



## **PART B – Group Description**

*(Limited to 500 words)*

Queen's Legal Aid provides free legal services to students of Queen's University, as well as to low-income residents in the Kingston area. We have been helping people in the Queen's and Kingston communities for over 50 years.

Those of you who have been to Queen's Legal Aid will know that we provide free services in a number of different areas of the law. SGPS members currently pay a \$5.00 student fee to Queen's Legal Aid. As a result of this fee, SGPS members qualify automatically for our legal services, without having to meet the financial criteria mandated by Legal Aid Ontario and without the need to consider financial support the student may receive from family members.

Queen's Legal Aid practices in a number of areas of law, including in landlord-tenant matters, minor criminal or quasi-criminal charges, employment law matters, and Small Claims Court proceedings. If you have a landlord who is refusing to do much-needed repairs or who tries to claim a large "cleaning fee" after you vacate your apartment, then Queen's Legal Aid may be able to help. We may be able to assist you if you had too much fun one night, ran into trouble with the police, and got charged with a minor criminal offence such as drug possession, assault, or shoplifting. We may be able to represent you at Small Claims Court if you have a housemate refusing to pay his fair share of the bills.

Of particular importance for many SGPS members, we also provide Notary Public and Commissioner of Oaths services to certify documents and commission Statutory Declarations. This is an enhanced service that Queen's Legal Aid only provides to Queen's students who have paid the QLA levy. An SGPS member who uses our services for just one notarization -- often required for membership in a professional body such as the Law Society or other professional colleges, as well as for graduate school applications, OSAP, immigration issues, and more -- will save the significant cost of paying a private lawyer for that same service.

Your \$5.00 levy also helps to support the work we do for low-income Kingston area residents. Not only do we provide a valuable service for our students, we help to achieve access to justice in our community.

We hope that you never have to use our services, but many have needed us and found us to be invaluable. Your \$5.00 helps us help you.

If you have a legal question you would like assistance with, or for more information, please drop by our office at the Queen's Law Clinics, 5th Floor, 303 Bagot Street (La Salle Mews building). Alternatively, you may call us at 613-533-2102. Everything is confidential.

We thank you for your support.

## **PART C – Budgetary Breakdown**

Please refer to the attached “QLA Budgetary Breakdown 2019-20” spreadsheets. The two tabs (documents) describe the following:

- **Income Detail** – This worksheet outlines all sources of funding that QLA is projected to receive for the period of April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020, including from the SGPS (\$22,000 – budgeted estimate before the “Student Choice Initiative” was announced).
- **Worksheet – Expenditures** – This worksheet provides a breakdown of the total forecasted spending for the clinic. These expenditures are not divided up based on sources of funding, therefore, the SGPS student fee will contribute to these expenditures along with our other sources of funding.

Please note that we are unable to outline specifically how the SGPS student fee will be spent because we collectively apply all sources of funding to our expenditures.

That said, under our Funding Agreement with Legal Aid Ontario, without the QLA fee, QLA will be required to apply regular Legal Aid Ontario eligibility criteria for every student who seeks our services, and will not be able to provide the enhanced notarial and commissioning services described above.

In addition, without the SGPS levy, QLA may experience a significant deficit because support from Legal Aid Ontario is expected to be lower than the budget amount.

## **PART D – Student Fee Questionnaire**

*(Each answer is limited to 150 words)*

### **1. Why is your group seeking a fee?**

Queen’s Legal Aid seeks a renewal of the \$5.00 SGPS student fee to be used to continue our provision of free legal services to students of Queen’s University and to low-income residents in Kingston and the surrounding areas.

### **2. What direct benefit will SGPS members derive from granting your group a fee?**

As a result of this fee, SGPS members qualify automatically for our legal services without having to meet the financial criteria mandated by Legal Aid Ontario. For example, Queen’s Legal Aid provides important notarization and commissioning services every year to SGPS members in the Faculty of Law and Physiotherapist programs, necessary for them to complete their licensing applications.

**3. How is the dollar value of the fee related to the benefit you are proposing to provide?**

For a detailed budgetary breakdown, please refer to the “QLA Budgetary Breakdown 2019-20 spreadsheet. The SGPS fee contributes towards funding the operations of the Queen’s Legal Aid and pays for costs, such as legal disbursements and court fees for clients.

**4. When was your group established?**

Queen’s Legal Aid was established in 1971.

**5. If you have collected a fee in the past, what initiatives and/or opportunities have you provided the Queen’s Community with the collected funds?**

In addition to the free legal services provided to the Queen’s community, Queen’s Legal Aid provides over 90 volunteer and employment placements to students in the law and nursing faculties. Moreover, Queen’s Legal Aid engages in outreach initiatives within the Queen’s community, such as providing public legal education workshops to students.

**COMMENTS**

We hope the information enclosed in this package provides you with all that you require. However, if you need further information or clarification regarding any issue, please do not hesitate to contact us.