



Immigration and Refugee Services

Access to justice for immigrants and refugees

Project Status Update

March 20, 2026

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Expanding
LAS scope of
services to
include
Immigration &
refugee law





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The Federal Government wants to offer more consistent I&R service levels across the country, particularly in jurisdictions where such services are relatively new or currently unavailable.

Legal Aid Saskatchewan (LAS) committed to exploring the provision of I&R services in its 2022-2025 Strategic Priorities

The Federal Government had conversations with LAS throughout 2025 about the possibility of providing I&R services.



LAS completed an Immigration & Refugee Situational Assessment in August 2025 and identified a need for immigration and refugee services

The Federal government has committed funding for 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28 for LAS to develop and deliver Immigration & Refugee services across Saskatchewan.

LAS began an Immigration and Refugee Services Project (“the Project”) and will begin delivering Immigration and Refugee (I&R) Services in the summer 2026.

The Situational Assessment showed that:

Saskatchewan was one of only two Provinces not funded by the Federal Government to provide I&R legal services.

There is an increasing demand for I&R legal services in Saskatchewan that is not being met.

There are limited I&R legal services in Saskatchewan, and no organization receives dedicated funding to provide these services.



UKRAINE SITUATION

UNHCR SUPPLEMENTARY APPEAL 2023

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Project Status

The Project kicked off in November 2025. The first months focused on Project Governance, Planning and Committee building, including the creation of the I & R Services Steering Committee and the I & R Services Advisory Committee.

LAS will maintain the model of service delivery used in family and criminal law, with staff services being the primary method for serving I&R clients. Where necessary (conflicts of interest or lack of capacity) LAS will contract with private bar lawyers and/or organizations to supplement its service delivery.

Lawyers, students at law, and regulated immigration consultants will provide the staff and panel services aimed at cost-effectiveness and efficiency.

All staff and panel providers will have to meet quality standards and comply with service rules to represent legal aid funded I&R clients.

Legislative Amendment



Legislative Services, Ministry of Justice
and Attorney General, Saskatchewan
amended Regulations S.10



LAS now has a regulatory mandate to
deliver immigration and refugee
services

Consultation



Internal:

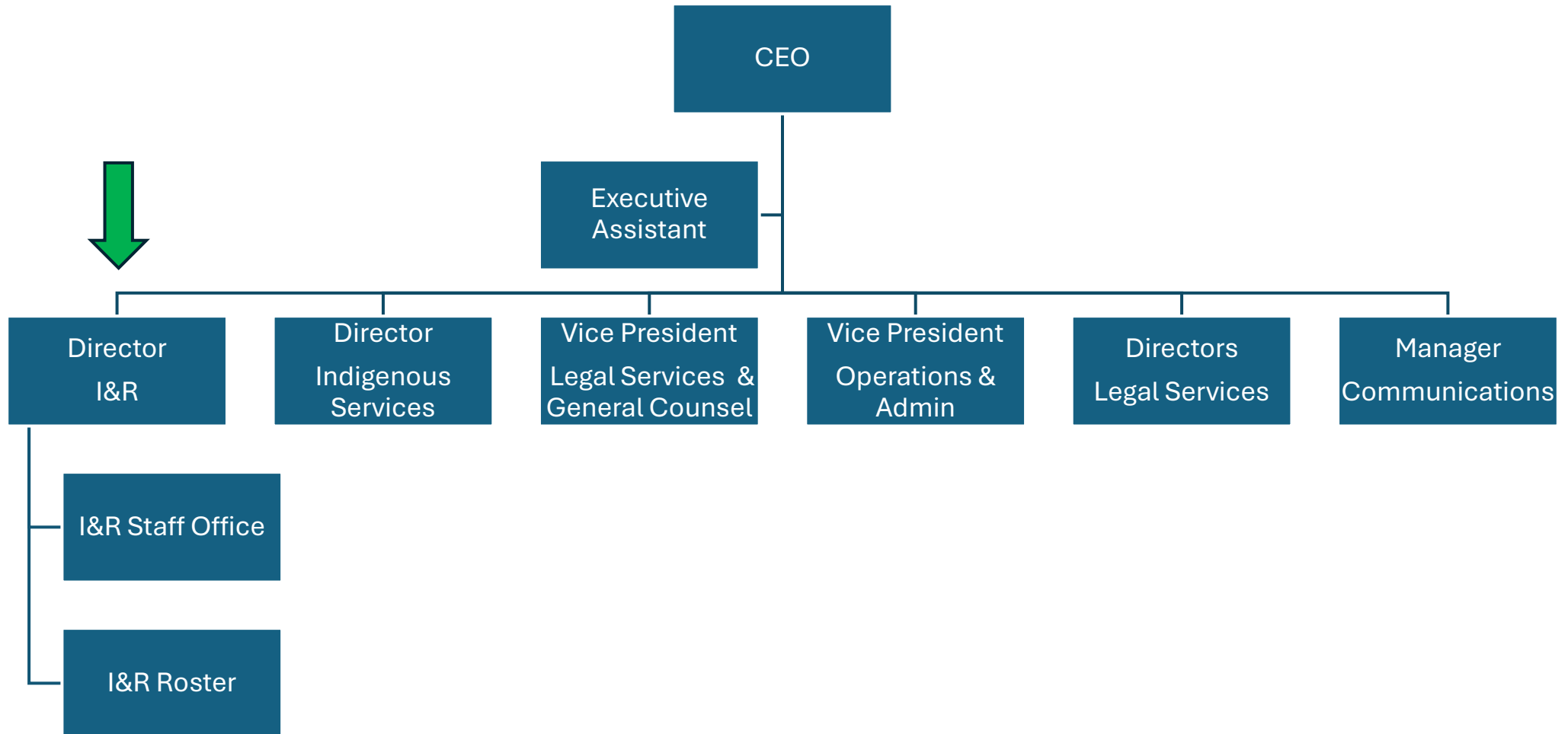
Policy, Standards Working Group,
Technology Working Group



