



LEGAL PROTECTION PROGRAM: REFERENDUM



Vote Online
May 31, 9 am – June 3, 2 pm

Check your Langara student email
for voting instructions.

1. WHY A LEGAL PROTECTION PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS?

Seeking professional legal counsel can be intimidating, especially if it's the first time you're facing a legal issue, and legal resources aren't always easily accessible or affordable for students.

To help give students who wish to pursue legal action the means to do so with expert support, the Legal Protection Program would offer:

- A **legal consultation service** providing unlimited access to legal advice on any area of law
- **Legal representation** in cases related to **employment, housing, and academic disputes**

The LSU is holding a referendum to determine if LSU members support the implementation of this Program.

2. WHAT WOULD THE LEGAL CONSULTATION SERVICE OFFER?

Students would have unlimited access to legal consultation to get legal counselling on any and all questions on any and all areas of law, including topics such as immigration or even speeding. The service would include:

- Legal opinions
- Legal research
- Advice on legal documents and contracts
- Interpretation of applicable laws for each case
- Development of a strategy
- Sharing general information of a legal nature
- Follow-ups by the partner law firm
- Personalized and individualized case management

Students would be able to have lawyers examine their case, do the research and analysis, and offer legal advice adapted to their situation.

3. WHAT WOULD BE INCLUDED IN LEGAL REPRESENTATION?

A lawyer would take charge of proceedings related to the following areas of law:



Housing disputes

Legal expenses arising from a dispute over a housing lease, such as a disputed rent increase, an illegal eviction, or a breach of a condition in the lease.



Employment disputes

Legal fees related to a dispute relating to a current or future contract of employment, with respect to labour standards for grievances not covered by a union or a government agency. However, the Program does not include legal fees if the student is eligible for legal representation services provided by a government agency. Occupational health and safety disputes are not included in legal representation services.



Disputes with an academic institution

A student's legal expenses in the event of a dispute with an academic institution. This excludes cases related to sexual misconduct or a criminal act.

If a case requires it, legal representation would include:

- Lawyers' fees
- Legal expenses (disbursements): attendance fees, court fees (except for fees the student may be ordered to pay by the court), and witness expenses
- Fees for an expert witness, up to a maximum of \$1,000

4. WHO WOULD BE ELIGIBLE AND HOW MUCH WOULD IT COST?

All LSU members would be eligible. They would be charged \$33 for 12 months of access (\$2.75 per month), automatically included in tuition and other fees.

5. COULD I OPT OUT?

Yes, the Program would be designed to allow students to opt out and receive a full refund of the fee. The process would be similar to what is currently in place for the LSU Health & Dental Plan during the Change-of-Coverage Period at the beginning of the semester. Unlike the Plan, however, no proof of alternative coverage would be required to opt out of this service.

6. COULD I CHOOSE MY OWN LEGAL REPRESENTATION?

Legal costs incurred by students could only be claimed when using the lawyers assigned to them through the Program. If a student chose to use a different lawyer, their claim would not be reimbursed.

7. WOULD ALL SUBMITTED CASES BE ACCEPTED FOR LEGAL REPRESENTATION?

Only cases that fall within the areas outlined in the Program would be eligible. Also, Program representation services would not apply to an ongoing case in which legal action began prior to the Program coming into effect.

8. WHEN AND WHERE CAN I VOTE?

A link with online voting instructions will be sent by email. Check your Langara student email during the voting period (May 31, 9 am - June 3, 2 pm).

9. WHAT OTHER CONDITIONS/LIMITATIONS WOULD APPLY TO THE PROGRAM?

The Legal Protection Program would only include requests whose territorial jurisdiction is that of the province where the student is studying, both for consultation and for representation.

The student would be responsible for paying the costs awarded to the opposing party in civil cases, if the student were to receive an order to pay them from the Court.

Requests for representation that have little or no chance of success, or that are deemed frivolous or disproportionate, in the judgment of the partner law firm, could be subject to denial of service.

- Request with little or no chance of success: a request with a low probability of being granted by a court
- Frivolous request: a request that has no legal basis
- Disproportionate request: a request for which the legal action sought by the student is disproportionate to the magnitude of the problem raised

The partner law firm could also cease to represent a student if the person refused an offer of settlement that the lawyers on the case deemed acceptable and timely; or if the student refused or neglected to cooperate in an acceptable manner with the lawyers in charge of their case.

