

LEGAL AID COMMISSION OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
Annual Report
2019-2020

COMMISSION D'AIDE JURIDIQUE DES TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST
Rapport annuel
2019 - 2020



Photos taken by Carol Lorentz Court Worker



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 the *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 2019/20 fiscal year, the Commission oversaw the provision of 4,454 Presumed Eligibility Duty Counsel services, 731 full service criminal matters, 257 full service family matters and 5,417 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 2019-2020, la Commission a supervisé la prestation de services d'avocats à 4,454 clients présumés financièrement admissibles, en offrant notamment des services généraux en droit criminel à 731 clients, des services généraux en droit de la famille à 257 clients, et des services d'assistance parajudiciaire à 5,417 clients.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The following organizational chart reflects the structure of the Legal Aid Commission as of March 31, 2020.



A Message from the Chair

Alana Mero, Inuvik

The Northwest Territories Legal Aid Commission is comprised of five individuals, appointed by the Minister of Justice. To the extent practicable, appointments reflect regional diversity. Our role is to ensure oversight of the Executive Director, approve policy and to hear and determine appeals of coverage denial. The Commissioners lend important voices to the creation of policy and ensure that client applications have the opportunity for a 'second look' when coverage has been denied.

We meet twice per year in person and more frequently by teleconference. When client appeals are being heard, the client is assured of procedural fairness by being provided with all materials being considered in advance as well as being given the opportunity to attend the hearing and make submissions by telephone.



Given the highly experienced administrative staff at Legal Aid and the fact that most of the Commissioners have served in their role for a number of years, there is an excellent working relationship between the Commission and staff, where service to clients and access to justice remain our focus. It is a privilege to serve our communities and the administration of justice in this important way.

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. In accordance with that subsection, the 2019/20 Commission was composed of the following:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Roberta Hamilton | Representing the South Slave |
| Giselle Marion | Representing the Tlicho and North Slave communities |
| Alana Mero, Chair | Representing the Beaufort Delta |
| Mark Aitken | Representing the Public Service |
| Paul Falvo | 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 and family 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.

Three legal aid clinics in Yellowknife continued to offer criminal defence and family law services to clients in all NWT communities. The Outreach Legal Aid Clinic commenced operation in March 2017, operating from dedicated space and staffed by one lawyer and one Court Worker. The Office of the Children's Lawyer is staffed by one lawyer who supervises a panel of private Bar lawyers who deliver legal services to eligible child clients.

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.

Commission Meetings

During the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the Legal Aid Commission met in person on two occasions in Yellowknife. The Commission also met by teleconference or electronically on eleven other occasions.

Association of Legal Aid Plans of Canada

The Association of Legal Aid Plans of Canada (ALAPC) is a voice for Canada's Legal Aid Plans, and provides a national perspective on legal aid and access to justice issues. Every jurisdiction in Canada participates in this voluntary group of Executive Directors, CEO's and senior staff. The objectives of ALAP are to undertake, support and facilitate research concerning access to justice issues; to improve public awareness of access to justice issues; and to undertake such activities, on its own or with others, as may be in the interest of access to justice in Canada.

The Northwest Territories Legal Aid Commission's Executive Director is currently on the Executive of ALAP, and participates in regular conference calls to address issues affecting all legal aid programs as well as planning the annual meeting and conference of ALAP. In 2019, the meeting and conference was held in Ottawa, where topics included the unique challenges of delivering services in the Territories as well as good governance and strategic relationships.

The annual ALAPC meeting coincided with the biannual meeting of the International Legal Aid Group which hosted delegates from twenty nine countries and sixty nine justice-based organizations. The theme of the Conference was "Legal Aid as Public Service: Is It Achievable?" The presentation by the NWT Legal Aid Commission was very well received and led to a further invitation to participate at the Kyiv International Legal Aid Conference.

A Message from the Executive Director

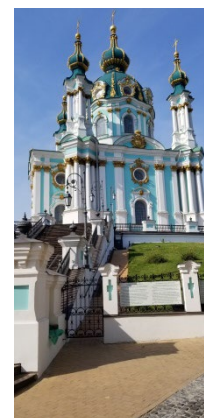
Karen Wilford

The most important resource of the Legal Aid Commission is its dedicated staff of lawyers, court workers and administrative professionals. We are fortunate to have a mix of long-term staff who generously share their corporate knowledge combined with a regular ‘re-fresh’ of new, often younger staff, whose energy and creativity keep the rest of us engaged. Each year sees change in our staff make-up but the quality of the professionalism and commitment remains of the highest. I hope you will take the time to read this year’s staff contributions to this report for an insider’s glimpse into the exceptional service to our clients.

Before our world was impacted by COVID-19, it had already been a year of some change and progress for the Legal Aid Commission:

- new position, Manager, Program Support was established to balance supervision responsibilities and to take the lead on a new database
- renovations were completed in the Community Legal Aid Clinic and LAC head office
- Outreach Legal Aid Clinic re-staffed
- coverage for Show Cause Court was adjusted and increased to accommodate Court House renovations and increased demand
- contract secured with database developer.

On a personal note, the highlight of this year was the invitation to present at the International Legal Aid Group conference held in Ottawa in July 2019 and again at the Kyiv International Legal Aid Conference in September 2019. “Delivering Legal Aid Services in Canada’s Arctic: an Exercise in Understanding Intersections” was extremely well received. The pamphlets highlighting the Sissons Collection were a high-demand item!



