “hands on” experience.

It is interesting working within a very small bar; you get to know your colleagues very well, and for the most part, everyone is very collegial. Many matters are worked out practically and civilly, on consent. The need for a full-blown trial in family law in the NWT is rare: something that other jurisdictions strive for.

Working with our clients in the north is also different, and often difficult, due to the vast geography of the north. I have had clients in eight communities all over the Beaufort Delta, in five communities throughout the Sahtu Region, and now in many of the communities “south of the lake” surrounding Yellowknife, and in Yellowknife itself. When your client is not in your community, and has no means to travel to you, almost all of your work is done at a distance. Phone, mail, internet and helpful neighbours are how we communicate with our clients. Often, Court appearances are by phone, and sometimes by agent. Services in the communities are sometimes inconsistent, and you can have days when the phones, power, or the internet, are out. Everything is a challenge, and it requires creativity and adaptability on a daily basis to serve our clients effectively and efficiently.

Outside of the office, we are on nature’s doorstep. The NWT has a thriving environment for outdoor activities, and the people who live here are vibrant and active, working together to offer much in the way of indoor activities, cultural events, and sports. Most people are able to find a great work-life balance.

While there are definitely challenges to living in a remote part of the country, with a sometimes harsh climate, the rewards outweigh the difficulties, which is why I find myself still in the north, after all this time.

## **COURT WORKER PROGRAM**

*Maureen Maurice-Landry, Court Worker:*

There are six Court Workers across the Northwest Territories, and one Court Worker and a Court Worker Supervisor in Yellowknife. Our offices are in various communities and cover all regions across the North. We are employees of the Legal Aid Commission, which is under the Department of Justice of the GNWT. The Aboriginal Court Worker Program has been partially funded by the Federal Government since 1978.

As a Court Worker, I attend Territorial Court in my home community of Hay River, as well as various communities where Territorial Court is held. We travel by way of Court-chartered planes and at times by way of a rental vehicle. I assist the defence lawyers by providing background and contact information on clients. I take legal aid applications and make sure the clients understand the process of completion of their application, as well as explaining the Court process.

Back when I started in 1998, and until about seven years ago, we did attend Justice of the Peace Court on a regular basis. I would assist in Criminal as well as SOTI matters, including sentencing and simple trials. We no longer have criminal matters in our Justice of the Peace Court. When I do attend JP Court, it is at the request of the client if they are unable to be present. For example, if they are out at work and not in the community, or if they reside in outlying communities and cannot afford to get to court, I can act as their agent in JP Court. I assist in sentencing in SOTI matters in JP Court.

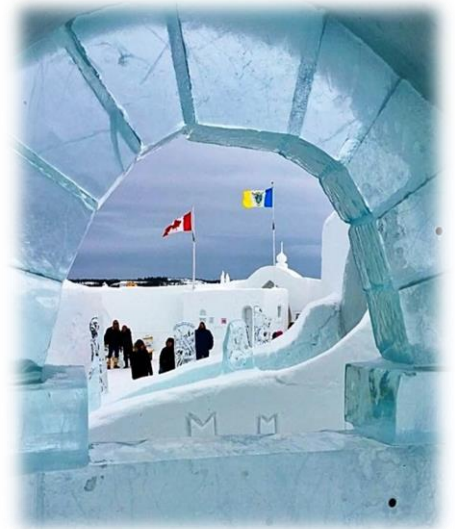


Photo taken by Stephanie Whitecloud-Brass Defence Counsel

Part of the role includes making sure all financial information is gathered from clients and forwarded to our head office in Yellowknife for processing. This includes Family, Civil, and Criminal Legal Aid applications. Other tasks include dealing with “walk in” clients, keeping records of upcoming trials and proceedings, ensuring clients are covered for legal aid, providing public legal education and information, notarizing documents for clients, assisting clients in areas such as rental officer hearings and income assistance appeal hearings, and referring our clients to various agencies that can assist them. Every day is a busy one!

In my home community, we’ve had our annual Outreach Legal Aid Clinic earlier this year. That included several outlying communities. Clients attended my office, had “one on one” appointments, and the outlying communities called in for free legal advice. Our Legal Aid Outreach Lawyer also did workshops at two elder facilities and an information session at the Health & Social Assistance Boardroom.

## **LEGAL AID OUTREACH PROGRAM & PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION**

*Jeannette Savoie, Staff Family and Outreach Lawyer:*

2016/2017 has been all about change and doing things differently. After months of preparation, the Outreach Legal Aid Clinic officially launched on March 3, 2017 as a stand-alone full time clinic. Located in the “old Rental Office” space, the Outreach clinic is staffed by court worker, Annette Wright and outreach lawyer, Jeannette Savoie. We offer three weekly walk-in clinics to the public, namely a child protection clinic, a general clinic and a family law clinic, as well as our monthly clinics in Dettah and Ndilo. There is no means test for using these clinics, but we do limit the amount of consultation time to a maximum of three hours per subject matter. Phone appointments are also possible, with priority given to clients from outside of Yellowknife.



Photo taken by Rose Lamouelle, Court Worker

With the launch of the Outreach Clinic came another initiative: the family law duty counsel program. This service is available to assist with child protection and family matters on Monday afternoons and Thursday mornings respectively. As we continue to roll out the Outreach program, greater focus will be placed on public legal education as a prevention tool. We achieved a milestone on October 11, 2016,

when I spent a half day with elders in Tsiigehtchic speaking on elder law issues. We can now officially say that Outreach services have been offered to every community/area in the Northwest Territories at least once.

