



Langara Students' Union
Advocating For Students' Rights Since 1969

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

In accordance with the Bylaws, LSU Council is giving notice of the LSU Special General Meeting (SGM).

DATE: June 8th, 2023

TIME: 11:30 am—12:30 pm

LOCATION: Langara Students' Union Building, Upper Lounge

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Review of SGM Rules and Procedures
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Special Resolution: **Bundle Legal Care Program Fees with the Health Plan Fees for LSU Members**
5. Question and Answer Period
6. Adjournment

LANGARA STUDENTS' UNION ("LSU") SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

SPECIAL RESOLUTION 1

WHEREAS:

The "Legal Care Program" provides:

- unlimited legal representation in housing, employment, and academic rights, as well as public notaries (through "The Essentials" component of the Program)
- unlimited legal consultation for any area of the law (i.e. immigration law, corporate law, disputing parking tickets, etc.) at no additional cost to the members

Whereas Langara Students' Union members approved, by a referendum vote in summer 2022, the implementation of a "Legal Care Program" at an annual cost of \$33 as of September 01, 2022.

Whereas "Langara College" has been unable to assess this fee to students, and therefore the Langara Students' Union has been temporarily funding this program through its internal reserves since January 01, 2023.

Be it resolved, as a special resolution, that the "Legal Care Program" Annual Fee of \$33 be bundled with the "Health Plan" Annual Fees as of September 01, 2023 in order to continue offering this service until such time that Langara College is able to appropriately assess the fees.

Be it further resolved that for as long as the Legal Care Program is combined with the Health Plan fees, Langara Students' Union members who wish to opt out of the "Legal Care Program" service will be concurrently opting out of the "Health Plan" as well by providing proof of equivalent health plan coverage, and will receive a full refund for both services.

**Please note: Should this special resolution fail to pass, the LSU may consider placing this service on hold until Langara College can assess this fee separately to LSU members.*

Legal Care Program: Summary

Disputes with landlords, employers, academic institutions, or any other legal issues can be intimidating and difficult to navigate as a student, especially since finding and engaging a lawyer can be a lengthy and costly process.

This Program's main purpose is to improve access to justice for students by offering a legal counselling service that allows students to consult a lawyer on all legal topics. After the initial intake process, students will be in touch with legal partners within 24 to 48 business hours to start the confidential and privileged legal consultation. These consultations with lawyers can be in person, virtual, or over the phone, and will last as long as necessary to resolve the issues. Moreover, this Program includes legal representation in key areas of law that particularly affect students' lives.

This program is uncapped, meaning that a student can access it as often as needed, there are no limits on the time spent on an issue or case, and there are no limits on the legal expenses and lawyer fees accumulated on a case.

Legal Consultation:

Students will have access to true legal consultation with specialized lawyers to discuss any legal questions or issues they may be facing on any topic. The confidential and privileged consultation can span over as many meetings as necessary to resolve the issue, and students will receive researched and specific legal opinions and advice. No area of the law is excluded, and topics can range from questions about immigration law (e.g. study permit extensions), criminal law (e.g. traffic violations), and consumer law (e.g. privacy violations) all the way to intellectual property law.

Legal Representation (The Essentials):

Lawyers will take charge of all the steps and legal actions required to resolve housing disputes, employment disputes, and disputes with the academic institution:

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.

Public Notaries – Members who require commissioning services can arrange for virtual meetings to commission affidavits. Notarizing services are also offered.

Key benefits of the Program for students:

Specifically designed for students' unique needs

Quick, easy, and convenient access to robust legal support

Uncapped access for unlimited use

No limits on time spent on an issue/case

No limits on lawyer fees or legal expenses on an issue/case*

Legal **consultation** handles all legal topics

Legal **representation** available for housing, employment, and academic disputes, as well as public notaries

*Fees for an expert witness are covered up to \$1,000.