Exchanging ideas about legal aid from across the world has reinforced my conviction that the Northwest Territories Legal Aid Commission delivers services of the highest caliber and Canada’s legal aid programs are universally considered best practice models. I am left proud, humbled and grateful by the learning opportunities of those conferences.

We are back to our office settings, though the work never stopped during the initial pandemic response. We continue to work collaboratively with all members of the justice sector in the NWT to deliver service that is safe and client-focused. As new approaches and technologies emerge, we will ensure that the rights of our clients are protected.



THE LEGAL AID OUTREACH PROGRAM & PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

Thomas E. Wallwork, B.Sc., JD

This year brought new faces and new perspectives to the Outreach Legal Aid Clinic with my taking over the role of Outreach Lawyer in the summer of 2019, and Stephanie Mantla taking on the role of Outreach Court Worker in the fall of that year. We have been busy since then learning the ropes of our new roles, and getting to know the many stakeholders in the justice process across the Northwest Territories.

Following the outbreak of COVID-19, our office was able to transition quickly, seamlessly and safely to remote work owing entirely to our predecessors' hard work in establishing the Outreach Clinic as a paperless office. The previously developed self-help guides and the extensive library of materials were of critical importance in delivering legal solutions to clients that we could not meet in person.

Thanks to the hard work of those who came before me and a little ingenuity in the present, our core services never stopped at all – they just transformed into a different format. Whether the service required was a virtual meeting or duty counsel in court by telephone, clients continued to receive effective summary advice.

The Outreach Clinic has become increasingly proactive in ensuring that everyone has access to timely and practical advice.

Our work continues apace in the legal education context, as well – we are continuing to develop new legal information materials in the format of self-help guides. Pandemic-specific legal information has been distributed by way of leaflet, and virtual legal aid clinics are being planned as a substitute for in-person clinics in the various communities of the Northwest Territories.

We are still here. We are still helping. We are still committed to providing as much access to justice as we can. And while you may not be able to see it under our masks – we are still smiling.



THE PRACTICE OF CRIMINAL LAW

Kate S. Oja, J.D.

As a criminal defence lawyer, one of the most common questions I get – often from total strangers – is “how can you defend someone you know is guilty?” Here are some of the ways I try and answer.

The first thing I point out is the presumption of innocence – legally, everyone is presumed innocent until proven guilty. Factually, it’s also very hard to “know” someone is guilty. Mistaken and/or dishonest eyewitnesses, inadequate investigations, false confessions – these can all lead to evidence that points in the wrong direction. Unless I was there, I don’t actually “know” when someone is guilty – no one does. That’s why we have trials.

What happens if I think there is enough evidence to establish the accused’s guilt? Here’s where I ask my client about what happened and find out whether he or she has a different version, or a legal defence to the charge. If my client doesn’t admit that they did what the Crown says they did, or has a defence in law, then we have a trial so that the judge or jury can decide.

It’s my role to put the Crown’s evidence to the test, acting ethically and without ever misleading the court, so that the judge or jury can make an informed decision. Although it’s natural as a human to form certain beliefs or suspicions, a criminal case is all about proof beyond a reasonable doubt. I firmly believe – as does anyone in the criminal justice system – that if the evidence doesn’t prove the accused’s guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, that accused should go free.

A really important part of what defence lawyers do is to represent people through the process of pleading guilty, when an accused is prepared to admit to the charges. Working in the Northwest Territories, the vast majority of accused are Indigenous, and the vast majority have been impacted by both direct and intergenerational trauma caused by Canada’s horrific legacy of oppression and cultural eradication of Indigenous peoples. I have yet to meet a client that was a “bad” person – one of the incredible things this job has taught me is that people who commit crimes, even horrific ones, all have a vulnerable side. Many of them are victims themselves. I am honoured to help them, and to help them avoid lengthy, debilitating jail sentences.

Being a defence lawyer allows me to ask hard questions - both of myself and the criminal justice system – on a daily basis. I feel privileged to have a job that results in such complicated conversations

THE PRACTICE OF FAMILY LAW

Elizabeth L. Doyle, J.D.

As a newer family law lawyer, I would like to share three takeaways from my short time in the practice of family law: the burden of procedure, the importance of colleagues and observations from practicing child protection law.

There is as much to learn in terms of procedure as there is substantive legislation and caselaw. The NWT has a paper-based system and I spend a lot of time formatting, printing, stapling, copying, scanning, un-stapling, and maybe re-doing these tasks when I miss something or make a mistake. Luckily, there are efforts underway to modernize procedure which should make it a bit easier for lawyers, legal workers and members of the public to navigate the court system.



I also want to highlight the importance of being able to consult and discuss issues with other lawyers, especially more senior lawyers. Our current group of staff family lawyers has regular meetings where we discuss issues in family law, ask questions and discuss alternatives for approaching problems we encounter. I also appreciate the guidance of senior family lawyers who are invariably generous with their time in helping me decide how to

approach complicated legal issues.

Finally, I do not think that I could reflect on practicing family law in the NWT without addressing child protection files and some of the challenges my clients face. From the beginning, all of my child protection clients have been Indigenous, most, if not all, were in the child welfare system themselves as children, and most, if not all of their parents were apprehended by the state and put in residential schools. Most clients have a lot of mistrust in the system and don't want to have anything to do with CFS, understandably. From what I see, the parents, particularly those in communities, are facing a staggering lack of basic resources such as access to housing, employment and community-based health services. It is hard to imagine ending the cycle of involvement in the child welfare system without financial commitments to address fundamental necessities. On the files I work on, a lot of money is spent on things like foster care, chartered flights and residential treatment outside of the territory, but there is a tremendous need for money to be spent to support parents and families in basic ways in their communities well before CFS becomes involved.