External:

Advisory Committee

LAS Organization Design



I&R Law Staff Office

* Recruitment underway
for I&R Director

*I&R Director

**Dotted line reporting – I&R
Office, Application Centre

Admin

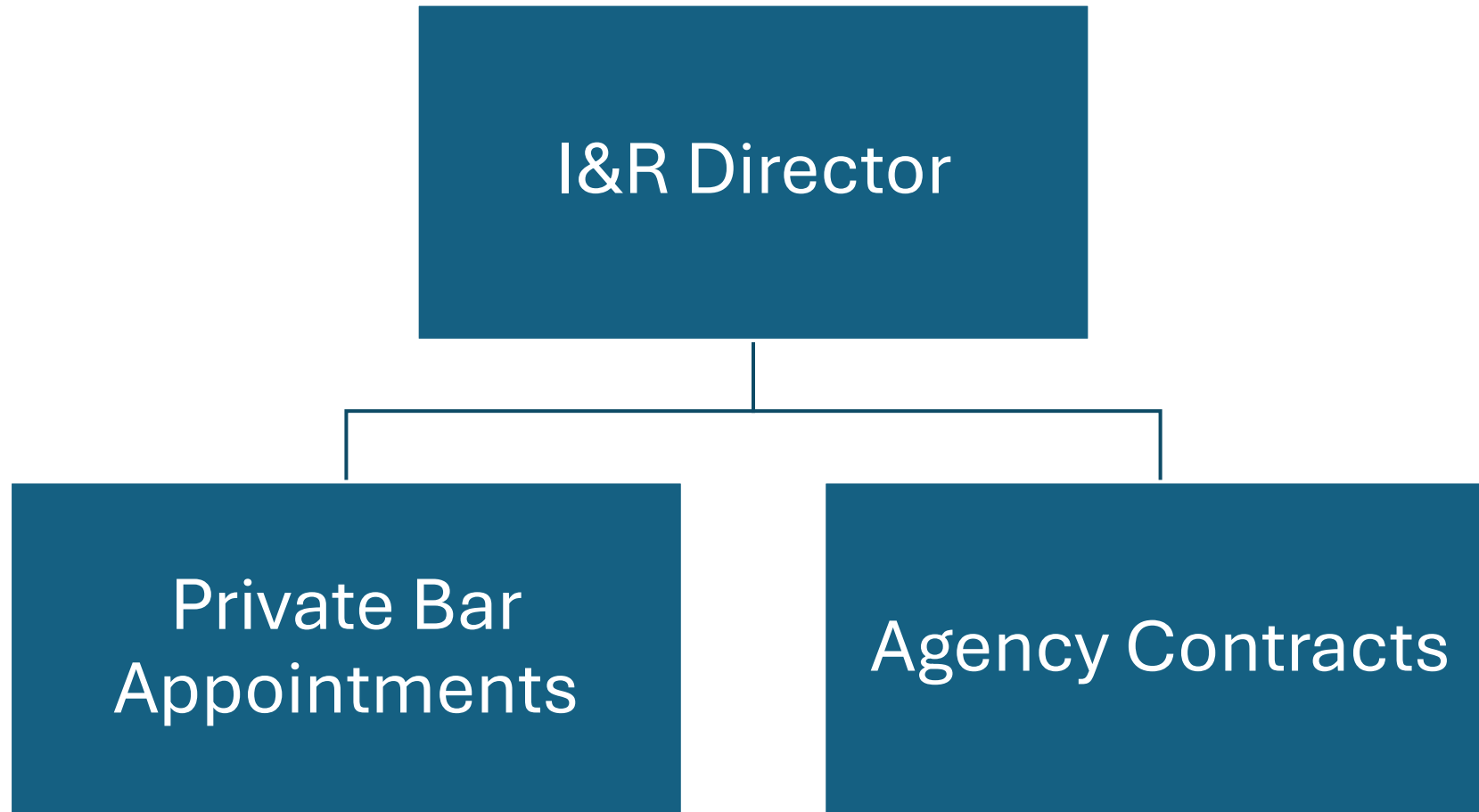
**Eligibility
Officer

Lawyer

Regulated
Consultant

Regulated
Consultant

I&R Roster



I&R Areas of Coverage

Immigration & Refugee Board (IRB)	Immigration, Refugee & Citizenship Canada (IRCC)	Federal Court (FC)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IRB – Refugee Protection Division: Basis of Claim, Hearing• IRB – Refugee Appeal Division: Preparation, Hearing• IRB – Immigration Division: Detention Hearing• IRB-Immigration Appeal Division: Removal order appeal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IRCC: Humanitarian & compassionate App• IRCC: Pre-Removal Risk Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FC: judicial review• FC: stays of removal

I&R Quality Standards & Service Rules



All LAS service providers (staff and panel members) will be required to meet and maintain LAS' I&R Quality Standards and LAS Service Rules



The quality standards are divided into general and appellate. They require applicants to meet experience and knowledge thresholds. The standards also provide for formation and development opportunities to increase I&R legal capacity in Saskatchewan



LAS Service Rules compliance required of all service providers



Policy – confirm financial eligibility policy for I & R services



Process – confirm I&R intake process and train intake staff



I&R Office – hire I&R Director, hire I&R Staff, identify office locations and address technology needs, including case management



I&R Panel Roster – develop and implement service provider application process and create panel



Reporting, Accountability – identify key reports, establish performance measures