Upcoming initiatives include visits to Hay River, Inuvik, Paulatuk and Fort Smith, as well as a third round of the Tlicho wills project and developing/delivering public legal education.

## **LEGAL AID COVERAGE**

### **Brydges Service**

The Brydges service is a telephone service offered free on a 24-hour basis to individuals in the Northwest Territories who are in custody, are under arrest or are the subject of an active investigation by law enforcement authorities before arrest, and need immediate advice on their Charter rights and criminal law. Translation services are available in 140 languages through the line.

### **Youth Applications – *Youth Criminal Justice Act (Canada), Youth Justice Act (NWT)***

In September 2015, the Legal Aid Commission voted to make coverage for youth available without the need for financial assessment. The Commission considered the unique circumstances facing youth in the Northwest Territories, and looked at approaches to this issue across Canada. It was determined that access to justice would best be served by deleting the requirement that the financial means of parents or guardians be considered in assessing youth eligibility.

### **Adult Applications – *Criminal Code***

Although an applicant may be financially eligible for legal aid, the Commission or the Executive Director may refuse to provide legal aid coverage for certain offences in accordance with the discretion extended by the *Legal Aid Act* and the regulations under the Act, and consistent with policies established by the Commission.



Photo taken by Maureen Maurice-Landry, Court Worker

### **Presumed Eligibility**

Presumed eligibility arises only in the context of criminal law. Clients who first appear in Territorial Court are presumed eligible for legal aid, and are provided assistance with preliminary or straightforward matters that duty counsel can deal with in a summary fashion, including guilty pleas and non-complex sentencing hearings. If the lawyer determines that the matter requires a preliminary inquiry, trial or a more complex sentencing, the client must apply for legal aid for a determination of their financial eligibility.



## **Family Law Applications**

Legal aid is generally provided to financially eligible applicants in matters involving family breakdowns when there are issues relating to children, spousal support or family violence, and in matters relating to child protection.

After a client completes an application for legal aid assistance involving a family law matter, a request for a legal opinion is made to one of the staff lawyers or to a member of the family law panel. The lawyer advises the Executive Director of the Legal Aid Commission on the merits of the matter. If the opinion is that there is no merit in proceeding, the applicant will receive a “Notice of Denial of Legal Aid” and an explanation of the reasons for the denial.

Approved matters are usually assigned according to the date of application. An exception is made, and matters are given priority in assignment, when the client is facing a court date, if the matter involves family violence, or if the client is facing child protection proceedings.

## **Civil Applications**

The *Legal Aid Act* authorizes the provision of legal aid services on a discretionary basis for some civil matters. The Act and regulations specify that certain civil cases are not covered. Examples of civil matters that have received legal aid coverage include workers’ compensation appeals and proceedings under the *Mental Health Act*.

## **Residency and Reciprocity**

A person who is not ordinarily resident in Canada is not eligible for legal aid coverage except in relation to charges under the *Criminal Code* or the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*.

The NWT Legal Aid Commission is a participant in the Inter-Provincial Reciprocity Agreement that allows legal aid coverage to be extended to applicants from any province or territory who require assistance with a civil or family matter arising in another Canadian jurisdiction. The costs of providing the service are borne by the legal aid plan in the jurisdiction where the matter is to be heard. The NWT program participates in this service in the family law area.

## **FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY**

### **Legal Aid Applications**

People must complete an application to receive legal aid. The Commission uses standard forms, and court workers take the applications in person or by telephone. Applicants are required to provide detailed financial information with backup documents. This information includes a statement of income for the applicant and anyone living in the household, and is used to determine an individual's eligibility for legal aid.

Commission employees review applications in detail to determine the applicant's financial eligibility. Eligible applicants are assigned duty counsel for criminal matters or go into a rotational assignment process for family and civil law matters. Applicants who are not financially eligible are sent a notice of denial. Any applicant may appeal a denial to the Legal Aid Commission.

In some cases, using criteria set out in the Act and regulations, the staff determine that an applicant is in a position to make a contribution to the cost of their legal aid services. A conditional authorization for legal aid is given to the applicant requiring a contribution in order to receive legal aid. Usually applicants have a set time period to make their contributions. Some applicants are assessed a contribution to be paid on the completion of their file, if it is expected there will be a financial gain for the client at that time. In cases involving property division, applicants may be subject to a full recovery of fees and disbursements incurred on their behalf.

Contributions and recoveries are deposited into the GNWT Consolidated Revenue Fund, and are not used to directly offset legal aid expenditures.



*Photo taken by Kirsty Hobbs, Court Worker*

## **LEGAL AID ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Panels**

The Legal Aid Commission has established both criminal and civil law panels of private lawyers who are prepared to accept legal aid assignments. The assignment of cases is determined by section 15 of the *Legal Aid Act*, which provides that the Executive Director must consider the rights of the client, fiscal responsibility, conflicts of interest and in some limited circumstances, the choice of the client. In addition, the Executive Director may consider any other factors that are relevant.

### **Clients facing Life Imprisonment**

Applicants do not have the right to choose a particular lawyer. However, clients who are charged with an offence for which life imprisonment is the maximum penalty (other than break & enter or trafficking), are entitled to indicate their preferred choice of counsel from a list established by the Executive Director when they apply for legal aid coverage. This preference, however, is only one factor that the Executive Director considers in assigning counsel to the matter.

