NBLASC CSAJNB

New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission

Commission des services d'aide juridique du Nouveau-Brunswick

Annual Report

2025-2026

2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

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New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission
Commission des services d'aide juridique du Nouveau-Brunswick

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

The Honourable Rob McKee
Minister of Justice
Province of New Brunswick

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission, I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. This report is prepared pursuant to Section 21 of the *Legal Aid Act* in effect on March 31st, 2026, outlines the Commission's priorities and achievements during the year. It includes the Commission's financial statements duly audited by the Auditor General.

Respectfully,

Irwin Lampert
Chair

Chantal Landry, B. A, LL.B.
Executive Director

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from Chair & Executive Director	02
Commission Overview	05
Our Services	10
Corporate Strategy Direction	12
Key Achievements	16
Service Delivery Report	19
Impact Stories	27
Financials at a Glance	29
Financial Statements	31
Appendices	47

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR

It is certainly my great privilege to serve as Chair of the Board of Directors of the New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission and to oversee an organization that delivers such essential public services to the people of New Brunswick. On behalf of the Board, I again want to extend my great appreciation to management and staff. Their professionalism, dedication, devotion and heartfelt commitment to the access of justice continues to make a meaningful difference in New Brunswick communities.

Throughout this year, as in past years, the Board remained focused on strong governance, including ongoing education and training, to ensure directors are well equipped to fulfill their oversight responsibilities.

This commitment supports informed decision-making, sound stewardship of public resources, and adherence to the highest standards of accountability and transparency.

The Board also values and actively fosters positive, collaborative relationships with our funding partners and stakeholders. We recognize that these partnerships are fundamental to the sustainability and effectiveness of Legal Aid services. We are particularly pleased with the ongoing support we have received from Minister Robbie McKee and his team.

The Board takes great pride in overseeing an organization entrusted with protecting the rights and interests of some of the most vulnerable members of society. We remain steadfast in our role of ensuring that Legal Aid continues to operate with integrity, accountability, and a clear focus on its public mandate. As such, we look forward to supporting the organization as it continues to evolve and respond to the needs of those it serves.

Irwin Lampert
Chair

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL AID – PROFESSIONALS ADVOCATING WITH COMPASSION

This past year has been a defining one for our organization as we continued to strengthen access to justice for individuals and families across our province. In a justice system still grappling with delay, complexity, and rising demand, our team has remained steadfast in its commitment to delivering high-quality legal aid services that are timely, responsive, and grounded in dignity. The recent commitment from the Government of New Brunswick to increase rates for private bar lawyers who provide invaluable services to our clients will help strengthen access to justice for our most vulnerable New Brunswickers.

ADVANCING CRIMINAL LAW SERVICES

We made significant strides in enhancing our criminal law services, with a renewed focus on early intervention and efficient case resolution. By expanding duty counsel coverage, increasing collaboration with Crown and court services, and investing in innovative triage approaches, we have helped reduce unnecessary adjournments and supported more meaningful first appearances. These efforts not only improve outcomes for clients but also contribute to a more efficient and fair justice system overall.

Our work this year also emphasized culturally informed and trauma-aware service delivery. Through new training initiatives and partnerships with community organizations, we are better equipped to support clients who face systemic barriers, including Indigenous peoples, racialized communities, and individuals living with mental health or substance use challenges.

STRENGTHENING FAMILY LAW SERVICES

Family law remains one of the most critical areas of need, and we continued to expand our capacity to support families experiencing separation, and dealing with parenting arrangements, and protection matters. This year, we navigated our services through a new child protection model which has seen positive results in early resolutions for our clients. These initiatives help families resolve disputes more quickly and reduce the emotional strain that often accompanies family breakdown. We will continue to explore initiatives that can expand our services to clients in Family Law and help them resolve their conflicts at the earliest opportunity.

PUBLIC TRUSTEE SERVICES

Public Trustee is another area of service of great pride for our Commission. Public Trustee services provides a key safety net for our most vulnerable citizens and the work our team accomplishes day in and day out exemplifies what is most important in societal values; the protection of our frail citizens. Over the last year, we saw continued improvements in our service delivery from the adjustment to a new *Supported Decision Making and Representation Act*, assisting in the expedition of hospitalized clients into long term care facilities, continuing our focus on enhancing our estate administration processes through legislative amendment proposals and expanding education and outreach to our clients and community partners.

A SHARED COMMITMENT TO ACCESS AND EFFICIENCY

Across all areas of our work, we have focused on reducing delay and improving the client experience. Whether through digital tools that simplify communication, expanded outreach in communities, or new service models that prioritize early resolution, our efforts reflect a shared belief: access to justice must be timely, equitable, and meaningful.

None of this progress would be possible without the dedication of our staff, the collaboration of our justice partners, private bar lawyers committed to legal aid services and the trust placed in us by the communities we serve. As we look ahead, we remain committed to innovation, partnership, and the ongoing pursuit of a justice system that works for everyone.

Chantal Landry
Executive Director

COMMISSION OVERVIEW

History

Commission Mandate

Governance Structure

Our Team

Our Offices

HISTORY

1971

Legal Aid New Brunswick (LANB) was established as the province's Legal Aid Plan to provide certain criminal and civil legal services to low-income individuals. The Law Society of New Brunswick administered the Plan to ensure the impartial administration of justice. A judicare delivery model was used, where Area Directors hired private lawyers on a case-by-case basis under the *Legal Aid Act*.

2001

Civil legal aid expanded to incorporate the Domestic Legal Aid (DLA) program, transferred from the Department of Justice. DLA introduced a mixed model of staff lawyers and private counsel to deliver services.

2005

An Act to Amend the *Legal Aid Act* established the New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission (NBLASC). The Commission assumed responsibility for delivering criminal defence and family legal aid services to eligible individuals in the province.

2012

The Office of the Public Trustee transferred from the Department of Justice and Attorney General to NBLASC. The Public Trustee protects the financial and personal interests of vulnerable individuals when no one else is able or willing to act.

2017

NBLASC implemented new financial eligibility criteria for Criminal Law and Family Law certificate services. Eligibility began to be determined using an income grid based on household size.

COMMISSION MANDATE

> **To provide professional and accessible Criminal Law, Family Law, and Public Trustee Services**

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

A Board of five to seven Directors governs the policies and strategic priorities of the Commission and ensures fiscal accountability by reporting to the Legislature through the Department of Justice and Public Safety. It also assures the public that the actual operation of the legal aid system is arm's length from the government which is responsible for public prosecutions. Board operations are consistent with generally accepted practices and statutory obligations, subject to public policy as determined from time to time by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. Members of the Board are appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. The Board is supported by four standing committees: Finance Committee, Governance Committee, Human Resources Committee, and Appeals Committee. These committees provide oversight and recommendations within their respective areas of responsibility and report regularly to the Board.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS OF MARCH 31, 2026

Irwin Lampert
Chair
(Moncton)

David Ames
Vice-Chair
(St. Stephen)

Bernard Arseneau
Director
(Fredericton)

Marilyn Luscombe
Director
(Fredericton)

Tiffany Boyd
Director
(Eel River Bar)

Daniel Jardine
Director
(Miramichi)

Tanya Chapman
Director
(Saint John)

OUR TEAM

CORPORATE SERVICES TEAM

Corporate Services supports the operations of the Commission by providing financial, human resources, administrative services, and technology support services. The team is responsible for payroll, accounts payable, financial management, technology coordination and statistical reporting that supports planning and accountability.

INTAKE SERVICES TEAM

Intake Officers are often the first point of contact for individuals seeking legal aid. They assess applications, determine eligibility, and assign approved cases to staff lawyers or private bar lawyers. They also ensure that client information is properly recorded and managed.

LEGAL COUNSEL TEAM

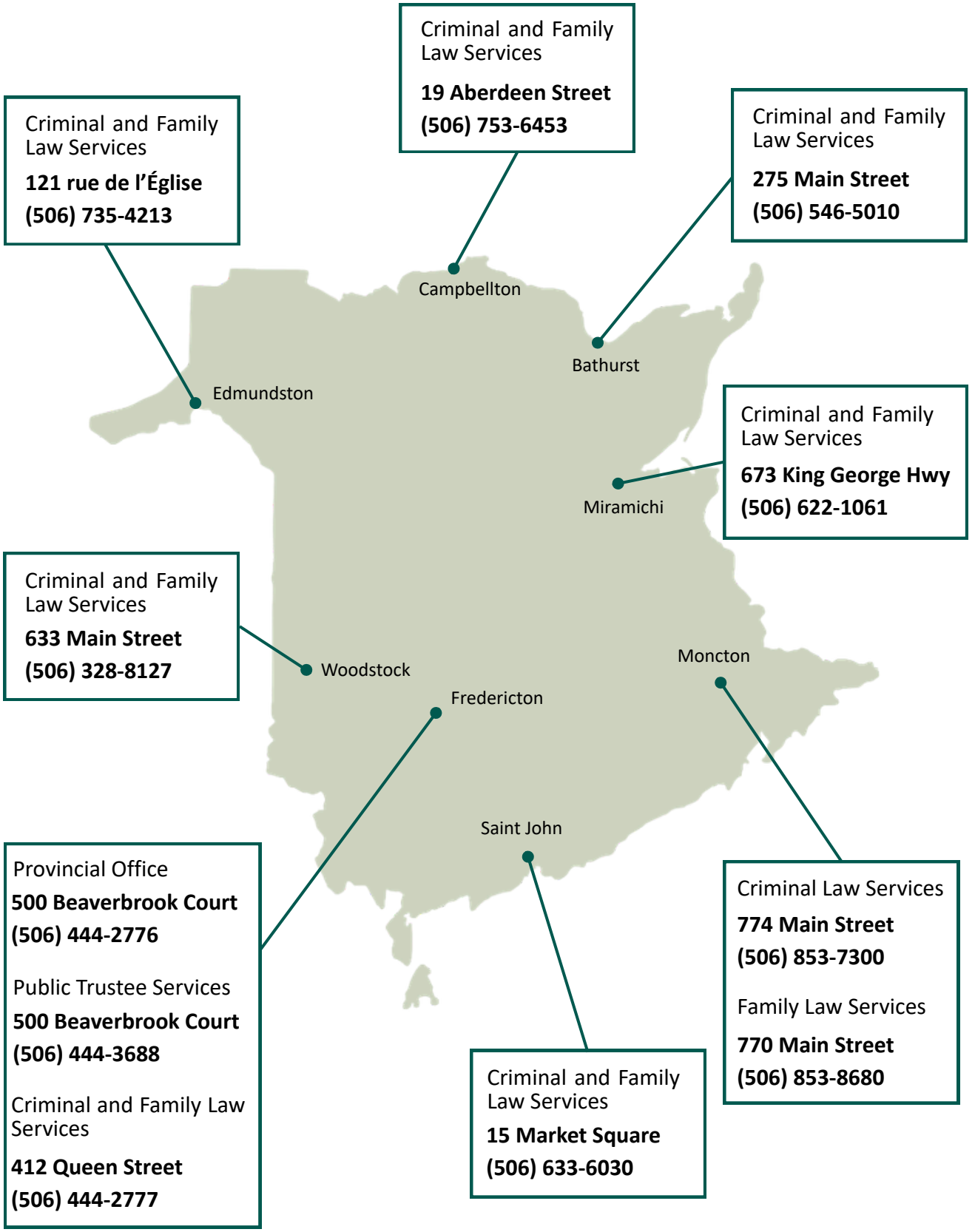
Legal services are primarily delivered by staff lawyers specializing in Criminal Defence Services, Family Law Services, and Public Trustee Services. When required, cases may also be assigned to lawyers from the private bar.

