



Department of Justice
Canada

Ministère de la Justice
Canada

Deputy Minister of Justice and
Deputy Attorney General of Canada

Sous-ministre de la Justice et
sous-procureure générale du Canada

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0H8

Mr. Jean-Denis Fréchette
Parliamentary Budget Officer
Office of the Parliamentary Officer
50 O'Connor Street, 10th Floor
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A9

Dear Mr. Fréchette,

Thank you for your letter of August 10, 2018 requesting information on the number of individuals who have sought immigration and refugee legal aid services, as well as on federal expenditures on these services.

The Department of Justice Canada's (Justice) Legal Aid Program (the Program) is a cost-shared program that provides contribution funding to provinces and territories for the delivery of legal aid services for economically disadvantaged persons. The Program has provided immigration and refugee (I&R) legal aid to six participating jurisdictions (British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland and Labrador) at a reference level of \$11.5 million annually, with periodic temporary increases to address periods of high demand, since 2001.

The funds are distributed among the six provinces according to a demand-based formula, which results in Justice contributing an average of 36% of costs nationally (based on five years of expenditure data available 2012-13 to 2015-16), and between 15% and 100% of each jurisdiction's costs. Non-participating jurisdictions (those that do not provide I&R legal aid services) are eligible to receive federal funding upon providing one year's notice of a decision to make I&R legal aid services available.

Annex A (attached) responds to your questions based on the information available to Justice. As provinces and their legal aid plans provide only annual data to Justice, monthly data is not available. In addition, provinces and their legal aid plans do not provide future projections.

Finally, the data provided to Justice is provided in aggregate form. It is not broken down by type of immigration or refugee matter, by regular versus irregular migrants, or by whether the legal aid support is provided to an individual only or to a principal claimant whose claim includes his or her family.

Although Justice is unable to provide all the information you have requested, I trust the attached will be useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathalie G. Drouin', written in a cursive style.

**Me Nathalie G. Drouin, Ad. E.
Deputy Minister of Justice and
Deputy Attorney General of Canada**

Enclosures (1)