### **Circuit Counsel**

The *Legal Aid Act* requires that the Executive Director arrange to have at least one lawyer (circuit counsel) accompany the Territorial Court on all circuits where a lawyer may be required for the delivery of legal aid. Applicants for such services are subject to the same criteria as all other applicants who need legal services. Presumed eligibility services comprise the majority of the legal aid services provided on circuits.



Photo taken by Charles Davison Defence Counsel

## **LEGAL AID CLINICS**

The Commission has 17 staff lawyer positions: eight criminal lawyers, eight family lawyers and the Children's Lawyer. On March 31, 2017, seven criminal, seven family positions and the Children's Lawyer were staffed.

### **Yellowknife Legal Aid Clinic**

The Yellowknife Legal Aid Clinic was staffed at 2016/17 fiscal year end with two criminal lawyers, two family lawyers and one legal secretary. The staff lawyers provide services throughout the NWT.

### **Community Legal Aid Clinic**

This office was staffed at 2016/17 fiscal year end with one family lawyer, three criminal lawyers and one legal secretary. The staff lawyers provide services to clients throughout the NWT.

### **Somba K'e Legal Aid Clinic**

This office was staffed at 2016/17 fiscal year end with two criminal lawyers, three family lawyers and one legal secretary. The staff lawyers provide services to clients throughout the NWT.

### **Outreach Legal Aid Clinic**

This office was staffed at 2016/17 fiscal year end with one outreach lawyer and one outreach court worker. Outreach services are provided in Yellowknife and throughout the NWT by "in person" mobile outreach clinics.

## **APPEALS**

Some decisions made by the Executive Director may be the subject of an appeal to the Commission. An applicant who is assessed a contribution or is denied legal aid may appeal the decision by providing written notice of his/her intention to appeal, and the Executive Director shall then bring the matter before the Commission for an appeal hearing.

Lawyers also have the right to appeal the Executive Director's taxation of an account. Written notice is required, and the Executive Director will then bring the matter to the Commission for an appeal hearing. There is no further right of appeal from the Commission's decision.

There were seventeen eligibility appeals and no taxation appeals in 2016/17. The results of the eligibility appeals were as follows:

Allowed:	7
Denied:	10

## **ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**

### **Funding for the Legal Aid Commission**

The Legislature allocates money to the Legal Aid Commission to administer the *Legal Aid Act* and provide legal services and other programs under the Act. The GNWT receives funding for the Legal Aid Program, Aboriginal Court Work Program and public legal education, through the Access to Justice Agreement with the Government of Canada. For the first time since 2006/07, Federal funding has been increased for both criminal legal aid and the Aboriginal Court Work Program. Total federal funding for 2016/17 was \$2,461,306 – an increase of \$488,979.

### **Personnel**

The staff of the Legal Aid Commission are appointed and employed under the *Public Service Act*, and are employees of the GNWT Department of Justice. The Department of Human Resources provides human resources support to the Commission.

### **Financial Services**

Financial services are generally provided by the Department of Justice, though some services are provided by the Department of Finance. Since the Commission does not hold separate funds, it is audited in conjunction with the Department of Justice. A separate annual independent audit is completed in compliance with the Access to Justice Agreement with Canada.



### **LEGAL AID TARIFF**

<u>Experience</u>	<u>Hourly Rates (\$)</u>	<u>Daily Rates (\$)</u>
Student at law	59	342
Less than 4 years	90	518
4-6 years	106	670
7-10 years	131	780
11 & more years	146	873

The rates are the same regardless of the level of court for which legal aid services are provided.

### **STAFF LAWYER SALARIES**

Staff lawyers, as GNWT employees, are paid according to the pay scales established for GNWT legal counsel. These rates are based on legal experience and were fixed as follows for 2016-2017:

Staff Lawyer I – 18 (\$95,590 to \$114,134)

Staff Lawyer II – 20 (\$104,618 to \$124,898)

Staff Lawyer III – 22 (\$114,524 to \$136,715)

Staff Lawyer IV – 24 (\$125,229 to \$149,526)

Staff Lawyer V – 25 (\$131,001 to \$156,410)