PUBLIC TRUSTEE TEAM

Public Trustee Services supports individuals who have been legally declared not capable to manage their personal care and/or financial matters and do not have someone able to assist with their personal or financial decision-making. Guardianship Services oversees the personal health care decisions, where required, of individuals when the Public Trustee is appointed by a court or has legal authority. Trust Services manages the financial affairs of our clients, the estates of deceased persons, and settlement funds for minors in accordance with the Public Trustee's legislative mandates.

Refer to organizational chart in Appendix 1

OUR OFFICES


Criminal and Family Law Services
19 Aberdeen Street
(506) 753-6453
Criminal and Family Law Services
121 rue de l'Église
(506) 735-4213
Criminal and Family Law Services
275 Main Street
(506) 546-5010
Campbellton
Bathurst
Edmundston
Criminal and Family Law Services
673 King George Hwy
(506) 622-1061
Miramichi
Criminal and Family Law Services
633 Main Street
(506) 328-8127
Woodstock
Moncton
Fredericton
Saint John
Provincial Office
500 Beaverbrook Court
(506) 444-2776
Public Trustee Services
500 Beaverbrook Court
(506) 444-3688
Criminal and Family Law Services
412 Queen Street
(506) 444-2777
Criminal Law Services
774 Main Street
(506) 853-7300
Family Law Services
770 Main Street
(506) 853-8680
Criminal and Family Law Services
15 Market Square
(506) 633-6030

OUR SERVICES

Service at a Glance

Financial Eligibility

CRIMINAL LAW SERVICES

NBLASC provides legal services to individuals involved in the criminal justice system, ensuring access to legal advice, representation, and fair processes.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE

- Criminal legal aid (full representation for serious charges) for adults and youth;
- Duty counsel services in criminal and youth courts;
- Detainee counsel (immediate legal advice after arrest); and
- Representation in specialized courts:
  - Mental Health Court;
  - Mental Health Review Board;
  - Domestic Violence Court; and
  - Elsipogtog Healing to Wellness Court.

PUBLIC TRUSTEE

Public Trustee Services supports vulnerable individuals by managing personal and financial affairs when no one else is able or authorized to act on their behalf. Services include guardianship, trustee services, estate administration, and the management of funds held in trust.

FAMILY LAW SERVICES

NBLASC provides legal services to individuals and families dealing with family law matters, with a focus on safety, stability, and the best interests of children.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE

- Child protection matters;
- Parenting arrangements (custody and access);
- Child and spousal support;
- Divorce (where marital property division is not in dispute);
- Emergency protection orders; and
- Duty counsel services:
  - Available to unrepresented individuals at a first appearance in court if the province is a party or where the other party is represented by legal aid and for unrepresented parties at first appearance under *Rule 81 in Moncton and Saint John;*
  - Provides legal advice, document review, procedural assistance, and some limited assistance during hearings;
  - Services under the *Intimate Partner Violence Intervention Act;* and
  - Services under the *Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests or Rights Act.*

FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY

Clients who apply for legal aid certificates are required to meet financial eligibility criteria for certain services. Eligibility is determined using an established annual gross income grid. Some services, such as duty counsel, detainee counsel, and legal representation in child protection matters, are available without financial eligibility requirements.

	TIER 1	TIER 2	TIER 3	TIER 4
House-hold Size	No Contribution	$150 Contribution	$250 Contribution	Not Financially Eligible
1	$0 – $14,400	$14,401 – $22,800	$22,801 – $31,200	$31,201 +
2	$0 – $21,600	$21,601 – $33,600	$33,601 – $45,600	$45,601 +
3	$0 – $22,800	$22,801 – $34,800	$34,801 – $46,800	$46,801 +
4	$0 – $24,000	$24,001 – $37,200	$37,201 – $50,400	$50,401 +
5	$0 – $25,200	$25,201 – $39,600	$39,601 – $54,000	$54,001 +
6+	$0 – $27,600	$27,601 – $42,000	$42,001 – $56,400	$56,401 +

Client contributions must be paid in full by certified cheque or money order before a certificate will be issued. Appeal processes are in place to address extenuating circumstances.

CORPORATE STRATEGY DIRECTION

Our Mission

Our Values

Strategic Priorities for the Reporting Year

OUR MISSION

We provide access to justice,
and we advocate with compassion for our clients' rights.

OUR VALUES

PROFESSIONALISM

We are a dedicated team that advocates with honesty and integrity. We ensure client confidentiality.

COMPASSION

We offer client focused, respectful, attentive, and inclusive service delivery. We care for our clients' well-being.

EXCELLENCE

We continuously look for innovative ways to improve our services. We strive for excellence in all we do.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We are accountable to our stakeholders and clients. We take responsibility for our actions.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR THE REPORTING YEAR

SCOPE OF SERVICES

During the reporting year, the Commission advanced a number of key strategic initiatives aligned with the 2024–2027 Strategic Plan, with a focus on strengthening and expanding service delivery across Criminal, Family, and Public Trustee Services:

- The Commission continued implementation of the Criminal Law Model through targeted staffing, training, and stakeholder engagement initiatives. During the year, enhanced duty counsel services contributed to earlier resolution of matters and a reduction in unnecessary adjournments, supporting more efficient use of court resources.
- The Commission advanced implementation of the Child Protection Model through recruitment, training, and operational planning. The model has strengthened early intervention efforts and contributed to increased family duty counsel activity, positioning the Commission for full implementation in 2026.
- The Commission advanced proposed legislative amendments to *The Public Trustee Act* and *Probate Court Act.* Policy development and consultations were completed, and proposals advanced through government approval processes. These amendments are intended to improve administrative efficiency, clarify legislative authority, and support more effective service delivery for vulnerable New Brunswickers.
- The Commission completed a review of legal service delivery for individuals involuntarily held in psychiatric facilities to help inform future service planning.
- Work continued to support the expansion of family law services through analysis and business case development, including Board approval for the expansion of guardianship services. Further work remains underway regarding the expansion of services to deal with marital property matters through proposed alternative dispute resolution models.

These initiatives support improved access to justice, stronger system efficiencies, and enhanced services for clients with complex and vulnerable needs.

QUALITY OF SERVICES

During the reporting year, the Commission undertook a number of initiatives aimed at improving service quality, accessibility, and client experience across its programs and services:

- Work progressed on the development of a public awareness strategy and the modernization of the Commission's website, including stakeholder consultations, focus groups, vendor engagement, and approval of a detailed project plan, budget, and resource requirements aimed at improving public access to information and services.
- The Commission implemented client satisfaction surveys across service areas and completed its first year of result analysis. Feedback collected is being used to identify service improvements, strengthen accountability, and support evidence-based decision-making.
- The Commission initiated engagement with Indigenous communities, First Nations organizations, and newcomer-serving agencies to better understand barriers to accessing legal services. This work established a foundation for future service enhancements, including improved accessibility and language support.
- The Commission strengthened relationships with private bar lawyers through the approval and implementation of a tariff increase effective October 1, 2025, supported by communication and outreach initiatives aimed at sustaining panel participation and supporting continued access to private counsel resources.