I feel fortunate to be in the NWT at this time, and am grateful to be working at Legal Aid where I hope to make a small contribution to the goals of equity and justice for all.

THE COURT WORKER PROGRAM

Betty Parrell, Court Worker

There is no justice without access to justice.

(Chief Justice Beverly McLachlin, 2011)

There are varying understandings about the meaning of “access to justice”. Within these understandings, and what seems to be generally agreed upon, is that there are two streams: the first being “access” and the second being “justice”. Briefly, “access” refers to ensuring that legal counsel is available to every person, and is not determined by a person’s ability to pay. Access also encompasses the understanding that every person is entitled to be given information about what the court process is and what to expect when navigating it. “Justice” in this context means looking at the bigger picture. It means deconstructing the barriers in our justice system, wherever they exist: in our policing, in our courts, in our jails, and by extension, in our communities and other institutions. “Justice” calls us to address systemic issues like racism, for example, that result in the inequality of persons. These two streams inform and compliment one another.

My life as a court worker began in April 2019. Court workers play an important role in facilitating access to justice. Our work is most immediately related to “access”, but provides many opportunities to reflect on “justice”. The work is fulfilling and our clients endearing. It is a humbling and grace filled experience to be in a position to provide support for persons with both criminal and family matters, who, in many instances are living through some of the most stressful and vulnerable experiences of their lives.

I have had the good fortune of travelling with the court party to Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk, Norman Wells, Tulita, Fort Good Hope, and Deline. In the winter, the communities in the Sahtu looked like pictures on Christmas cards. Such tranquil beauty! The landscape as we flew into Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk at the end of summer reminded me of my time in Istanbul. The ground had the appearance of a beautiful Turkish tapestry - the muted reds and brilliant yellows, accentuated with bursts of green of every shade. I am a court worker in Yellowknife most of the time and it is a real treat to get the opportunity to travel. I am thankful to be part of the Legal Aid Commission.



Legal Aid is fundamental to giving everybody in this country access to justice.

(Jeremy Corbyn)

OFFICE OF THE CHILDREN'S LAWYER

Ken Kinnear, Office of the Children's Lawyer

The Office of the Children's Lawyer provides legal representation to children and youth (up to age 19). The office has provided this assistance since 2011. Assistance is provided in accordance with the mandate of the office, and upon the appointment of the office to act by a court of competent jurisdiction. Assistance is typically provided in two circumstances (sometimes in both). The first circumstance involves a family that has had a child protection concern brought before the court by the Director of Child and Family Services. The second circumstance involves an unresolved custody and/or access (visitation) dispute between parents that has now escalated so as to be before a court.

Demand for legal representation for children and youth continues to increase, particularly with regard to

child protection matters. There is greater recognition on the part of stakeholders (the Director of Child and Family Services, family lawyers, parents and particularly the courts) that early involvement of the Office of the Children's Lawyer in these high conflict matters usually will serve to decrease conflict and promote an early resolution. At the same time, children and youth are provided with a real opportunity to voice their own views and preferences with respect to

outstanding issues, something that is not otherwise usually made available to them. The overall result, it is felt, is increased satisfaction with the litigation process by all family members, including children and youth, more sustainable settlements, and reduced demands on the legal system in general.

When representing children and youth in family litigation matters, panel lawyers are guided by a comprehensive Policy and Procedures Manual prepared by the Office of the Children's Lawyer. This Manual provides transparency to all court participants as to how this child legal representation is being approached.



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)*

The Legal Aid Commission makes 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 was best 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, as well as policy established by the Commission.

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 process, 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. Most frequently, civil matters are referred to the Outreach Legal Aid Clinic for summary advice, information and referral.

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 family matter arising in another Canadian jurisdiction.

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 backing 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 an assignment process for family 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, regulations and Commission policies, 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 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.

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

LEGAL AID ASSIGNMENTS

Panels

The Legal Aid Commission has established both criminal and family 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 preference 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 upon application to indicate their preferred choice of counsel from a list established by the Executive Director. 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.

LEGAL AID CLINICS

The Commission has 18 staff lawyer positions: nine criminal lawyers, seven family lawyers, one Outreach lawyer, the Children's Lawyer and Articling Student. On March 31, 2020, 16 positions were filled.

Yellowknife Legal Aid Clinic

The Yellowknife Legal Aid Clinic was staffed at 2019/20 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 2019/20 fiscal year end with two family lawyers, three criminal lawyers, articling student and one legal secretary. The staff lawyers provide services to clients throughout the NWT.

Somba K'e Legal Aid Clinic

This office was staffed in 2019/20 with three criminal lawyers, one family lawyer and one legal secretary. The staff lawyers provide services to clients throughout the NWT.

Outreach Legal Aid Clinic

This office was staffed in 2019/20 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 a hearing. There is no further right of appeal from the Commission's decision.