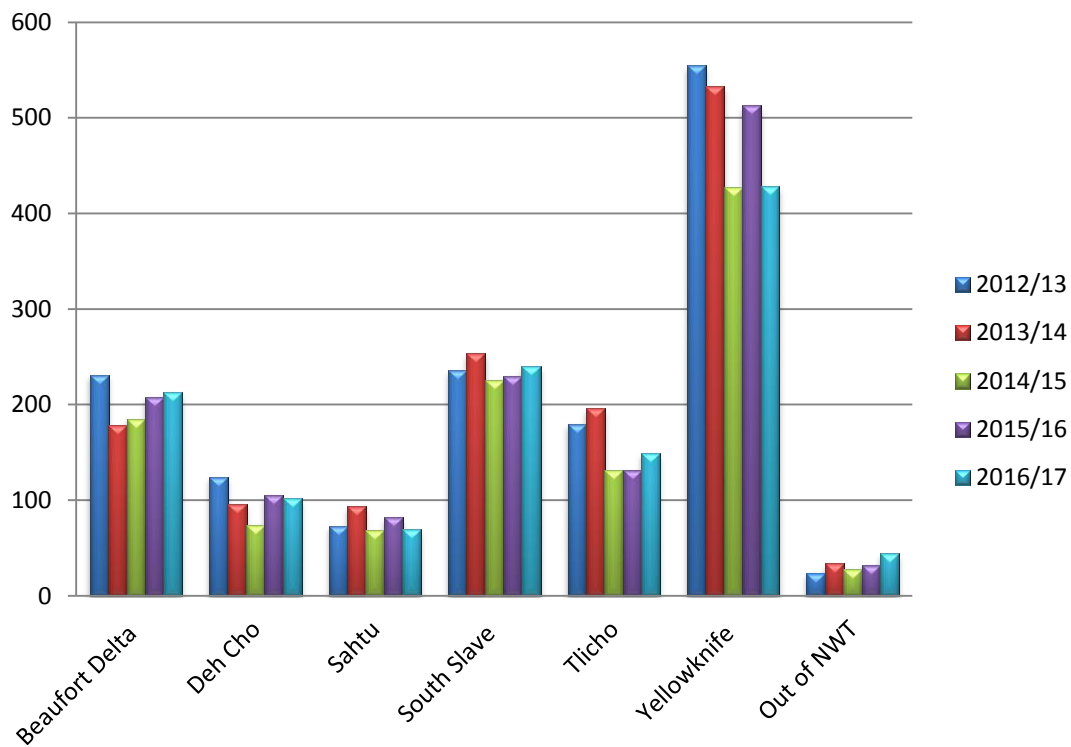
## FINANCIAL REPORT 2016/17

	Actual Expense	2016/17 Main Estimate- Revised	Year Variance
<b>Legal Aid Commission Administration</b>			
Staff Wages and Benefits	651,439	610,000	-41,439
Operations & Maintenance Expenses	86,062	32,000	-54,062
Public Education			
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>737,501</b>	<b>642,000</b>	<b>-95,501</b>
<b>Court Workers</b>			
Staff Wages and Benefits	672,845	1,003,000	330,155
Operations & Maintenance Expenses	22,013	20,000	-2,013
Travel	113,335	64,000	-49,335
<b>Total Court Workers</b>	<b>808,193</b>	<b>1,087,000</b>	<b>278,807</b>
<b>Legal Aid Staff Lawyers</b>			
Staff Wages & Benefits	2,780,684	2,666,000	-114,684
Operations & Maintenance Expenses	321,918	284,000	-37,918
<b>Total Legal Aid Staff Lawyers</b>	<b>3,102,602</b>	<b>2,950,000</b>	<b>-152,602</b>
<b>Legal Aid Commission</b>			
Board Expenses	6,633		-6,633
<b>Total Board Expenses</b>	<b>6,633</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-6,633</b>
<b>Legal Aid Fees &amp; Disbursements</b>			
Legal Aid Fees/Disbursements	1,121,091	1,226,000	104,909
Travel and Transportation (includes both panel and staff lawyers)	352,230	336,000	-16,230
<b>Total Legal Aid Fees &amp; Disbursements</b>	<b>1,473,321</b>	<b>1,562,000</b>	<b>88,679</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,128,250</b>	<b>6,241,000</b>	<b>112,750</b>