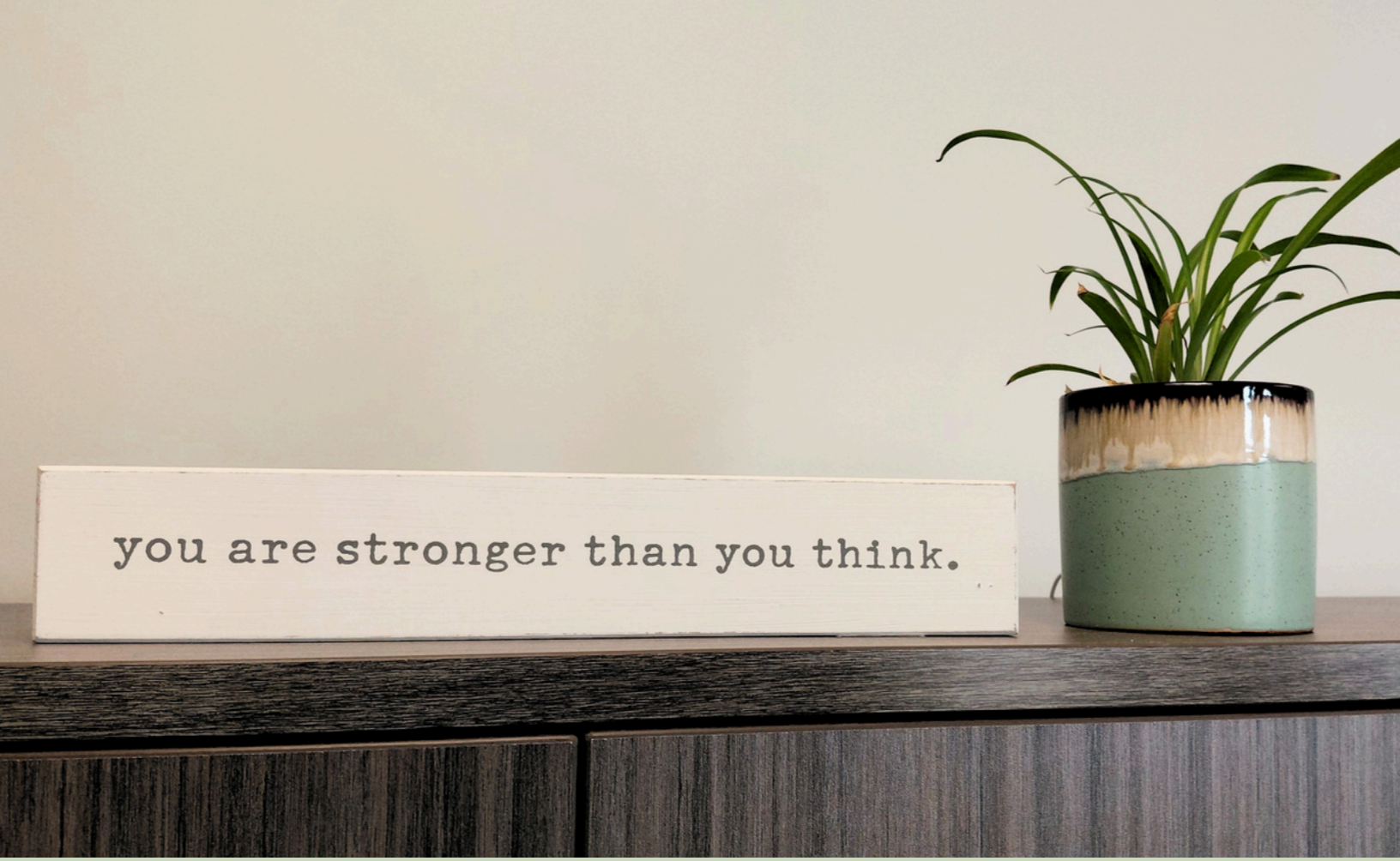
These initiatives support improved client experience, increased accessibility, stronger stakeholder engagement, and enhanced service delivery across the province.

EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION

During the reporting year, the Commission advanced a number of initiatives to strengthen organizational effectiveness, sustainability, and operational capacity:

- A Learning and Development Strategy was developed and implemented following a comprehensive assessment of training needs. The strategy was approved by the Executive Director and supported the delivery of leadership and staff development initiatives aimed at strengthening organizational capacity.
- The Commission completed and approved Business Continuity Plans across all organizational units and implemented its first Enterprise Risk Management Framework. These initiatives strengthen organizational resilience, support risk-informed decision-making, and enhance Board oversight of strategic and operational risks.
- The Commission initiated an assessment of its Case Management System to support long-term technology planning and future modernization efforts.

These initiatives support stronger governance, improved organizational resilience, enhanced operational capacity, and a more sustainable organization positioned to respond to evolving service delivery demands.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Earlier Intervention in Criminal Matters

Removing Barriers in Child Protection Matters

Strengthening Access to Private Bar Representation

Using Client Feedback to Drive Service Improvement

Strengthening Resilience and Governance

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

SCOPE OF SERVICES

EARLIER INTERVENTION IN CRIMINAL MATTERS:

Legal Aid continued to expand early intervention in criminal matters through its Criminal Law Model. Staff lawyers provide assistance at first appearance and, beginning in November 2025, began taking Legal Aid applications directly in court, allowing clients to access legal assistance earlier and reducing additional court appearances while applications are processed.

The Enhanced Duty Counsel program was implemented across the province and continued to support earlier resolution of criminal matters. As of March 2026, the program reported an 86% resolution rate. By addressing matters earlier in the court process, the model helps reduce unnecessary adjournments and repeated court appearances, and supports more timely resolution of criminal matters.

REMOVING BARRIERS IN CHILD PROTECTION MATTERS:

Legal Aid implemented a new Child Protection Model across the province, with the final regional rollout completed in January 2026. Under the model, parents involved in child protection matters can access legal assistance earlier in the process, including through duty counsel services, supporting more consistent representation throughout the province.

The model has demonstrated strong early results. As of March 2026, approximately 95% of child protection matters under the new model had been resolved without requiring a trial or summary judgment hearing, with 55% resolved at the adjudicator stage and a further 31% at judicial conference. Only 4% required trial or summary judgment. These results demonstrate the model's contribution to earlier resolution of child protection matters and more effective use of court resources.

QUALITY OF SERVICES

STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO PRIVATE BAR REPRESENTATION:

In October 2025, Legal Aid implemented the first significant private bar tariff adjustment in several years, increasing hourly rates from approximately $58–$70 to $120–$135. The change addressed a longstanding challenge in attracting and retaining private practitioners willing to accept Legal Aid matters.

Early indications suggest improved participation by private bar lawyers and reduced time required to assign matters. Strengthening private bar capacity is particularly important to Legal Aid's mixed service-delivery model and helps ensure eligible clients can be connected with legal representation when staff counsel capacity or conflicts require private counsel.

USING CLIENT FEEDBACK TO DRIVE SERVICE IMPROVEMENT:

Legal Aid launched a client satisfaction survey in January 2026 to establish an ongoing mechanism for collecting feedback from individuals receiving legal services. The survey provides information on accessibility, communication, professionalism, and overall client experience.

The results will support continuous service improvement and help identify areas where processes and client interactions can be strengthened. Establishing an ongoing feedback mechanism supports a more client-centred approach to service delivery.

EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION

STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE AND GOVERNANCE:

Legal Aid continued to strengthen organizational resilience and governance through implementation of its Enterprise Risk Management framework. During the year, the organization completed a Risk Appetite Statement, Corporate Risk Register, and Risk Heat Map to support structured identification, assessment, and monitoring of organizational risks.

Business Continuity Plans were completed for all regional offices and incorporated into the broader risk management framework. Cybersecurity awareness was also strengthened through mandatory employee training and simulated phishing exercises. Together, these initiatives improve organizational preparedness, strengthen accountability, and support continuity of services.

SERVICE DELIVERY REPORT

Criminal Law Services

Family Law Services

Public Trustee Services

Access to Justice

SERVICE DELIVERY OVERVIEW

During the reporting year, Legal Aid continued to deliver essential services across criminal, family, and public trustee mandates while responding to sustained demand and advancing service improvements.

In total, Legal Aid provided 30,796 assists to criminal law and family law. We received 5,378 applications, approved 4,158 applications, and provided full legal representation to 8,016 criminal and family cases. Compared with the prior year, total assists decreased from 33,569 to 30,796. This drop is attributed largely to the success of the enhanced duty counsel program, and the implementation of a new child protection model which resulted in many early resolutions. Further, staff lawyers have been taking legal aid applications in court rather than adjourning for clients to contact the office to apply for legal aid, resulting in a significant drop in unnecessary adjournments and faster delivery of the service to clients .

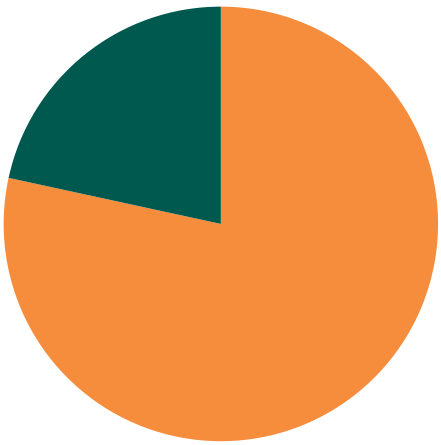
30,796
Total assists provided

5,378
Applications received

4,158
Applications approved

8,016
Total cases managed (criminal and family)

TOTAL ASSISTS BY DELIVERY AGENT

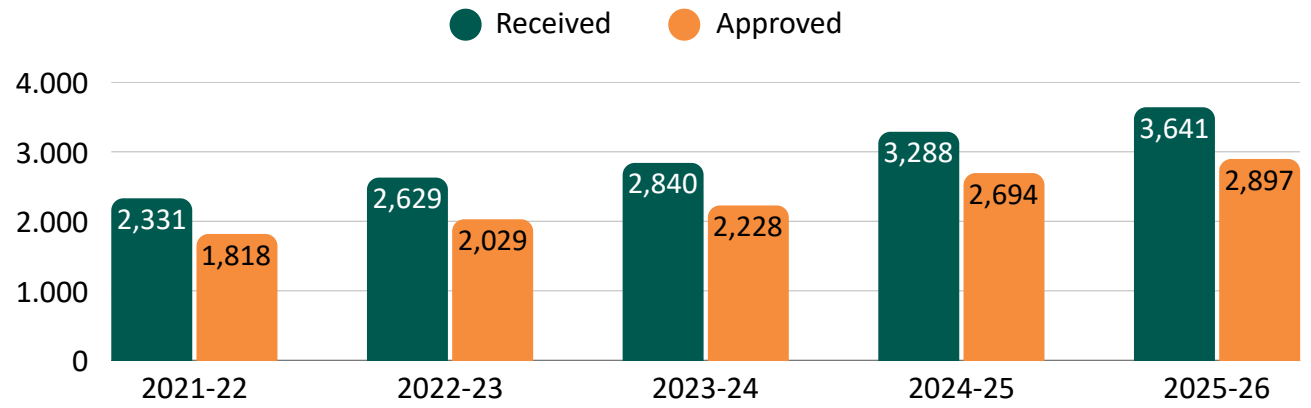


DEMAND FOR LEGAL AID SERVICES

Demand for Legal Aid services continued to reflect ongoing pressures within the justice system and evolving client needs across criminal and family law services.

