



# AMICI CURIAE

## FRIENDS OF COURT

### Who We Are

Since 2011, Amici Curiae Friends of Court (AC) has offered free public legal education and legal form filling services across Metro Vancouver. In 2023, in response to the demand for our services, AC became a provincial service provider.



### Our Values

The ability to independently access the legal system is a challenge for ordinary British Columbians, and more so for individuals who belong to equity-deserving groups.

The majority of our clients belong to equity-deserving groups, particularly those who are Indigenous, Black, or racialized, identify as women or gender diverse, or are survivors of residential schools or intimate partner violence.

We continue to develop intentional programs that are responsive to our clients' unique and diverse lived experiences. Our work is rooted in equity, intersectionality, accessibility, and solidarity. Our staff are trained to provide culturally relevant and trauma-sensitive support in order to better serve our clients.

### Our Programming:

- **Public legal education** about filing for a divorce, human rights and other everyday law topics.
- **Weekly form filling workshops**, with expedited services for survivors of intimate partner violence, Indigenous clients, and those impacted by the Lapu Lapu festival incident.
- **Publishing materials** for everyday use in plain language and in several languages.
- **Appearance preparation services.**
- **Affidavit swearing services.**
- **Providing support person services** for self-litigants who are appearing before the Provincial Court of BC.

### Your Support Matters

AC provides all services free of charge, ensuring that every British Columbian can access the legal services, regardless of means. **Your financial support helps us strengthen programs that empower equity-deserving communities, addressing systemic barriers and fostering meaningful access to justice. Supporting AC means directly contributing to a fairer, more equitable legal system.**



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### What our clients say:

"I very much appreciated the help of your people, I felt heard, respected, and better informed."

"法庭之友奶茶帮: 非常感谢你们的回信。我需要中文国语的服务。因为我的英语不好, 所以使用英语笔记困难。"

"May you all be blessed and rewarded for all you do, especially to our most vulnerable children and families!"

"I would like to express my gratitude to your organization for being the only one that did not play a referral ping-pong and offered actual help!"

### What our colleagues say:

"AC has built a strong reputation for the quality of its service and its commitment to those who need assistance resolving legal matters."

"AC's work removes barriers and improves access to justice to those who need this the most."

"AC's commitment to serving the community in a user-centered way is particularly evident in their work to expand their assistance to Indigenous peoples."

"AC empowers equity-deserving individuals with knowledge about their legal entitlements."

### In 2024, Amici Curiae:

- Was powered by 98 volunteers comprised of paralegals, lawyers, legal students, and other legal professionals
- Served 510 clients
- Facilitated 511 hours of form filling workshops
- Hosted 40 public legal education sessions

### Amici Curiae receives referrals from:

- Provincial Court of BC
- Supreme Court of BC
- BC Court of Appeal
- Federal Court of Canada
- BC Human Rights Tribunal
- Civil Resolution Tribunal
- Employment Appeals and Assistance Tribunal
- Access Pro Bono of BC
- BC First Nations Justice Council
- Community Legal Assistance Society
- Legal Aid BC
- Rise Women's Legal Centre
- Sources - Community Law & Family Law Clinic
- UBC Law Students' Legal Advice Program