



## PRESS RELEASE

### Increase in the Legal Aid Eligibility Scale as of June 1, 2013

**Montréal, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013** – As of June 1, 2013, the legal aid eligibility thresholds will increase. This increase will make legal aid accessible to a greater number of people.

The June 1, 2013 increase will bring the eligibility threshold for gratuitous legal aid to \$14,140 and the maximum eligibility threshold for the contributory scheme to \$23,809 for single individuals. It bears reminding that single individuals represent 73% of the legal aid clientele.

“Under the contributory scheme, for example, the increase will give a family composed of two spouses and two children, whose annual income is \$39,042, the possibility of availing itself of legal services at a reasonable cost determined in advance. I therefore invite all those who have a need for legal assistance and who may be affected by the increase to have their eligibility checked by contacting the legal aid office nearest their place of residence,” stated M<sup>e</sup> Denis Roy, Chairman of the Commission des services juridiques.

The new eligibility scale for services at **no cost** is as follows:

<b>Class of Applicant</b>	<b>Maximum Annual Income</b>
For a single person	\$14,140
For an applicant whose family is comprised of:	
one adult and one child	\$17,298
one adult and 2 children or +	\$18,467
spouses without children	\$19,676
spouses with 1 child	\$22,015
spouses with 2 children or +	\$23,184

According to M<sup>e</sup> Roy, the contributory scheme offers a unique formula that allows individuals to be represented by a lawyer before the courts while knowing, in advance, the maximum amount of the legal fees and costs. The contributory scheme allows an individual to receive legal services if his or her income, assets and liquidities match the eligibility scale in effect and if the individual pays a contribution ranging from \$100 to \$800, depending on the person's situation.

The eligibility scale for legal aid under the **contributory scheme** is as follows:

<b>Class of Applicant</b>	<b>Maximum Annual Income</b>
For a single person	\$23,809
For an applicant whose family is comprised of:	
one adult and one child	\$29,127
one adult and 2 children or +	\$31,095
spouses without children	\$33,137
spouses with 1 child	\$37,073
spouses with 2 children or +	\$39,042

#### **About the Commission des services juridiques**

The Commission des services juridiques is the agency charged with applying the *Act respecting legal aid and the provision of certain other legal services* in Québec. Legal aid may be granted to anyone who is financially eligible, in order to cover various legal services involving civil, family, administrative, criminal, mental health, immigration or youth law matters. The Commission des services juridiques will also be the agency charged with overseeing the services offered as of 2013 under the *Act to promote access to justice in family matters*, including the Service administratif de rajustement des pensions alimentaires pour enfants (SARPA).

For more information, please visit the Web site of the Commission des services juridiques at: <http://www.csj.qc.ca> .

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