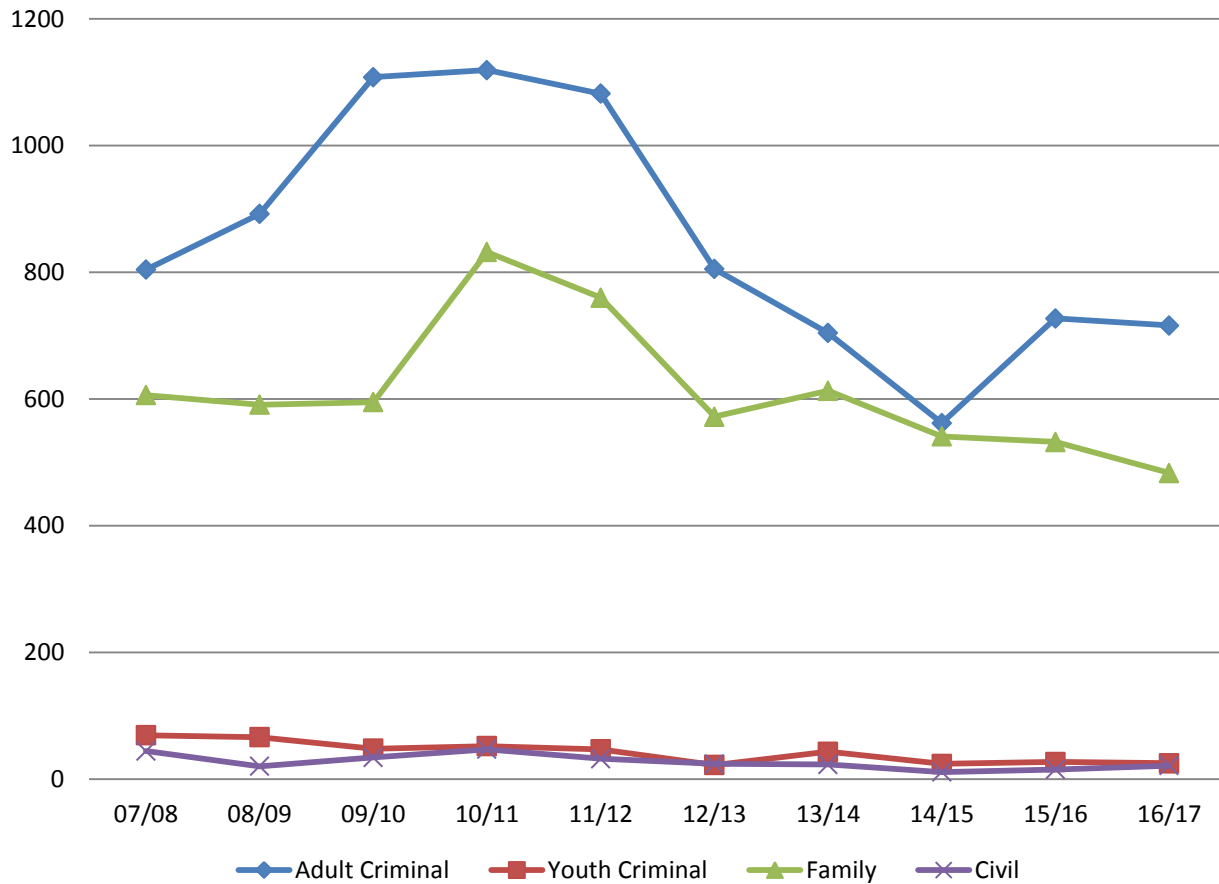
## STATISTICAL REPORTS FOR 2016/17

### Number of Applications Received

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Beaufort Delta	231	178	185	208	213
Deh Cho	124	96	74	105	102
Sahtu	73	93	68	82	69
South Slave	236	253	225	230	240
Tlcho	180	196	131	131	149
Yellowknife	555	533	427	513	428
Out of NWT	24	34	28	32	44
Total	1423	1383	1138	1301	1245

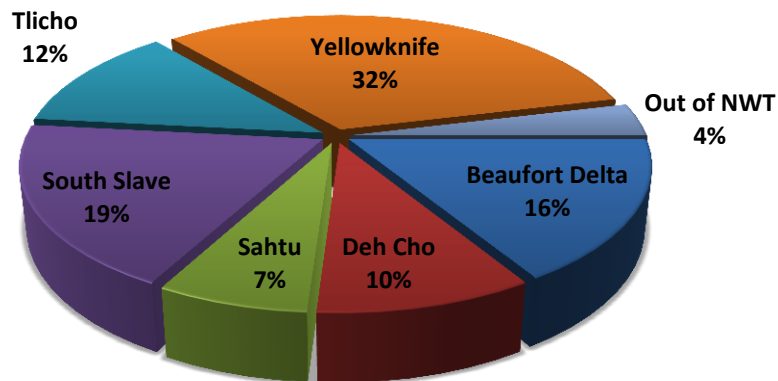


## Number of Applications Received by Case Type Fiscal years 2007/08 to 2016/17

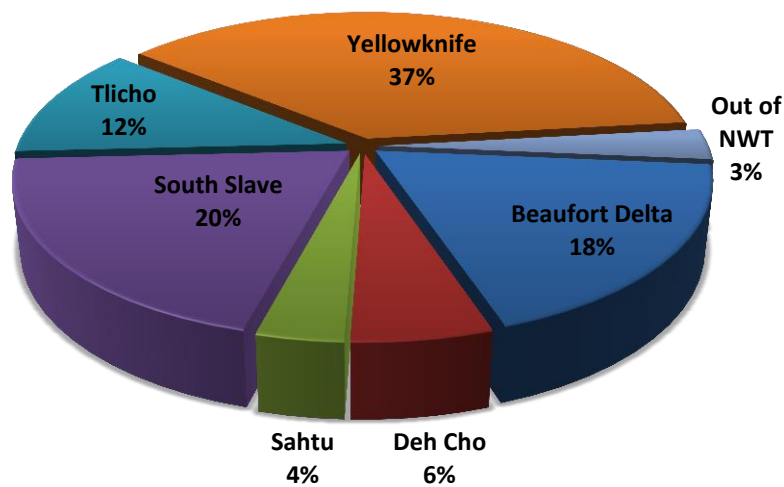


	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
Adult Criminal	804	892	1108	1119	1082	805	704	562	727	716
Youth Criminal	69	66	48	52	47	22	43	24	27	25
Family	606	591	595	832	760	572	613	541	532	483
Civil	44	20	34	47	32	24	23	11	15	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>1523</b>	<b>1569</b>	<b>1785</b>	<b>2050</b>	<b>1921</b>	<b>1423</b>	<b>1383</b>	<b>1138</b>	<b>1301</b>	<b>1245</b>

