



# RRCSA Legal Care Program: Referendum



The RRCSA is holding a referendum to decide if students **support the implementation of a Legal Care Program** for **RRCSA members**. This document highlights all the relevant details of the Program to help you make an informed decision.



Vote online from  
**9 am on March 2 to  
3 pm on March 5, 2026**  
from the RRCSA website.

## 1. Why do students need a legal service?

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 Care Program offers:

- A **legal consultation service** providing unlimited access to legal counselling on any area of law
- **Legal representation** for eligible cases related to **employment, housing, academic, and public notaries**

## 2. What does the Legal Care Program include?

The Legal Care Program offers all students (indigenous, domestic, and international) with unlimited access to legal services tailored to their needs. Other than the cost of the program, students are **not required to pay additional out-of-pocket fees** (e.g. hourly rates or retainer fees) to consult with lawyers. There is also no limit to how many hours or instances the Program can be used by each student. The Program protects students' legal rights and financial peace of mind through two components: **legal consultation** and **legal representation**.

### Legal consultation

The legal consultation service provides students with **unlimited quick access to legal counselling in any area of law**. This can include immigration law, study permit extensions, traffic law, criminal law, tax law, and more. The service includes:

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|---|---|
| → 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 can have lawyers examine their case, do the research and analysis, and offer legal advice adapted to their situation.

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## Legal representation

The legal representation service provides students access to legal representation for any legal solutions the case requires, including in court proceedings or tribunal hearings for 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.

- evictions
- rent increases
- disputes with landlord/tenant
- breach of lease agreements
- and more

### 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 doesn't include legal fees if the student is eligible for legal representation services provided by a government agency. Occupational health and safety disputes aren't included in legal representation services.

- wrongful termination
- employment contract
- labour disputes
- and more

### Public notarizing and commissioning services

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

- birth certificates
- criminal record checks
- passports
- mortgage documents
- contract or prenuptial agreements
- wills, deeds, and power of attorneys
- and more

### Dispute 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.

- grades or accreditation disputes
- failure to provide reasonable accommodations
- dispute over academic dishonesty/integrity
- allegations
- and more

### Legal representation includes:

- 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

Legal representation is provided for as long as the case requires it, even if the member is no longer a student before the case is resolved.

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### 3. How much would it cost?

The fee for Legal Care Program would be automatically charged with tuition:

→ **\$34.00 annually** for access from September 1 to August 31.

**Did you know?** The average rate to consult with a lawyer in Canada is **\$350 per hour**.

### 4. Could I opt out?

**Yes.** Students would have the option to opt out of the Legal Care Program during the Change-of-Coverage & Opt-Out Period at the start of the term and receive a full refund for the fee, no questions asked.

### 5. Where and when can I vote?

You can vote online from **9 am on March 2 to 3 pm on March 5, 2026** from the **RRCSA website**.