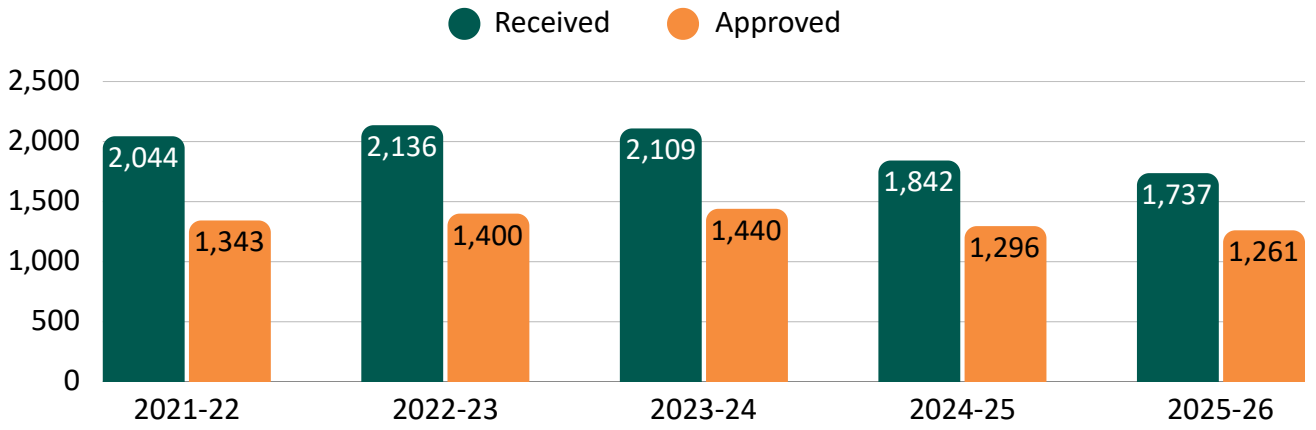
CRIMINAL LEGAL AID APPLICATIONS AND APPROVALS

Criminal Legal Aid applications increased from 3,288 in 2024–2025 to 3,641 in 2025–2026, continuing a broader upward trend observed over recent years. While approval volumes declined modestly, increased application activity was influenced in part by procedural changes that resulted in more applications being submitted, including matters that may fall outside Legal Aid eligibility or scope of service. The reasons for new applications are detailed in Appendix 2.



FAMILY LEGAL AID APPLICATIONS AND APPROVALS

Family Legal Aid applications decreased from 1,842 in 2024–2025 to 1,737 in 2025–2026, while approval levels remained relatively stable. The decline is attributed to the phased implementation of the new Child Protection Model, which has supported earlier resolution of matters and reduced the number of cases progressing to the formal application stage. Although fewer applications were processed, staff and private bar lawyers continued to manage significant volume of duty counsel and certificate responsibilities.



CRIMINAL LAW SERVICES

Criminal law services remained the largest area of Legal Aid activity during the reporting year, with continued demand for early legal assistance, duty counsel services, and full representation.

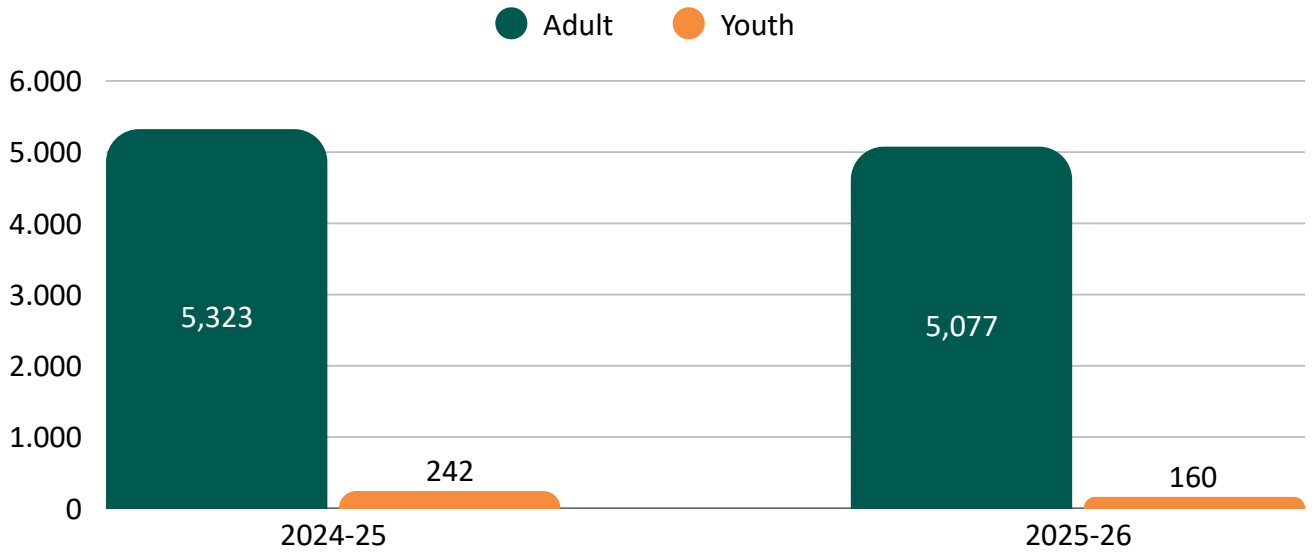
5,237
Detainee calls

15,902
Duty counsel assists

5,078
Criminal cases managed

DETAINEE CALLS

Legal Aid responded to 5,237 detainee calls during the year, decreasing from 5,565 in the previous year, providing immediate legal assistance to individuals in custody through adult and youth detainee counsel services.



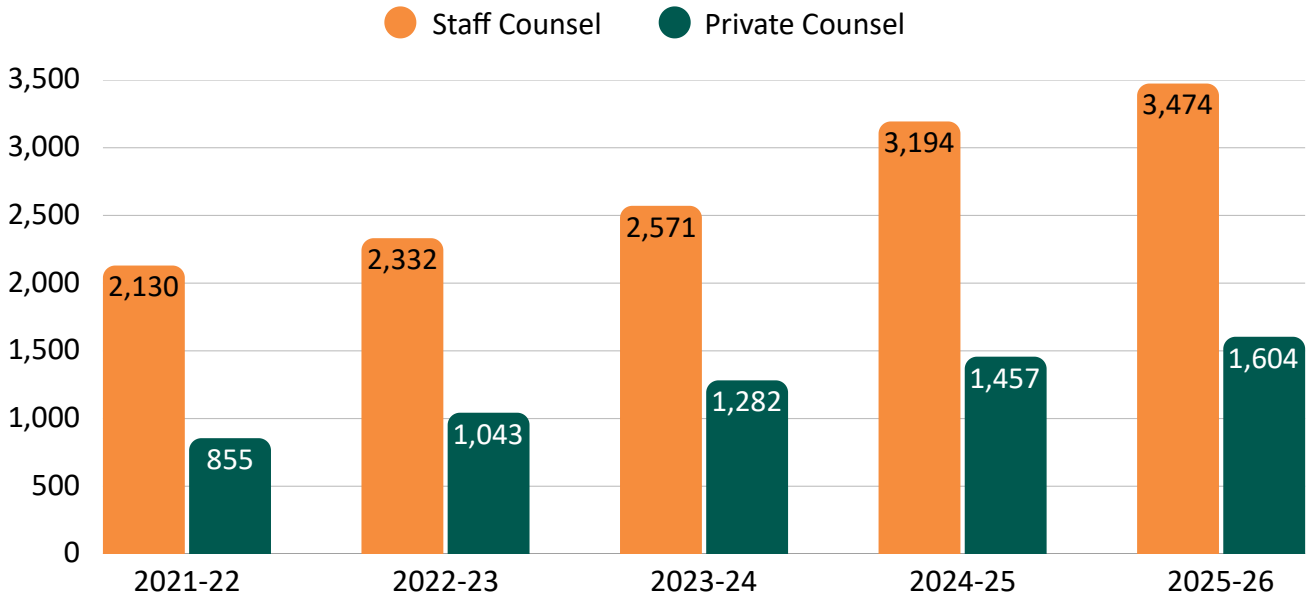
DUTY COUNSEL APPEARANCE (YOUTH/ADULT CRIMINAL DEFENSE)

Duty counsel services provided 15,902 assists in 2025–2026, decreasing from 19,001 in the previous year, reflecting the success of our enhanced duty counsel program resolution rate and our staff lawyers being able to take legal aid applications directly in court, both resulting in more meaningful court appearances and fewer unnecessary adjournments and fewer repeated appearance by the clients.

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Plea	13,522	13,793	15,491	17,074	14,619
Full service	2,137	2,043	2,071	1,927	1,283
Total	**15,659**	**15,836**	**17,562**	**19,001**	**15,902**
Full service rate	13.6%	12.9%	11.8%	10.1%	8.1%

CRIMINAL DEFENCE LEGAL AID CASELOAD

Legal Aid managed 5,078 criminal legal aid cases during the reporting year, compared to 4,651 cases in 2024–2025. Approximately 31.6% of criminal legal aid cases were assigned to private counsel through the blended service delivery model. Analysis of criminal charges are detailed in Appendix 3.



FAMILY LAW SERVICES

Family law services continued to support individuals and families navigating complex legal matters, including child protection, parenting orders, child support, and spousal support.