## Criminal Applications 2016/17



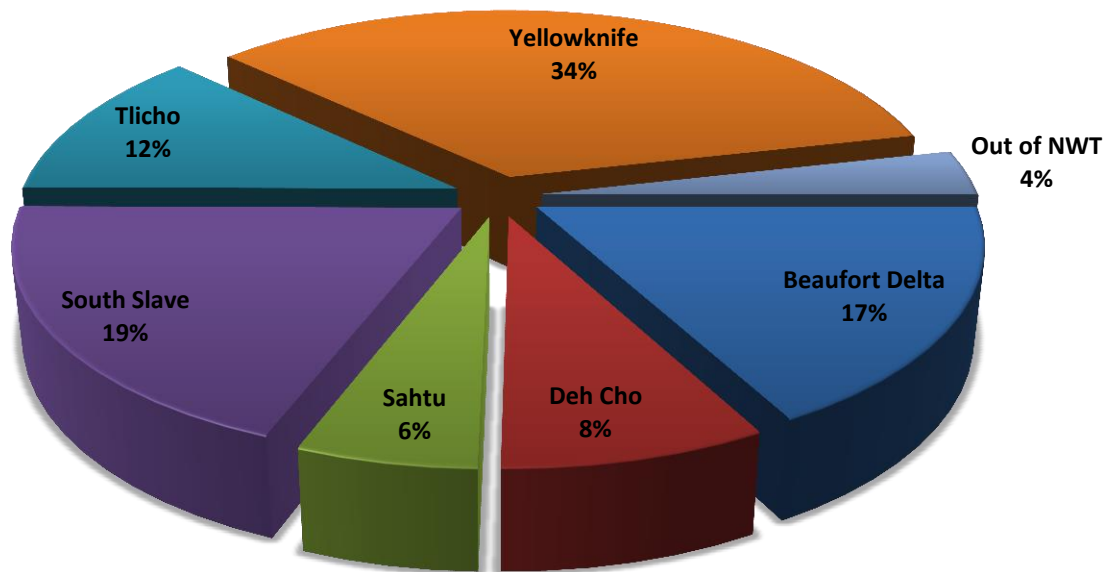
## Family/Civil Applications 2016/17



By Regions	Criminal Applications	Family/Civil Applications
Beaufort Delta	120	93
Deh Cho	73	29
Sahtu	51	18
South Slave	139	101
Tlicho	90	59
Yellowknife	240	188
Out of NWT	28	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>504</b>



## Origin Of Applications for 2016/17

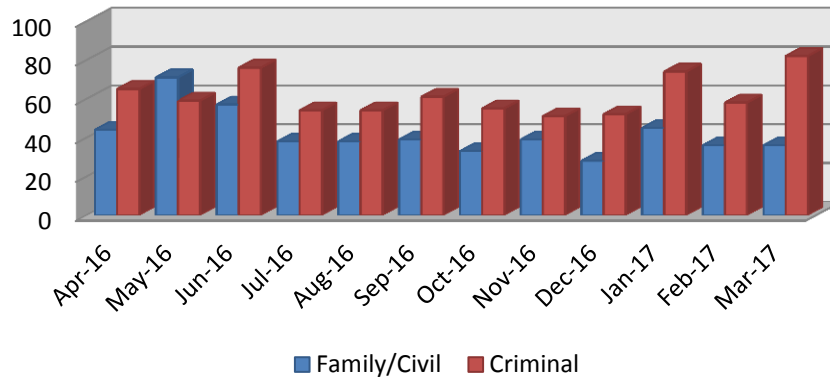


**Origin of Applications for 2016/17**

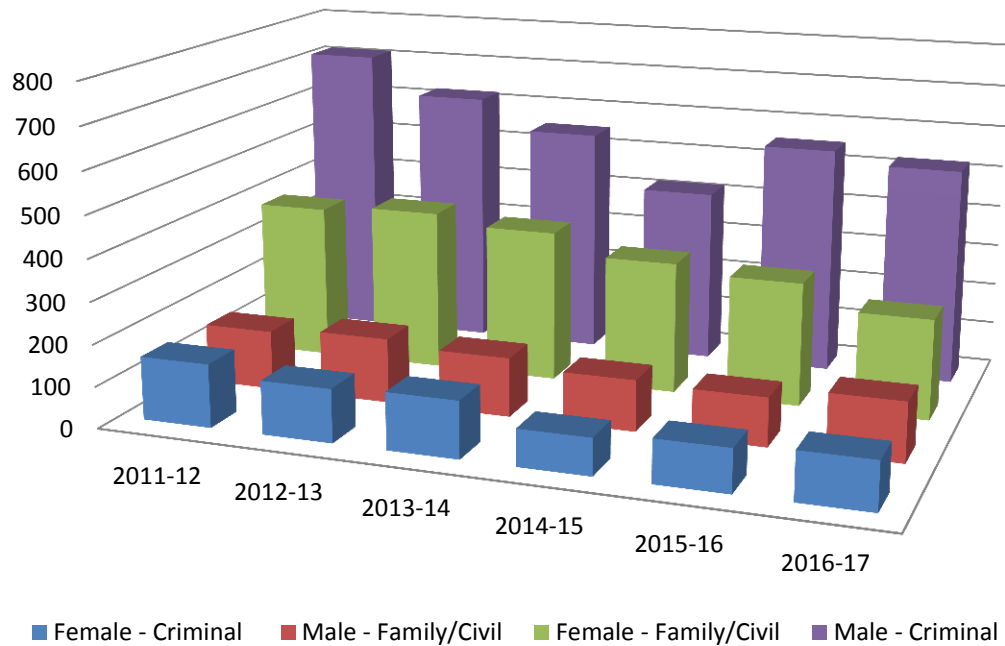
Beaufort Delta	213
Deh Cho	102
Sahtu	69
South Slave	240
Tlicho	149
Yellowknife	428
Out of NWT	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>1245</b>

\*\* "Out of the NWT" includes: 4 Criminal Appeals, 21 other Criminal Matters, 2 Criminal Youth Matters and 16 Family/Civil Matters.

