

OUR MISSION

The mission of *Pro Bono Québec*, a non-profit organization created on the initiative of the Quebec Bar in 2008, is to initiate, promote and coordinate *pro bono* (free) legal work. *Pro Bono Québec* hopes to become a meeting place for bringing together and generating *pro bono* legal initiatives aimed at improving access to justice for the benefit of the population in Quebec.

PROGRAM FOR CASES OF EXCEPTIONAL NATURE, OF PUBLIC INTEREST OR CAUSING IRREPARABLE HARM

Pro Bono Québec launched a first program in May 2009, which consists of supplying free legal services to citizens or groups of citizens who must meet the following criteria:

- If the applicant is eligible for Legal Aid or has other means of obtaining the legal services requested, the applicant is not eligible for *Pro Bono Québec* services.
- Applicants must be financially unable, given the cost of defending their rights, to pay for legal services.
- Applicants must demonstrate that their case is exceptional, involves issues of public importance or that they could suffer permanent harm. Cases aimed at improving laws, the legal system or the Quebec, Canadian or international justice systems are also eligible.

Pro Bono Québec receives applications for free legal services (forms are available in French or English on our website: www.probonoquebec.ca) and submits them to the Approval Committee who decides which to accept.

If the Committee accepts an application, *Pro Bono Québec* refers the request for services to a lawyer or law firm that has contributed to the bank of hours of free legal services. The choice of lawyer or law firm is based on the type of case and, if possible, the place of residence of the applicant.

Pro Bono Québec can refuse an application for free legal services if there does not appear to be any legal validity to the case or if it is evident the case has little chance of succeeding.

Pro Bono Québec charges a \$20 non-refundable fee to process each application. Legal services are free, but clients (applicants) must pay other expenses, court costs, experts' fees and any other fees.

Other programs are coming soon. We invite you to consult our website to learn more about our services.

PRO BONO IS GOOD FOR THE  !

CONTACT US

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OUR PARTNERS

LAWYERS
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