1,483

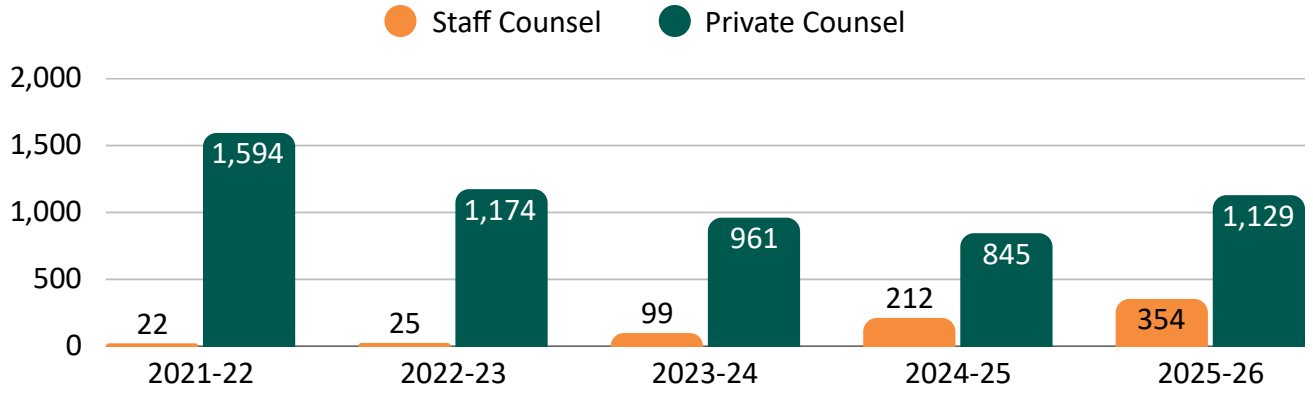
Duty counsel assists

2,938

Family cases managed

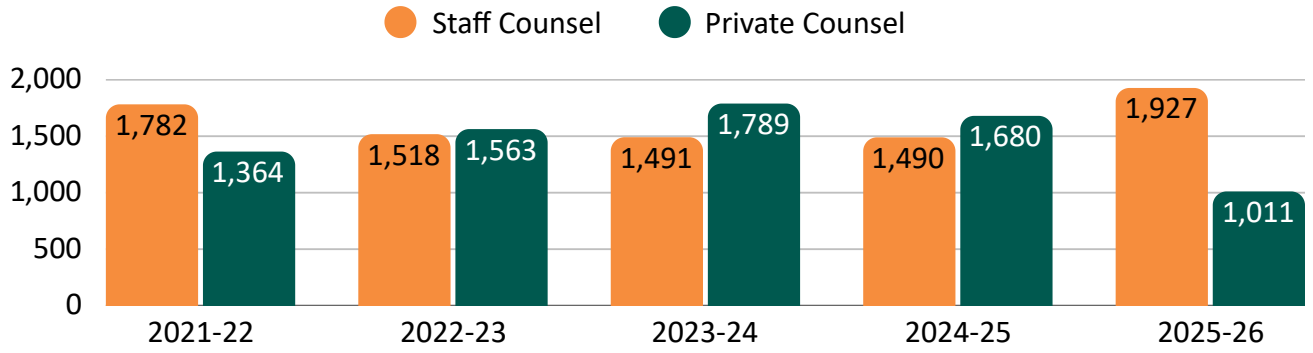
FAMILY DUTY COUNSEL

Family duty counsel services continued to support individuals appearing in family court proceedings across the province. In 2025–2026, staff counsel assists increased from 212 to 354, private bar assists increased from 845 to 1,129, reflecting the implementation of the Child Protection Model which requires more duty counsel appearances.



FAMILY LEGAL AID CASELOAD

Legal Aid managed 2,938 family legal aid cases during the reporting year, compared to 3,170 cases in 2024–2025. Family law services continued to be delivered through both staff counsel and private bar lawyers to support service delivery across the province.



PUBLIC TRUSTEE

Public Trustee Services continued to support vulnerable individuals across New Brunswick through representation services, power attorney services, and estate administration. During the year, Public Trustee Services experienced continued growth in caseloads and demand for services, particularly following the implementation of the *Supported Decision-Making and Representation Act.*

In 2025–2026, Public Trustee Services managed approximately 1,100 active and closed pending files and administered $27 million in net assets held in trust on behalf of clients.

Additional information regarding Public Trustee Services, including operational highlights, client services, audited financial statements, and service statistics, is available in the Public Trustee Services Annual Report 2024–2025 on our website (www.legalaid-aidejuridique-nb.ca).

1,100

Active and close pending files

$27M

Net assets administered in trust on behalf of clients

SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

Legal Aid operates through a blended model combining staff counsel and private bar lawyers to ensure province-wide service coverage. Private bar lawyers are required where there are conflicts of interest with staff or there is a resource shortage.

CRIMINAL

68.4%
of services
delivered by staff

31.6%
of services
delivered by private bar

FAMILY

65.6%
of services
delivered by staff

34.4%
of services
delivered by private bar

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Legal Aid continued to provide services to individuals meeting eligibility requirements established under legislation and policy. During the reporting year, demand for criminal and family legal aid services remained significant, with the majority of applications meeting eligibility criteria for service approval.

79.6%

Overall eligibility rate of criminal legal aid applications in 2025-2026

CRIMINAL LEGAL AID APPLICATIONS: ELIGIBILITY IN 2025-2026

Criminal Legal Aid received 3,640 applications during the reporting year, with approximately 80% meeting eligibility requirements for service approval. Demand remained highest among adult criminal matters, reflecting continued pressures within the criminal justice system. Among refused applications, coverage restrictions were the primary reason, followed by financial eligibility.

	Adult		Young Offender		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Received	2,709	716	163	52	3,640
	(2,384)	(679)	(178)	(47)	(3,288)
Approved	2,140	548	159	50	2,897
	(1,936)	(535)	(176)	(47)	(2,694)
Cancelled	7	0	0	0	7
	(3)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(3)
Issued	2,147	548	159	50	2,904
	(1,939)	(535)	(176)	(47)	(2,697)
Eligibility Rate	79.0%	76.5%	97.5%	96.2%	79.6%
	(81.2%)	(78.8%)	(98.9%)	(100.0%)	(81.9%)

Brackets are pertaining to prior year actuals.

FAMILY LEGAL AID APPLICATIONS: ELIGIBILITY IN 2025-2026

Family Legal Aid received 1,737 applications during the reporting year, with approximately 73% meeting eligibility requirements for service approval. Child protection matters continued to demonstrate the highest eligibility rates due to the nature and urgency of those proceedings. Among refused applications, financial eligibility was the leading reason, followed by coverage restrictions.

72.6%

Overall eligibility rate of family legal aid applications in 2025-2026

	Family		Child Protection		Total
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
Received	888	432	233	184	1,737
	(1,031)	(449)	(209)	(153)	(1,842)
Approved	610	245	229	177	1,261
	(697)	(267)	(194)	(138)	(1,296)
Cancelled	2	1	0	0	3
	(2)	(1)	(0)	(0)	(3)
Issued	608	244	229	177	1,258
	(695)	(266)	(194)	(138)	(1,293)
Eligibility Rate	68.7%	56.7%	98.3%	96.2%	72.6%
	(67.6%)	(59.5%)	(92.8%)	(90.2%)	(70.4%)

Brackets are pertaining to prior year actuals.

WORKFORCE AND ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

To meet the evolving demand for access to justice across New Brunswick, the Commission remained committed to strengthening its workforce and supporting organizational resilience throughout the year. As of March 31, 2026, NBLASC's provincial team consisted of 117 employees. Despite a year-end vacancy rate of approximately 9.8%, the Commission continued to advance recruitment, onboarding, and professional development initiatives to support service delivery across the province.

IMPACT STORIES

Voices and Stories of Access to Justice

IMPACT STORIES

1

Legal Aid supported a mother seeking changes to a parenting arrangement after concerns regarding family violence and the wellbeing of her children. Legal Aid counsel successfully advocated for sole decision-making authority, relocation with the children, and a restraining order. The court found that continued contact with the father could pose a risk of emotional and psychological harm and determined that future contact should be guided by the children's wishes. This outcome helped ensure a safer and more stable environment for the family while protecting the best interests of the children.

2

Legal Aid supported the implementation of a new Addictions and Mental Health Court in Moncton in collaboration with justice system partners. Legal Aid lawyers advocated for early client participation and continue to provide representation as participants engage with multidisciplinary supports addressing mental health and addiction issues. The program is designed to improve case outcomes while reducing re-offending and system pressures. This approach supports more effective and sustainable outcomes for individuals while reducing demands on the justice system.

3

A client faced charges in multiple regions across the province, resulting in complexity and delays in court proceedings. Legal Aid worked collaboratively with the Crown to bring all matters together in a single jurisdiction. The client was represented by one lawyer, and the matters were resolved through a coordinated process. This coordination reduced duplication and supported a more timely and efficient resolution of the case.

4

A client faced a criminal conviction without fully understanding the proceedings due to language barriers. Legal Aid provided representation to ensure the client’s right to interpretation was respected. The court determined that the waiver of language rights was not informed and ordered a new trial. This outcome reinforces the importance of ensuring individuals can fully understand and participate in legal proceedings.

5

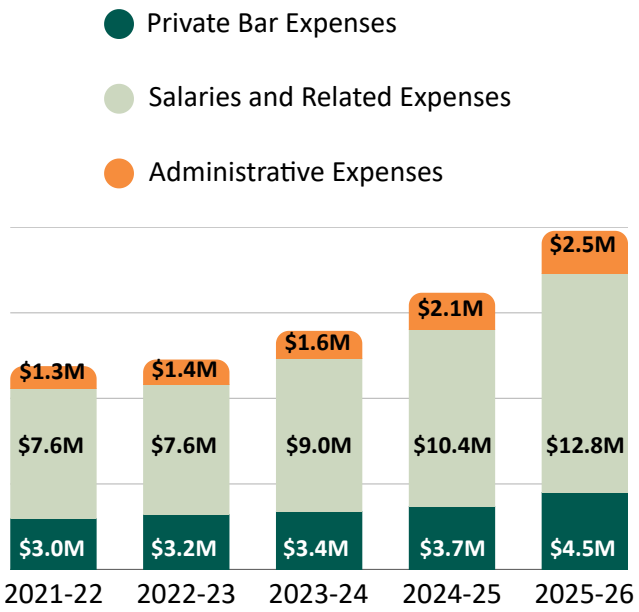
Legal Aid supported the implementation of a centralized virtual bail system aimed at improving access and efficiency across multiple regions. The system allows participants, including clients and sureties, to appear remotely, reducing delays and improving coordination of bail proceedings. Legal Aid lawyers participated in testing and continue to provide representation within this model. This model improves timely access to bail hearings while reducing logistical barriers for participants across the province.

FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

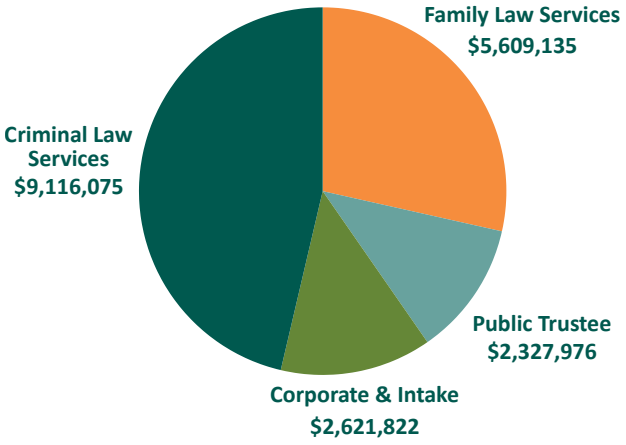
REVENUE

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Province of New Brunswick	$10,515,972	$12,191,449	$12,998,339	$15,347,989	$ 18,375,083
New Brunswick Law Foundation	$200,000	$200,000	$200,000	$250,000	$ 250,000
Provincial Projects	$448,733	$523,384	$630,072	$589,776	$ 714,904
Public Trustee Fees	$391,435	$245,013	$358,589	$332,465	$ 305,960
Other	$305,296	$284,586	$455,170	$393,186	$ 443,865
Total Revenue	$11,861,436	$13,444,432	$14,642,170	$16,913,416	$ 20,089,812

EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



EXPENSES BY SERVICE IN 2025-2026



NBLASC CSAJNB
New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission
Commission des services d'aide juridique du Nouveau-Brunswick

ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

This report was prepared under the direction of the NBLASC Board of Directors in accordance with the *Legal Aid Act, the Financial Administration Act*, and generally accepted reporting principles. The information in this report represents a complete and authentic account of the Commission's actual performance in the year ending March 31, 2026. All significant decisions, events, and risks have been considered. To the best of our knowledge and belief, all actions taken by the New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission were within its power and all its statutory and regulatory obligations have been satisfied. We acknowledge management's responsibility for the fair presentation of performance information and financial statements. The Board of Directors of the New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission is accountable for the contents of this document, including how the results have been measured and reported.

Irwin Lampert
Chair

Chantal Landry, B. A, LL.B.
Executive Director

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
NEW BRUNSWICK
LEGAL AID SERVICES COMMISSION

31 MARCH 2026

NBLASC CSAJNB
New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission
Commission des services d'aide juridique du Nouveau-Brunswick

Management's Report

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and the integrity and objectivity of these statements are management's responsibility. Management is also responsible for all of the notes to the financial statements, and for ensuring that this information is consistent, where appropriate, with the information contained in the financial statements. A summary of the significant accounting policies are described in Note 2 to the financial statements. The preparation of financial statements necessarily involves the use of estimates based on management's judgment, particularly when transactions affecting the current accounting period cannot be finalized with certainty until future periods.

Management is also responsible for implementing and maintaining a system of internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that reliable financial information is produced. The internal controls are designed to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are properly authorized and recorded in compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements, and reliable financial information is available on a timely basis for preparation of the financial statements.

The Board of Directors are responsible for ensuring that management fulfills its responsibilities for financial reporting and internal control, and exercises these responsibilities through the Board. The Board reviews internal financial statements on a quarterly basis and external audited financial statements yearly. The Board also discusses any significant financial reporting or internal control matters prior to their approval of the financial statements.

The external auditors, the Auditor General of New Brunswick, conduct an independent examination, in accordance with Canadian auditing standards, and express their opinion on the financial statements. The external auditors have full and free access to financial management of the Commission and meet when required. The accompanying Auditor's Report outlines their responsibilities, the scope of their examination and their opinion on the financial statements.

On behalf of New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission:

Sep 25.26

Hassan Mansour, CPA, CGA, MBA
Chief Financial Officer

Date

Sep 25.26

Chantal Landry, B. A, LL.B.
Executive Director

Date

AUDITOR GENERAL OF NEW BRUNSWICK | VÉRIFICATEUR GÉNÉRAL DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Chairperson and Board of Directors of the New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission (the Commission), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2026, and the statements of operations, change in accumulated surplus, change in net financial assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Commission as at March 31, 2026, and the results of its operations, changes in its accumulated surplus, changes in its net financial assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Commission in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Canada, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Commission or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Commission's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Commission to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Paul Martin, FCPA, FCA
Auditor General

Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada
September 25, 2026

NEW BRUNSWICK LEGAL AID SERVICES COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 MARCH

	2026	2025
Financial Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	$ 4,944,182	$ 4,260,369
Accounts Receivable	1,999,307	831,246
Total Financial Assets	**6,943,489**	**5,091,615**
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	3,050,787	1,532,488
Employee Future Benefits (Note 6)	523,753	396,408
Total Liabilities	**3,574,540**	**1,928,896**
Net Financial Assets	**3,368,949**	**3,162,719**
Non-Financial Assets		
Tangible Capital Assets (Note 5)	1,026,082	951,516
Prepaid Expenses	155,479	135,728
Total Non-Financial Assets	**1,181,561**	**1,087,244**
Accumulated Surplus	**$ 4,550,510**	**$ 4,249,963**

Contractual Obligations (Note 11)
Contingent Liabilities (Note 12)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Approved

Irwin Lampert — Chair of the Board of Directors

Chantal Landry, B.A., LL.B. — Executive Director

NEW BRUNSWICK LEGAL AID SERVICES COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH

	Budget (Note 3)	2026	2025
Revenue			
Province of New Brunswick (Note 10)	$ 17,435,000	$ 18,375,083	$ 15,347,989
New Brunswick Law Foundation (Note 7)	250,000	250,000	250,000
Provincial Projects (Note 10)	555,000	714,904	589,776
Public Trustee Fees (Note 10)	350,000	305,960	332,465
Other (Note 8)	250,000	443,865	393,186
Total Revenue	18,840,000	20,089,812	16,913,416
Private Bar Expenses (Note 9)			
Criminal Certificates, Duty Counsel	1,655,000	2,315,382	1,488,029
Family Certificates, Duty Counsel, IPVI	1,474,000	1,418,984	1,190,484
Contract Lawyers	-	159,147	395,423
Detainee Calls	162,000	162,294	148,345
Criminal Major Cases	200,000	195,913	221,416
Family Advice Lawyer	220,000	229,572	213,433
Total Private Bar Expenses	3,711,000	4,481,292	3,657,130
Salaries and Related Expenses	12,780,074	12,801,619	10,390,871
Administrative Expenses (Note 9)	2,348,926	2,506,354	2,123,460
Total Expenses	18,840,000	19,789,265	16,171,461
Operating Surplus	**$ -**	**$ 300,547**	**$ 741,955**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

NEW BRUNSWICK LEGAL AID SERVICES COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH

	2026	2025
Cash and Cash Equivalents Provided By (Used For):		
Operating Activities		
Operating Surplus	$ 300,547	$ 741,955
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	157,571	100,816
	458,118	842,771
Net Change in Non-cash Working Capital		
(Increase) in Accounts Receivables	(1,168,061)	(129,874)
(Increase) in Prepaid Expenses	(19,751)	(1,670)
Increase (Decrease) in Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	1,518,299	(82,060)
Increase in Employee Future Benefits	127,345	55,014
	457,832	(158,590)
	915,950	**684,181**
Capital Activities		
Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets	(232,137)	(710,595)
Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	683,813	(26,414)
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of Year	4,260,369	4,286,783
Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of Year	**$ 4,944,182**	**$ 4,260,369**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

NEW BRUNSWICK LEGAL AID SERVICES COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET FINANCIAL ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH

	Budget (Note 3)	2026	2025
Net Financial Assets, beginning of year	**$ 3,162,719**	**$ 3,162,719**	**$ 3,032,213**
Operating Surplus	-	300,547	741,955
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	145,000	157,571	100,816
Net Change in Prepaid Expenses	-	(19,751)	(1,670)
Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets	-	(232,137)	(710,595)
Net Financial Assets, end of year	**$ 3,307,719**	**$ 3,368,949**	**$ 3,162,719**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

NEW BRUNSWICK LEGAL AID SERVICES COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN ACCUMULATED SURPLUS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH

	2026	2025
Accumulated Surplus, beginning of year	**$ 4,249,963**	**$ 3,508,008**
Operating Surplus	300,547	741,955
Accumulated Surplus, end of year	**$ 4,550,510**	**$ 4,249,963**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

1. Purpose of the Commission

The New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission ("the Commission") was established under an amendment to the *Legal Aid Act* on December 12, 2005. Prior to this date it operated under the name "Legal Aid New Brunswick". The Commission provides criminal and family legal services for eligible residents of the Province. These services are funded primarily by the Provincial Department of Justice and Public Safety.

In April 2012, the Commission's mandate was expanded to incorporate the former Office of the Public Trustee, which was transferred from the Provincial Department of Justice. Public Trustee services protects the financial and personal interests of the elderly, the mentally challenged, children, missing or deceased persons, when there is no one else able and willing to do so. The salary and administrative expenses for the Public Trustee branch are included in these financial statements and the budget has been transferred to the Commission accordingly. The trust assets under the Public Trustee's management, however, are not included in these financial statements as the Commission does not own these assets.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

These financial statements have been prepared by the Commission's management in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards (PSAS). Outlined below are the significant accounting policies followed.