## Applications Received Monthly Fiscal Year 2016/17

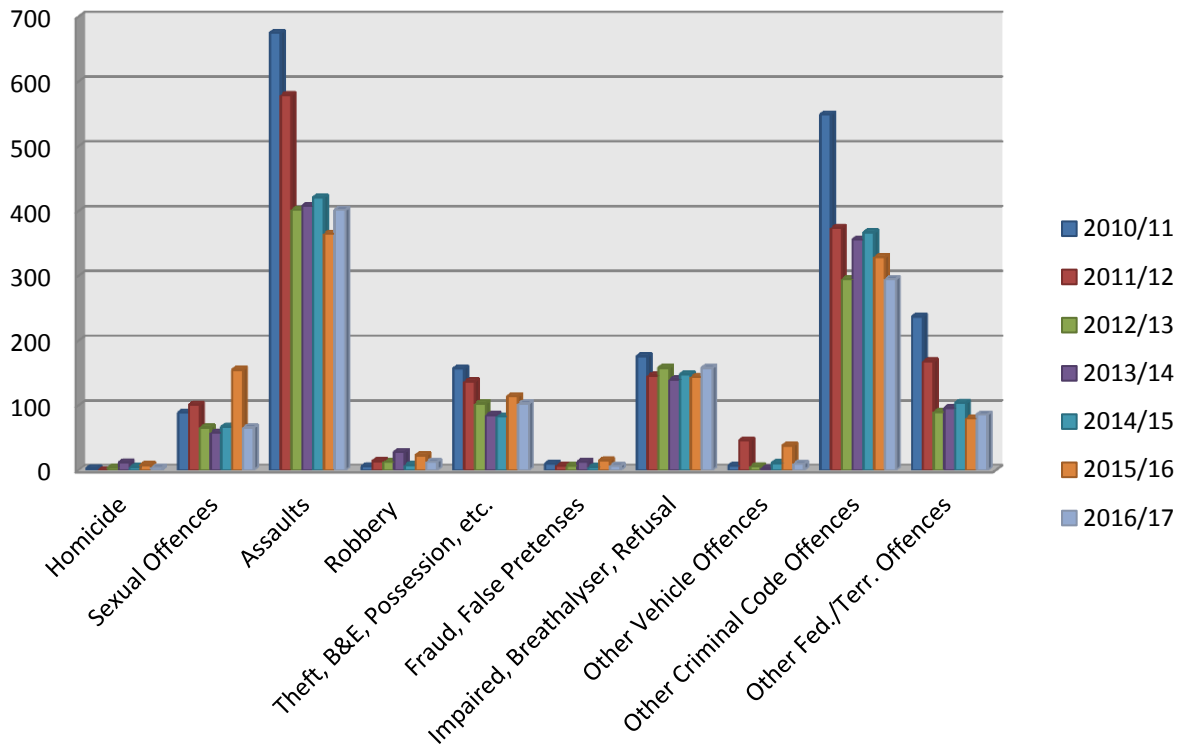


## Legal Aid Approvals by Case Type and Gender



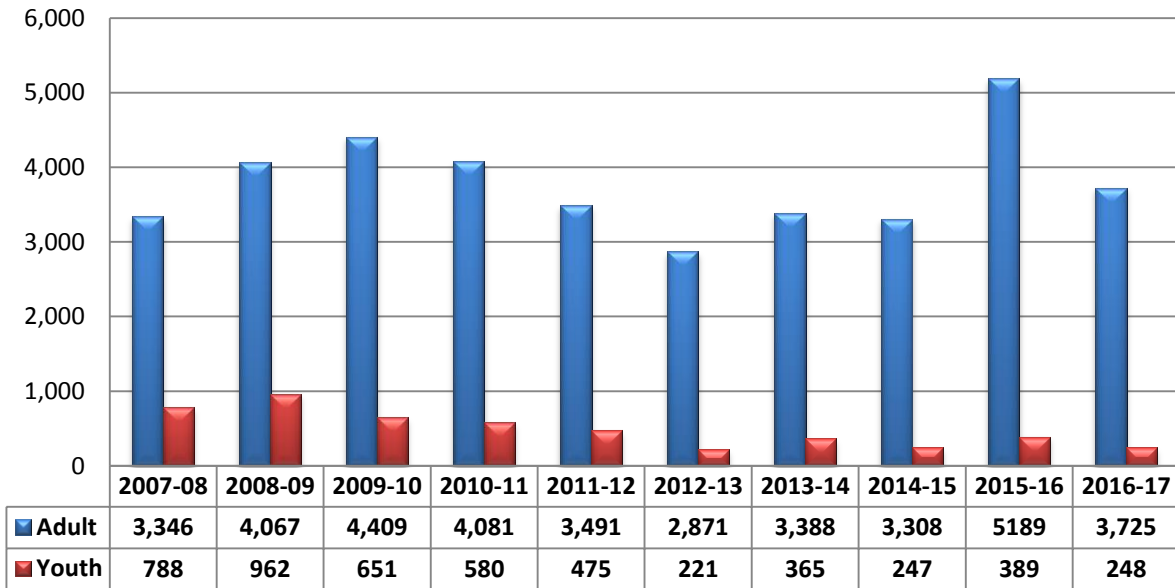
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
<b>Female - Criminal</b>	152	128	136	88	103	115
<b>Male - Family/Civil</b>	143	156	142	123	117	143
<b>Female - Family/Civil</b>	376	390	367	318	299	242
<b>Male - Criminal</b>	714	622	549	420	552	524
<b>Total</b>	<b>1385</b>	<b>1296</b>	<b>1194</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>1071</b>	<b>1024</b>

