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Media Statement

## Legal Aid Alberta Review

For Immediate Release Friday, November 27, 2015

The Law Society of Alberta commends Alberta Minister of Justice and Solicitor General Kathleen Ganley's November 25 <u>announcement</u> of a review of legal aid services in the province.

The Law Society believes the current funding level constrains the ability of Legal Aid Alberta to deliver services and causes significant and avoidable economic costs for the province, including direct costs to the legal system.

"A properly functioning justice system, supported by a sustainable and properly funded Legal Aid program in this province, means that all Albertans -- regardless of financial status -- are treated fairly and equally under the law," says Jim Eamon QC, President, Law Society of Alberta. "We look forward to participating in the review in any manner that supports long-term, sustainable funding for, as well as the efficient operation of, Legal Aid Alberta."

The Law Society has been involved in the governance of Alberta's legal aid program for more than 40 years and is currently party to a governance agreement with Legal Aid Alberta and the Alberta government that was recently extended to March 2017.

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The Law Society serves the public interest by promoting a high standard of legal services and professional conduct through the governance and regulation of an independent legal profession

For further information on changes to Legal Aid Alberta Services <u>click here</u>.