(a) Asset Classification

Assets are classified as either financial or non-financial. Financial assets are assets that could be used to discharge existing liabilities or finance future operations and are not to be consumed in the normal course of operations. Non-financial assets are acquired, constructed or developed assets that do not provide resources to discharge existing liabilities but are employed to deliver services, may be consumed in normal operations and are not for resale. Non-financial assets include tangible capital assets and prepaid expenses.

(b) Financial Instruments

Financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities and employee future benefits.

Financial instruments are recognized when the Commission becomes a party to the contractual rights and obligations of the financial instrument.

Financial instruments are derecognized when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset have expired or have been transferred, and the Commission has transferred substantially all risks and rewards of ownership or are derecognized when the contractual obligation has been discharged, cancelled, or has expired.

All financial assets and liabilities are measured at historical cost. Fair value of these financial instruments approximates their carrying value unless otherwise noted.

(c) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are recorded at cost, which approximates market value. Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand. The Commission did not have any cash equivalents at year end. The Commission has an internally restricted funds policy to maintain a minimum cash balance of $1.5 million. These funds are designated for specific purposes, such as contingencies, expansion, and capacity-building projects. Any changes to this policy are required to be approved by the Board of Directors.

(d) Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable includes amounts which have a likely expectation of collection in the near future. Amounts which could be collected from liens placed on property or through recoveries are only recognized when collected, due to the uncertainty associated with the collection of such amounts. Amounts due to the Commission as of March 31, 2026 represented by liens totalled $2,319,372 (2025 - $2,362,590). These amounts will only be collected if, and when, these properties are sold.

(e) Employee Future Benefits

Employee future benefits consist of retirement, sick leave and vacation benefits.

The New Brunswick Public Service Pension Plan (NBPSPP), formerly known as the Public Service Shared Risk Plan, was established on January 1, 2014. The NBPSPP is a multi-employer, shared risk plan in accordance with New Brunswick's *Pension Benefits Act*. Certain employees of the Commission are entitled to receive benefits under this plan. The Commission is not responsible for any unfunded liability nor does it have access to any surplus with respect to its employee pensions. The Commission's liability related to employee pensions is not included as part of the Commission's budget and is recorded by the Province in its financial statements. Employer contributions are included in the Commission's budget and totalled $1,048,138 (2025 - $913,471).

Until March 31, 2013, retirement allowance benefits were earned by certain employees at the rate of one week's pay for each full year worked, to a maximum of twenty-five weeks. The Provincial government discontinued the accumulation of this benefit effective March 31, 2013. As of October 9, 2014, all retirement allowance amounts for employees have been paid by the Commission.

Sick leave benefits are earned by employees of the Commission at a rate of 1.25 days per month, to a maximum of 240 days. The estimate by management of potential usage, based on experience from the last three fiscal years, is $74,137 (2025 - $41,884).

Vacation leave benefits are earned by employees of the Commission and calculated based on the biweekly salary per employee. The estimate by management of the liability, based on vacation days owing is $449,616 (2025 - $354,524).

(f) Measurement Uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with PSAS requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported revenues and expenses during the reporting period.

Areas requiring the use of management estimates relate to determination of the employee benefit accruals, contingent liabilities, lien recoveries, and tangible capital asset useful lives. Actual results could differ from management's estimates as additional information becomes available in the future.

(g) Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets are assets owned by the Commission which have useful lives greater than one year. Tangible capital assets are stated at cost. Amortization is computed using the following method and rates:

	Method	Rate
Leasehold improvements	Straight line	Lease Term
Software	Straight line	5 Years
Hardware	Straight line	4-5 Years
Furniture	Straight line	5 Years

In the year of acquisition, tangible capital assets purchased are amortized at one half of the normal rate.

(h) Revenue Recognition

Government transfers are transfers of money, such as grants, for which the Commission does not provide any goods or services directly in return.

Government transfers are recognized in the Commission's statements as revenue in the period during which the transfer is authorized and eligibility criteria have been met, except when and to the extent that the transfer stipulations give rise to an obligation that meets the definition of a liability. Government transfers consist of the grant from the Province of New Brunswick.

Revenue also consists of a grant from the NB Law Foundation (Note 7), cost recoveries from liens, Public Trustee fees, contributions, interest and other revenue. Revenue, with the exception of lien revenue and recoveries of expenses paid on behalf of Public Trustee clients, is recorded when the transaction or event has occurred, and the performance obligation related to the underlying services has been met. For revenues without performance obligations, revenue is recognized when the Commission has the authority to claim or retain the inflow of economic resources and when the revenue is expected. Lien revenue is recorded when a lien is discharged and collectability is certain, and Public Trustee client recoveries are recorded if and when the recovery is received.

3. Budget

The budget figures included in these financial statements have been derived from the estimates approved by the Commission's Board of Directors.

4. Risk Management

The carrying value of the Commission's financial instruments is assumed to approximate their fair amounts because of their short term to maturity.

An analysis of significant risks from the Commission's financial instruments is provided below:

i. Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. The Commission's maximum exposure to credit risk at March 31, 2026 is equal to the accounts receivable balance of $1,999,307 (2025 - $831,246). The balances due consist of HST receivables and amounts from related parties of the Commission and are considered low risk based on collection history.

ii. Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk of not being able to settle or meet an obligation on time or at a reasonable price. As the Commission's cash balance exceeds its future obligations, it is not subject to significant liquidity risk.

iii. Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk arises from the possibility that changes in interest rates will affect future cash flows or fair values of financial instruments. Cash deposits earn interest at a floating rate and this revenue is impacted by the current low short-term interest rates. The Commission considers interest rate risk to be insignificant.

iv. Currency risk

Currency risk arises on financial instruments denominated in a foreign currency. The Commission does not have any transactions with customers in foreign currency and therefore considers currency risk to be insignificant.

5. Tangible Capital Assets

	Leasehold Improvements	Software	Hardware	Furniture	2026 Total	2025 Total
Estimated Useful Life (Years)	Lease Term	5 Years	4 - 5 Years	5 Years		
Opening Cost	$ 1,073,340	$ 10,948	$ 58,922	$ 49,419	$ 1,192,629	$ 482,034
Additions	182,191	-	1,196	48,750	232,137	710,595
Closing Cost	1,255,531	10,948	60,118	98,169	1,424,766	1,192,629
Opening Accumulated Amortization	179,324	10,948	21,684	29,157	241,113	140,297
Amortization	132,619	-	12,354	12,598	157,571	100,816
Closing Accumulated Amortization	311,943	10,948	34,038	41,755	398,684	241,113
Net Book Value	**$ 943,588**	**$ -**	**$ 26,080**	**$ 56,414**	**$ 1,026,082**	**$ 951,516**

6. Employee Future Benefits

	2026	2025
Accrued vacation liability	$ 449,616	$ 354,524
Accrued sick leave liability	74,137	41,884
	$ 523,753	**$ 396,408**

7. New Brunswick Law Foundation

In 2025-26, the Commission received a grant for $250,000 (2025 - $250,000) from the New Brunswick Law Foundation. The grant is awarded on an annual basis and must be applied for annually by the Commission.

8. Other Revenue

	Budget (Note 3)	2026	2025
Cost Recovered From Liens	$ 25,000	$ 41,657	$ 19,787
Contributions	120,000	114,600	115,700
Interest	80,000	163,587	193,915
Public Trustee Recovery	10,000	56,522	18,490
Other	15,000	67,499	45,294
	$ 250,000	**$ 443,865**	**$ 393,186**

9. Expenses

	Budget (Note 3)	2026	2025
Private Bar Expenses			
Certificate Fees & Disbursements - Criminal	$ 1,297,000	$ 2,053,617	$ 1,175,650
Certificate Fees & Disbursements - Family	1,309,000	1,204,152	1,037,894
Duty Counsel Fees & Disbursements - Criminal	358,000	261,765	312,379
Duty Counsel Fees & Disbursements - Family	150,000	211,844	150,576
Contract Lawyer - Family	-	138,084	211,685
Contract Lawyer - Criminal	-	21,063	183,738
Detainee Calls	162,000	162,294	148,345
Major Criminal Cases	200,000	195,913	221,415
Family Advice Lawyer	220,000	229,572	213,433
Intimate Partner Violence Intervention	15,000	2,988	2,015
	3,711,000	**4,481,292**	**3,657,130**
Salaries and Related Expenses	**12,780,074**	**12,801,619**	**10,390,871**
Administrative Expenses			
Professional Services	239,715	180,659	110,480
Service of Documents	10,000	9,812	10,850
Library	50,000	55,449	43,840
Professional Development	162,500	197,423	152,725
Membership Dues	144,000	191,508	142,839
Board Expenses	64,000	46,534	50,402
Amortization	145,000	157,571	100,816
Office Expenses	220,000	246,370	301,933
Information Technology	116,389	146,480	153,040
Occupancy Costs	1,050,322	1,053,353	894,590
Translation	5,000	5,740	3,598
Travel	110,000	112,075	117,751
Payments on Behalf of Public Trustee Clients	22,000	87,193	32,472
Miscellaneous	10,000	16,187	8,124
	2,348,926	**2,506,354**	**2,123,460**
Total Expenses	**$ 18,840,000**	**$ 19,789,265**	**$ 16,171,461**

10. Related Parties

New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission is economically dependent on the Province of New Brunswick for the provision of funding. During the fiscal year, the Commission recognized revenues of $18,375,083 (2025 - $15,347,989) in appropriation funding and $1,020,864 (2025 - $922,241) in cost recoveries from the Province of New Brunswick. Of these amounts, $1,337,260 (2025- $268,816) was recorded as accounts receivable as at March 31, 2026.

The Commission is related to the Province and several of its departments, agencies, commissions, and Crown Corporations under common control of the Province.