There were twelve eligibility appeals and one taxation appeal in 2019/20. The results of the eligibility appeals were as follows:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Allowed: | 2 |
| Allowed in part | 2 |
| Denied: | 8 |

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Funding for the Legal Aid Commission

The Legislative Assembly 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 also receives funding for the Legal Aid Program, Indigenous Court Work Program and public legal education, through the Access to Justice Agreement with the Government of Canada. In 2019/20 Justice Canada contributed \$2,658,946 to the total cost of \$7,310,334 pursuant to the funding agreement that is in place through to 2022.

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 Finance 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 2019-2020:

Staff Lawyer I – 18 (97,110 to 115,986)

Staff Lawyer II – 20 (106,295 to 126,945)

Staff Lawyer III – 22 (116,357 to 138,957)

Staff Lawyer IV – 24 (127,238 to 151,964)

Staff Lawyer V – 25 (133,088 to 158,945)

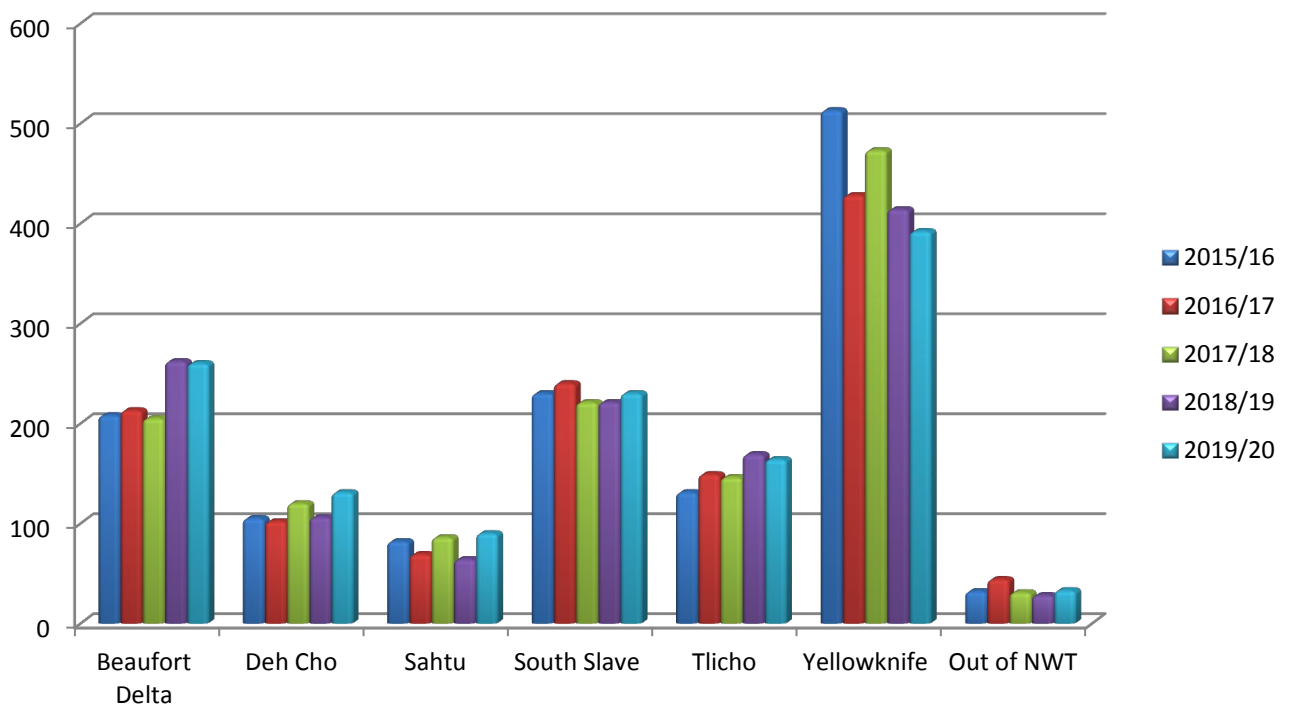
Financial Report 2019/2020

| | Actual Expense | 2019/2020 Estimate -Budget | Year Variance |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Legal Aid Commission Administration | | | |
| Staff Wages and Benefits | 777,467.00 | 749,000.00 | (28,467.00) |
| Operations & Maintenance Expenses | 197,525.00 | 38,000.00 | (159,525.00) |
| Total Administration | 974,992.00 | 787,000.00 | (187,992.00) |
| Court workers | | | |
| Staff Wages and Benefits | 810,515.00 | 1,132,000.00 | 321,485.00 |
| Operations & Maintenance Expenses | 37,917.00 | 22,000.00 | (15,917.00) |
| Travel | 50,459.00 | 64,000.00 | 13,541.00 |
| Total Court workers | 898,891.00 | 1,218,000.00 | 319,109.00 |
| Legal Aid Staff Lawyers | | | |
| Staff Wages and Benefits | 2,609,865.00 | 2,663,373.00 | 53,508.00 |
| Operations & Maintenance Expenses | 785,244.00 | 847,627.00 | 62,383.00 |
| Total Staff Lawyers | 3,395,109.00 | 3,511,000.00 | 115,891.00 |
| Legal Aid Commission | | | |
| Commission Expenses | 4,893.00 | - | (4,893.00) |
| Total Commission Expenses | 4,893.00 | - | (4,493.00) |
| Legal Aid Fees & Disbursements | | | |
| Legal Aid Fees & Disbursements | 1,659,246.00 | 1,019,000.00 | (640,246.00) |
| Travel | 377,203.00 | 336,000.00 | (41,203.00) |
| Total Legal Aid Fees & Disbursements | 2,036,449.00 | 1,355,000.00 | (681,449.00) |
| Total | 7,310,334.00 | 6,871,000.00 | (439,334.00) |

