

**Ministry of the
Attorney General**

Court Services Division
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March 27, 2019

Dear Members of the Legal Community,

On January 29, 2019, I wrote to advise you that the Ministry of the Attorney General (the ministry) was posting a proposal to the Regulatory Registry to increase existing court fees and the fee waiver thresholds as a way to ensure court services and programs are cost-effective and sustainable. I can now advise that the ministry has received approval to proceed with its proposal as posted, subject to the change identified below.

In keeping with feedback received from the Regulatory Registry posting, and to ensure that court fees do not have an undue impact on access to justice, the ministry has also received approval to increase the fee waiver eligibility thresholds by the same percentage of the average fee increase.

As a result of the ministry's increase to the fee waiver policy, Ontario's fee waiver eligibility thresholds will be the highest in Canada. Those court users who do not meet the prescribed eligibility criteria but cannot afford to pay can continue to make a request to the court to waive the fees.

These changes will come into effect April 1, 2019.

A complete list of the fee and fee waiver increases is attached to this letter.

To assist with continued cost recovery, civil, small claims, and family court fees, as well as fee waiver thresholds, will also be automatically increased every three years by applying the Consumer Price Index, beginning January 1, 2023. Services that are already at full cost-recovery will not have fee increases applied.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Vaia Pappas, Director of the Operational Support Branch at (416) 326-2514 or by email at Vaia.Pappas@ontario.ca.

Thank you very much for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sheila Bristo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sheila Bristo
Assistant Deputy Attorney General
Court Services Division
Ministry of the Attorney General

c: Vaia Pappas, Director, Operational Support Branch, Court Services Division