



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

As part of its commitment to advancing access to legal services for Indigenous people, AC offers expedited legal services for individuals who self-identify as Indigenous. This practice aligns with AC's mandate to assist any Indigenous client even if they may not have an appointment.

Ongoing Indigenous Programming

ACFS supports Indigenous clients on the following legal areas:

- Appearance Preparation before Courts and Tribunals
- Civil law
- Employment and Workplace Law
- Family law
- Housing issues
- Human Rights
- Transgender & Gender Diverse Issues

Investing in Competent and Caring Volunteers

AC has been supporting Indigenous clients to file class actions claims from the 60s Scoop, Indian Day School, and now, Indian Boarding Homes.

To provide this support with care and integrity, AC staff and volunteers received training in Vancouver and Kamloops. The training focused on two key areas: providing a clear understanding of the forms and documentation required; and equipping participants with trauma-sensitive interview techniques to ensure clients feel safe, respected, and supported.

The sessions were led by judges, Indigenous legal professionals, and academics, who generously shared their lived experiences of injustice, resilience, and hope. Their insights underscored the importance of culturally informed and compassionate legal support.

"AC is an integral organization that ensures that the most vulnerable Indigenous claimants have timely and appropriate access to settlement funds. These funds require claimants to disclose extremely traumatic parts of their lives in overly complicated letters, applications, and processes that are difficult to navigate. AC does a wonderful job of bringing practitioners, volunteers, paralegals, and others together to ensure people who would otherwise be completely shut out of the claims process receive appropriate amounts of settlement funding in a timely manner."

- Salima Samnani, KC
Co-Director, Legal Services UBC
Indigenous Community Legal Clinic

Your financial support enables AC to continue to provide trauma-informed, community-centred legal services for Indigenous peoples.