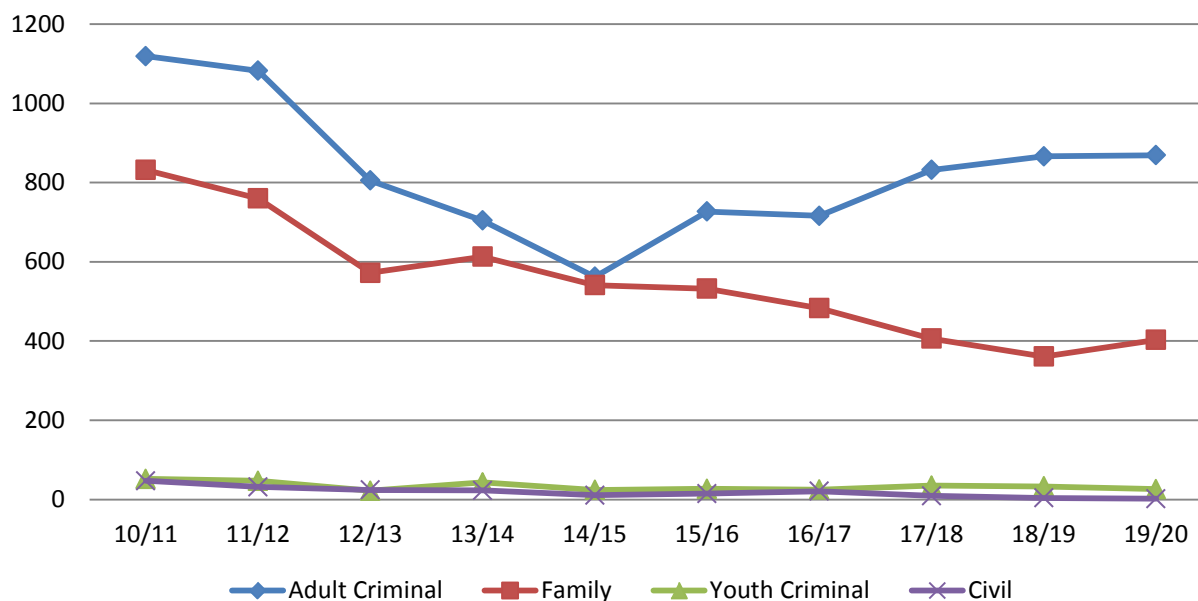
STATISTICAL REPORTS FOR 2019/20

Number of Applications Received

| | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Beaufort Delta | 208 | 213 | 205 | 262 | 260 |
| Deh Cho | 105 | 102 | 120 | 106 | 131 |
| Sahtu | 82 | 69 | 86 | 64 | 90 |
| South Slave | 230 | 240 | 221 | 221 | 230 |
| Tlicho | 131 | 149 | 146 | 169 | 164 |
| Yellowknife | 513 | 428 | 473 | 414 | 392 |
| Out of NWT | 32 | 44 | 31 | 28 | 33 |
| Total | 1301 | 1245 | 1282 | 1264 | 1300 |