Inter-entity transactions (transactions between commonly controlled entities) are recorded at the exchange amount when they are undertaken on similar terms and conditions as if the entities were dealing at arm's length. Services provided by these related entities during the year totalled $235,707 (2025 - $240,262).

Transactions with the Province of New Brunswick and entities under common control of the Province have occurred and been settled on normal trade terms, with the exception of the items noted below:

(a) The Commission obtains some leased space from other Government Agencies at no cost;
(b) Government Agencies contribute certain other services, such as human resources, information technology services, audit and financial administration at no cost.

11. Contractual Obligations

(a) The Commission rents office facilities and office equipment with leases that expire at various dates. Future minimum payments for the next 5 years at March 31, 2026, are as follows:

2027	$	1,059,326
2028		1,051,567
2029		1,015,848
2030		869,469
2031		801,585
	$	**4,797,795**

(b) New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission has a number of certificates issued and outstanding for eligible applicants.

12. Contingent Liabilities

The Commission is involved in various legal proceedings for which the outcome is not determinable. Accordingly, management has not recorded a provision for potential losses in the financial statements.

13. Trusts

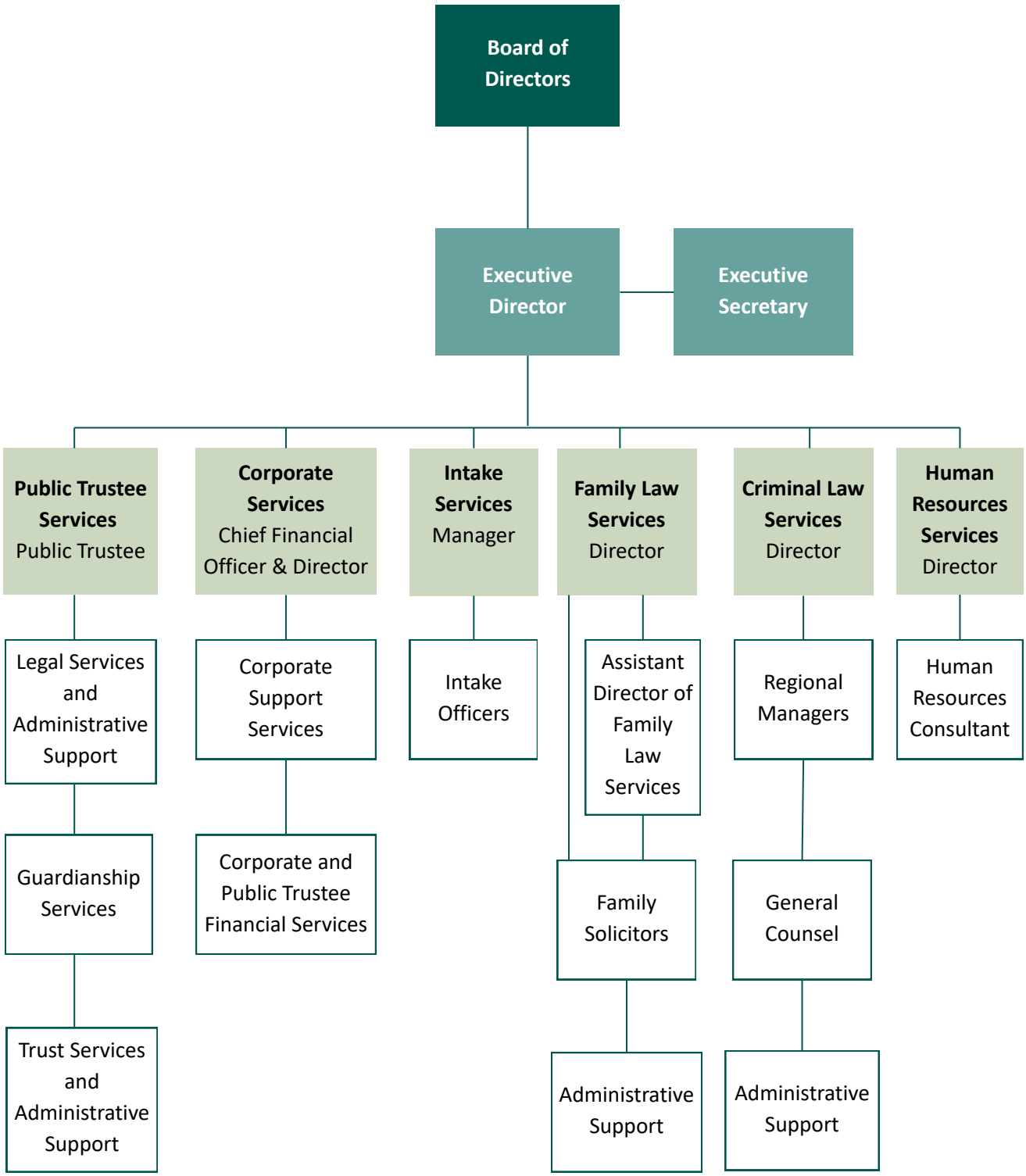
The Commission's mandate includes Public Trustee services. The Public Trustee branch administers trusts for various individuals. The value of the net assets for these trusts at March 31, 2026 was $26,960,704 (2025 - $22,191,392).

14. Comparative Figures

Certain 2025 figures have been reclassified to conform to the presentation of the financial statements adopted for the current year.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Organizational Chart



Appendix 2

Criminal Legal Aid Applications: New Applications

Reason for Application	Applications		Approved		Eligibility Rate	
	2025-26	2024-25	2025-26	2024-25	2025-26	2024-25
Capital, Non-Capital & Attempted Murder	30	(22)	27	(21)	90.0%	(95.5%)
Possession of Dangerous Weapons	127	(120)	109	(106)	85.8%	(88.3%)
Robbery	58	(65)	55	(63)	94.8%	(96.9%)
Break, Enter & Theft -Possession of Stolen Goods	736	(730)	633	(614)	86.0%	(84.1%)
Sexual Offense-Indecent Assault	177	(178)	132	(157)	74.6%	(88.2%)
Narcotics	200	(168)	176	(152)	88.0%	(90.5%)
Assault	1,156	(1,030)	927	(846)	80.2%	(82.1%)
Motor Vehicle, CCC (Includes Drunk & Impaired Driving)	150	(117)	98	(80)	65.3%	(68.4%)
Fraud & False Pretense	85	(75)	63	(63)	74.1%	(84.0%)
Destroying Property & Arson	106	(120)	82	(82)	77.4%	(68.3%)
Obstructing Peace Officer	55	(47)	41	(34)	74.5%	(72.3%)
Breach Probation	383	(320)	325	(263)	84.9%	(82.2%)
Attempts, Conspiracies, Accessories	15	(9)	14	(8)	93.3%	(88.9%)
False Messages	18	(20)	12	(10)	66.7%	(50.0%)
Bodily Harm	12	(9)	11	(8)	91.7%	(88.9%)
Forgery	5	(7)	4	(5)	80.0%	(71.4%)
Public Mischief	24	(13)	17	(11)	70.8%	(84.6%)
Escaping Custody	4	(1)	4	(1)	100.0%	(100.0%)
Causing Disturbance	5	(4)	5	(3)	100.0%	(75.0%)
Uttering Threats	202	(144)	124	(112)	61.4%	(77.8%)
Kidnapping, Abduction	23	(29)	19	(24)	82.6%	(82.8%)
Unpaid Fine	0	(0)	0	(0)	0.0%	(0.0%)
Other Provincial Acts	27	(22)	4	(9)	14.8%	(40.9%)
Other Criminal Code & Federal Acts	43	(38)	15	(22)	34.9%	(57.9%)
Information Not Filed	0	(0)	0	(0)	0.0%	(0.0%)
Total	**3,641**	**(3,288)**	**2,897**	**(2,694)**	**79.6%**	**81.9%**

*Individual cases may include more than one charge. Count represents most serious charge.

Appendix 3

Analysis of Charges: Criminal Legal Aid

Charge	Staff Counsel		Private Counsel		Total	
	2025-26	2024-25	2025-26	2024-25	2025-26	2024-25
Capital, Non-Capital & Attempted Murder	20	(17)	47	(56)	66	(73)
Possession of Dangerous Weapons	118	(126)	76	(60)	194	(186)
Robbery	47	(50)	50	(51)	97	(101)
Break, Enter & Theft -Possession of Stolen Goods	798	(741)	341	(318)	1,125	(1,059)
Sexual Offense-Indecent Assault	196	(195)	116	(94)	309	(289)
Narcotics	146	(157)	172	(145)	311	(302)
Assault	1,173	(1,041)	459	(418)	1,620	(1,459)
Motor Vehicle, CCC (Includes Drunk & Impaired Driving)	124	(101)	41	(28)	164	(129)
Fraud & False Pretense	89	(83)	20	(31)	108	(114)
Destroying Property & Arson	107	(86)	32	(40)	138	(126)
Obstructing Peace Officer	46	(38)	16	(10)	62	(48)
Breach Probation	378	(303)	121	(100)	493	(403)
Attempts, Conspiracies, Accessories	9	(13)	9	(10)	18	(23)
False Messages	12	(8)	7	(5)	19	(13)
Bodily Harm	13	(12)	10	(5)	23	(17)
Forgery	3	(5)	3	(2)	6	(7)
Public Mischief	20	(11)	5	(2)	25	(13)
Escaping Custody	5	(1)	0	(2)	5	(3)
Causing Disturbance	9	(5)	1	(0)	10	(5)
Uttering Threats	156	(151)	46	(41)	202	(192)
Kidnapping, Abduction	22	(19)	19	(23)	41	(42)
Unpaid Fine	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Other Provincial Acts	10	(9)	3	(3)	13	(12)
Other Criminal Code & Federal Acts	19	(22)	10	(13)	29	(35)
Total	**3,474**	**(3,194)**	**1,604**	**(1,457)**	**5,078**	**(4,651)**

*Individual cases may include more than one charge. Count represents most serious charge.

New Brunswick Legal Aid Services Commission

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