

SASKATCHEWAN LEGAL ADVICE/INFORMATION FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE SEEKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR THIS SERVICE AND RELATED TRAINING

Background/Description of Program

With funding support from the Department of Justice Canada, the Ministry of Justice is working with the Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan (PLEA) to pilot a four year program to provide free legal information/advice to survivors of sexual violence. The pilot program intake will be operated by PLEA and clients seeking legal information/advice will be referred to trained lawyers to receive up to four hours of legal information/advice per incident. Initially clients will be offered two hours of legal information/advice with the option of accessing up to two additional hours if required.

The term “sexual violence” covers incidents from sexual harassment in the workplace to sexual assault.

The program is open to anyone, both males and females, who has experienced sexual violence provided that the incident took place in Saskatchewan. There is no age limitation for accessing services and eligibility does not depend on income level. The sexual violence incident also does not need to have been reported to the police.

It is expected that this program will assist survivors of violence by providing information/advice to help them understand and exercise their legal options, in areas such as civil, family, labour, human rights, immigration and criminal law.

Expression of Interest from Lawyers and Law Firms

While the service is free to clients requesting legal information/advice, the program will pay lawyers \$88 per hour for their legal information/advice services, plus disbursements. The program will not pay for representation of clients in any court or legal proceedings. It is expected that clients will be provided the option of meeting with a lawyer over the phone, by email, Skype or in person. Services can be provided by trained lawyers retained on a roster or under a retainer agreement with a legal firm.

The Ministry of Justice is working with the Law Society of Saskatchewan to develop a one day training session to be delivered in each of Saskatoon and Regina. The curriculum will include training on providing trauma informed services to clients. It will also cover numerous areas of law as they relate to sexual violence, namely, labour, human rights, civil, family, criminal, and immigration. The training will qualify for CPD hours. The Ministry of Justice has funding available for this Program which will allow the training to be offered for free or at a subsidized cost.

Please respond by January 9, 2018 to shelley.burwood2@gov.sk.ca to indicate your interest in participating on the roster of lawyers/legal firms providing this service:

(name of lawyer/firm)

I understand that I will need to take any required training to be eligible for the roster.

_____ is currently only interested in taking the training related to this service.
(name of lawyer)

If you have any questions regarding the above or require further information, please contact Betty Ann Pottruff at (306) 787-8954, Jocelyn Gagne at (306) 653-1868 ext 231, Sharon Peterson at (306) 653-1868 ext 228 or Shelley Burwood at (306) 787-5518.