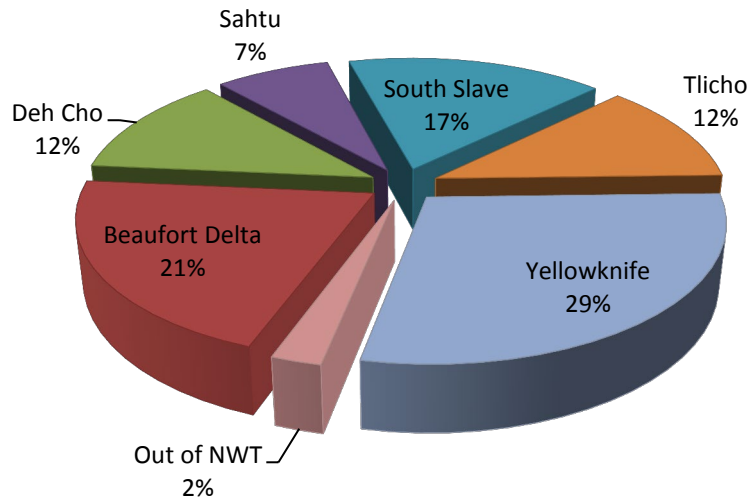


Number of Applications Received by Case Type Fiscal years 2010/11 to 2019/20

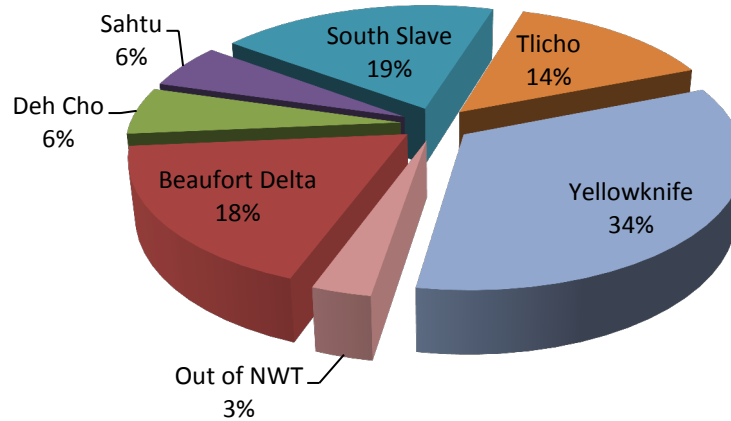


| | 10/11 | 11/12 | 12/13 | 13/14 | 14/15 | 15/16 | 16/17 | 17/18 | 18/19 | 19/20 |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Adult Criminal | 1119 | 1082 | 805 | 704 | 562 | 727 | 716 | 832 | 866 | 869 |
| Youth Criminal | 52 | 47 | 22 | 43 | 24 | 27 | 25 | 35 | 33 | 26 |
| Family | 832 | 760 | 572 | 613 | 541 | 532 | 483 | 406 | 361 | 403 |
| Civil | 47 | 32 | 24 | 23 | 11 | 15 | 21 | 9 | 4 | 2 |
| Total | 2050 | 1921 | 1423 | 1383 | 1138 | 1301 | 1245 | 1282 | 1264 | 1300 |

Criminal Applications 2019/20

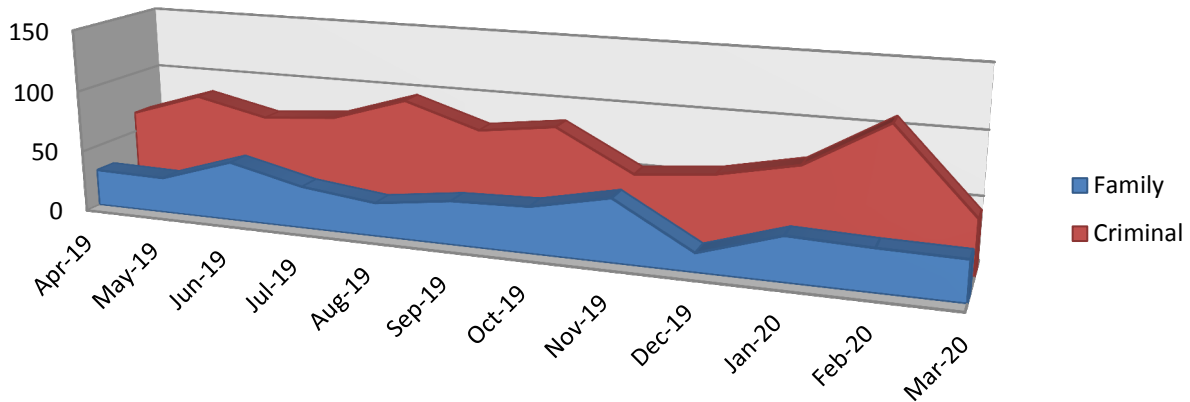


Family/Civil Applications 2019/20

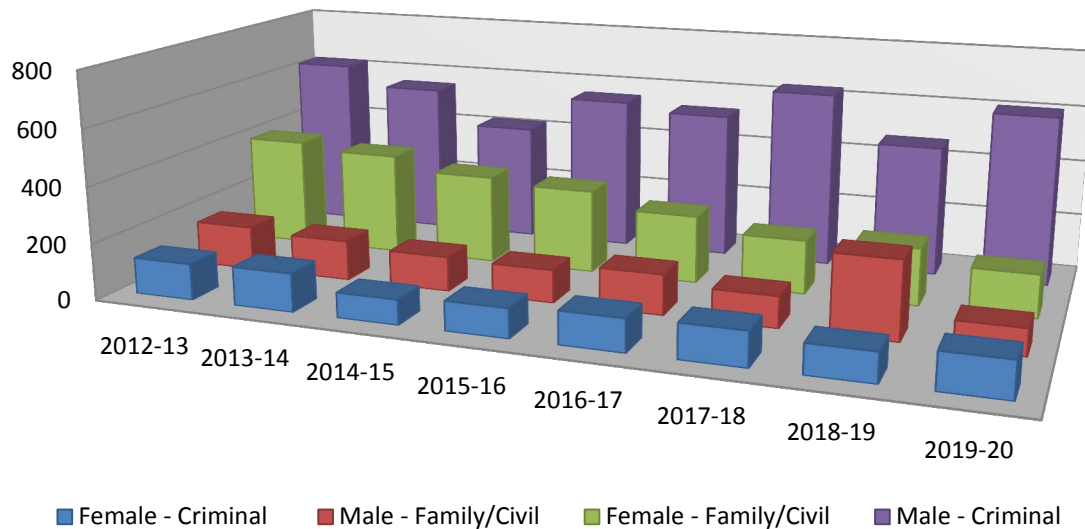


| By Regions | Criminal Applications | Family/Civil Applications |
|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Beaufort Delta | 187 | 73 |
| Deh Cho | 107 | 24 |
| Sahtu | 67 | 23 |
| South Slave | 151 | 79 |
| Tlicho | 106 | 58 |
| Yellowknife | 256 | 136 |
| Out of NWT | 21 | 12 |
| Total | 895 | 405 |