## BRYDGES SERVICES NUMBER OF CALLS BY TYPE OR MATTER

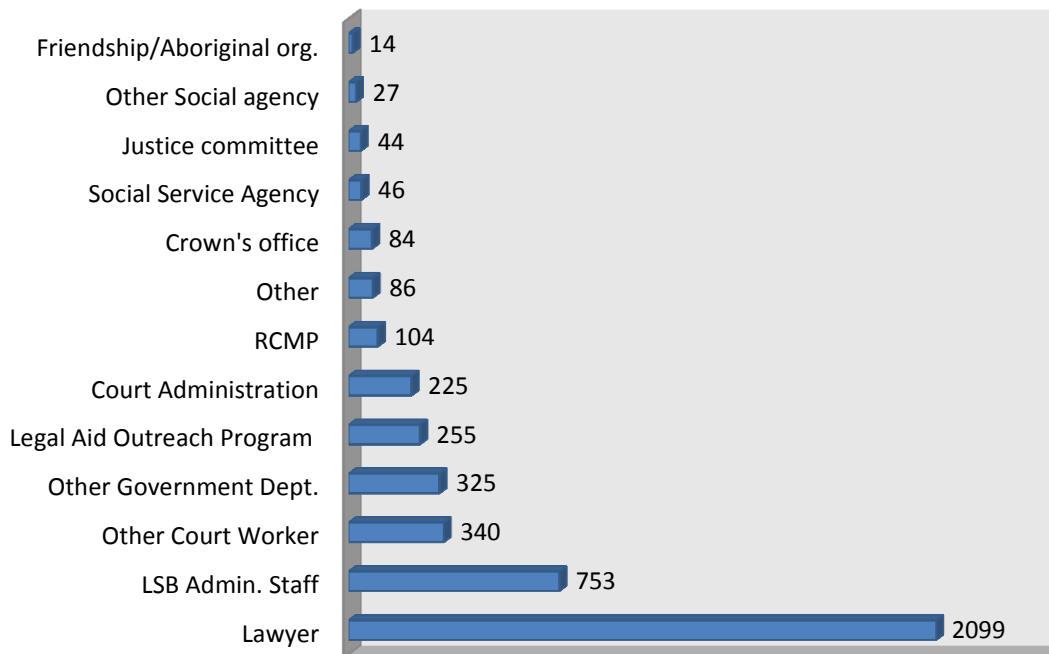


	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Homicide	3	0	4	12	5	8	4
Sexual Offences	89	101	66	58	67	155	66
Assaults	675	579	402	408	421	365	402
Robbery	6	14	13	28	8	23	13
Theft, B&E, Possession, etc.	157	137	103	85	83	114	103
Fraud, False Pretenses	10	7	7	13	5	15	7
Impaired, Breathalyzer, Refusal	176	146	158	140	148	144	158
Other Vehicle Offences	7	46	6	3	11	38	10
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> Offences	549	374	295	356	367	329	295
Other Fed./Terr. Offences	237	168	90	96	104	80	86
<b>Yearly totals</b>	<b>1909</b>	<b>1572</b>	<b>1144</b>	<b>1199</b>	<b>1219</b>	<b>1271</b>	<b>1144</b>

## Presumed Eligibility Statistics 2016/17



## Court Worker Community Referrals for 2016/17







## **OFFICE LOCATIONS AND CONTACT NUMBERS**

### **Legal Aid Commission**

4915 48<sup>th</sup> Street 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, YK Centre  
East  
P.O Box 1320  
Yellowknife NT X1A 2L9  
Tel: (867) 767-9361 ext. 82281  
Fax: (867) 873-5320

### **LEGAL AID CLINICS**

#### **Community Legal Aid Clinic**

# 8, 4915 – 48<sup>th</sup> Street  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, YK Centre East  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 3R7  
Tel: (867) 767-9383 ext. 82319  
Fax: (867) 873-0652

#### **Somba K'e Legal Aid Clinic**

# 5, 4915 – 48<sup>th</sup> Street  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, YK Centre East  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 3R7  
Tel: (867) 767-9377 ext. 82309  
Fax: (867) 920-6270

#### **Yellowknife Legal Aid Clinic**

# 4, 4915 – 48<sup>th</sup> Street  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, YK Centre East  
P.O Box 11028  
Yellowknife NT X1A 3X7  
Tel: (867) 767 9372 ext.82299  
Fax: (867) 873-0526

#### **Outreach Legal Aid Clinic**

# 1, 4915 – 48<sup>th</sup> Street  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, YK Centre East  
Yellowknife NT X1A 3X7  
Tel: (867) 767 9384 ext. 92325  
Fax: (867) 920-3000

### **COURT WORKERS**

#### **Beaufort Delta Region**

P.O. Box 1100  
Inuvik NT X0E 0T0  
Tel: (867) 777-7338  
Fax: (867) 777-3211

#### **Deh Cho Region**

P.O. Box 178  
Fort Simpson NT X0E 0R0  
Tel: (867) 695-2106  
Fax: (867) 695-2136

#### **Fort Smith**

P.O. Box 170  
Fort Smith NT X0E 0P0  
Tel: (867) 872-6568  
Fax: (867) 872-3602

#### **Sahtu Region**

P.O. Box 239  
Fort Good Hope NT X0E 0H0  
Tel: (867) 598-2762  
Fax: (867) 598-2525

#### **South Slave Region**

105 – 31 Capital Drive  
Hay River NT X0E 1G2  
Tel: (867) 874-2475  
Fax: (867) 874-3435

#### **Tlicho Communities**

General Delivery  
Behchokö NT X0E 0Y0  
Tel: (867) 392-6386  
Fax: (867) 392-6387

#### **Yellowknife Area**

P.O. Box 1320  
Yellowknife NT X1A 2L9  
Tel: (867) 767-9365 ext. 82285  
Fax: (867) 873-5230