Applications Received Monthly Fiscal 2019/20

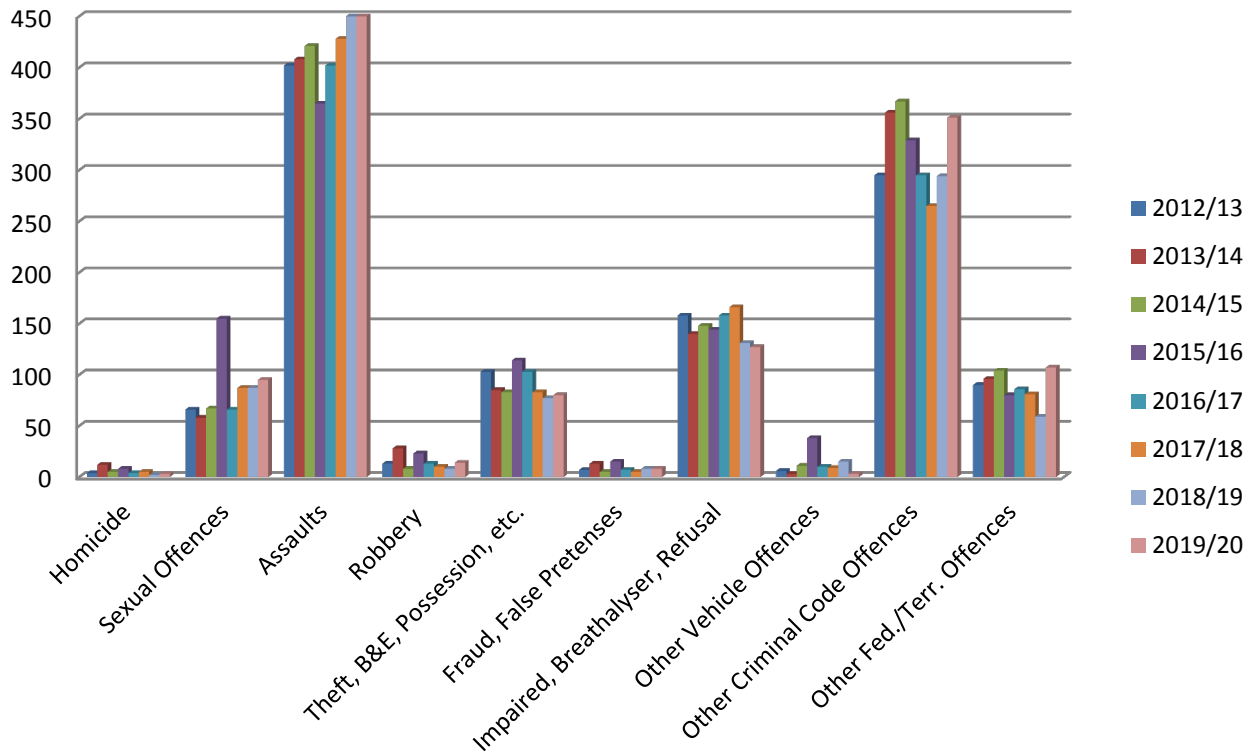


Legal Aid Approval by Case Type and Gender



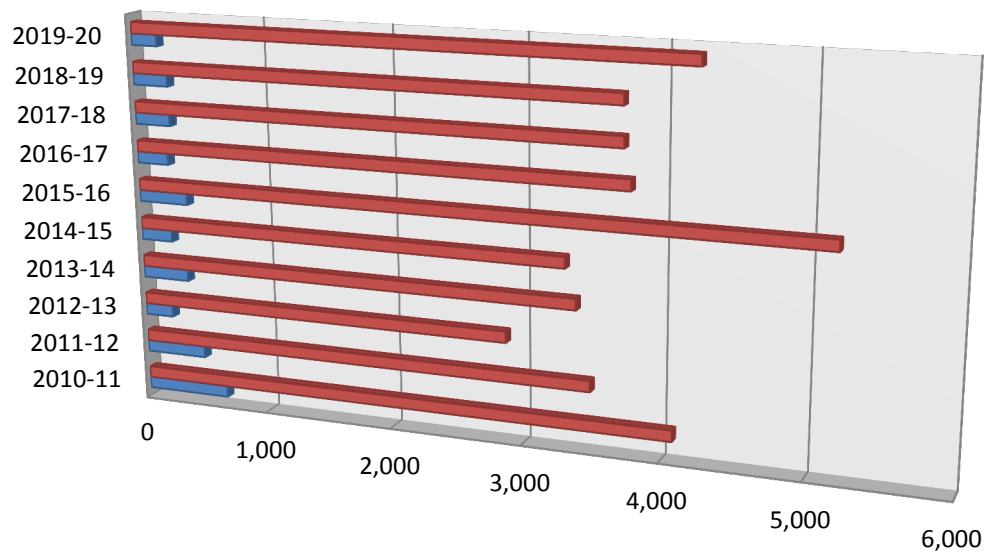
| | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Female - Criminal | 128 | 136 | 88 | 103 | 115 | 121 | 103 | 127 |
| Male - Family/Civil | 156 | 142 | 123 | 117 | 143 | 111 | 275 | 94 |
| Female - Family/Civil | 390 | 367 | 318 | 299 | 242 | 192 | 203 | 153 |
| Male - Criminal | 622 | 549 | 420 | 552 | 524 | 631 | 465 | 604 |
| Annual Total | 1296 | 1194 | 949 | 1071 | 1024 | 1055 | 1046 | 978 |

Number of Calls to Brydges Service by Offence Type



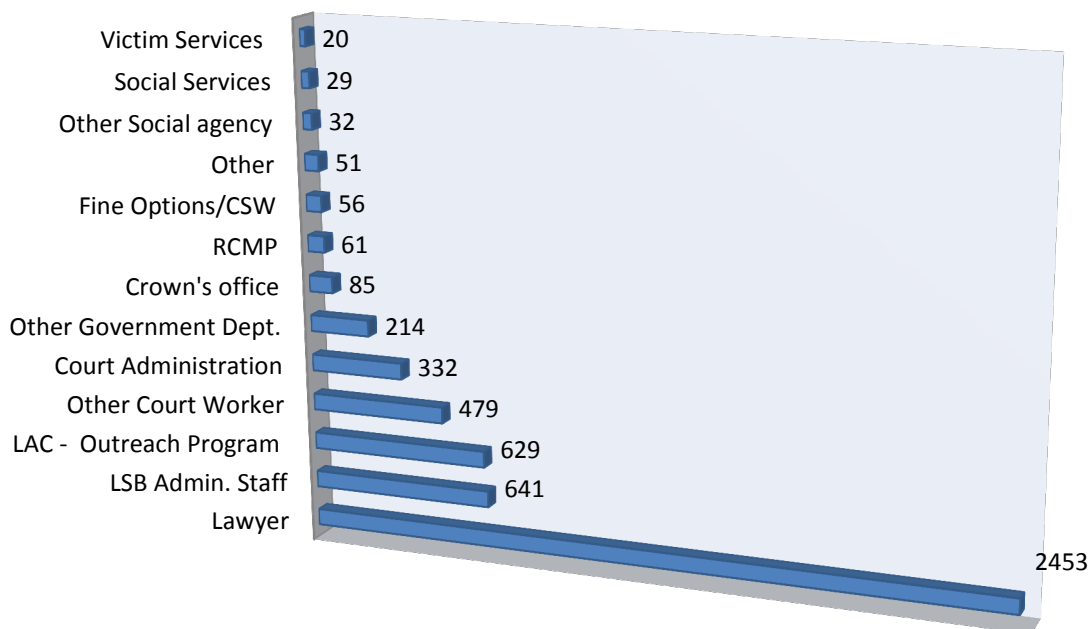
| | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Homicide | 4 | 12 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| Sexual Offences | 66 | 58 | 67 | 155 | 66 | 87 | 87 | 95 |
| Assaults | 402 | 408 | 421 | 365 | 402 | 428 | 450 | 450 |
| Robbery | 13 | 28 | 8 | 23 | 13 | 10 | 8 | 14 |
| Theft, B&E, Possession, etc. | 103 | 85 | 83 | 114 | 103 | 83 | 77 | 80 |
| Fraud, False Pretenses | 7 | 13 | 5 | 15 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 8 |
| Impaired, Breathalyser, Refusal | 158 | 140 | 148 | 144 | 158 | 166 | 131 | 127 |
| Other Vehicle Offences | 6 | 3 | 11 | 38 | 10 | 9 | 15 | 3 |
| Other Criminal Code Offences | 295 | 356 | 367 | 329 | 295 | 265 | 294 | 351 |
| Other Fed./Terr. Offences | 90 | 96 | 104 | 80 | 86 | 81 | 59 | 107 |
| Annual Total | 1144 | 1199 | 1219 | 1271 | 1144 | 1139 | 1131 | 1238 |

Presumed Eligibility Statistics 2019/20



| | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| ■ Adult | 4,081 | 3,491 | 2,871 | 3,388 | 3,308 | 5,189 | 3,775 | 3,725 | 3,721 | 4,249 |
| ■ Youth | 651 | 475 | 221 | 365 | 247 | 389 | 248 | 279 | 275 | 205 |

Court Worker Community Referrals for 2019/20



MAP OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES



Map of Northwest Territories [by Region]. Retrieved Aug 16, 2018 from <http://www.auroracollege.nt.ca/live/documents/content/FacultyStaffGuidebook.pdf>

OFFICE LOCATIONS AND CONTACT NUMBERS

LEGAL AID COMMISSION

4915 48th Street
3rd Floor, YK Centre East
P.O Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
Tel: (867) 767-9361 ext. 82281
E-Mail: lac@gov.nt.ca

LEGAL AID CLINICS

Community Legal Aid Clinic

8, 4915 – 48th Street
3rd Floor, YK Centre East
Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S4
Tel: (867) 767-9383 ext. 82319

Somba K'e Legal Aid Clinic

5, 4915 – 48th Street
2nd Floor, YK Centre East
Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S4
Tel: (867) 767-9377 ext. 82309

Yellowknife Legal Aid Clinic

4, 4915 – 48th Street
3rd Floor, YK Centre East
P.O Box 11028
Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S4
Tel: (867) 767-9372 ext. 82299

Outreach Legal Aid Clinic

1, 4915 – 48th Street
3rd Floor, YK Centre East
Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S4
Tel: (867) 767-9384 ext. 82325

COURT WORKERS

Beaufort Delta Region

151 Mackenzie Road, P.O. Box 1100
Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0
Tel: (867) 777-7338
Toll Free: 1-844-836-8050

Deh Cho Region

2nd Floor, Nahendeh Kue Building
Fort Simpson, NT X0E 0R0
Tel: (867) 695-2106

Fort Smith

195 McDougal Road, P.O. Box 170
Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0
Tel: (867) 872-6568

Sahtu Region

09 Woodland Ave
Norman Wells NT, X0E 0V0
Tel: (867) 587-2525

South Slave Region

106 – 31 Capital Drive
Hay River, NT X0E 1G2
Tel: (867) 874-2475

Tlicho Communities

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

Yellowknife Area

3rd Floor YK Centre East, P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife NT X1A 2L9
Tel: (867) 767-7387 or (867) 767-9359