



West Coast LEAF

# Access Matters

Obtaining meaningful access arrangements in  
child and family services proceedings

April 28, 2025





## Land acknowledgement

**West Coast LEAF** respectfully acknowledges that our office is on traditional, ancestral, and unceded homelands of the **xʷməθkʷəy̓əm** (Musqueam), **Skwxwú7mesh** (Squamish), and **səl̓ílwətaʔt̓**/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.



# The Access Toolkit

A parent's counsel's guide to advocating for meaningful access arrangements in child and family services proceedings.

Explore the toolkit at [westcoastleaf.org/AccessToolkit](https://westcoastleaf.org/AccessToolkit)



# Inside the toolkit

- The legal context.
- Intro to trauma-informed practice.
- Explanations of relevant legislation and case law.
- Negotiation and litigation strategies.
- Practice tips.
- Template materials to support advocacy.





# Access laws

- Orders under ss. 55 and 56 of the *CFCSA*.
- Orders under the BC Supreme Court's *parens patriae* jurisdiction.
- Changes to access orders under s. 57 of the *CFCSA*.
- Application of the *Federal Act*.
- Application of other laws.
- Enforcement options.
- Appeals.





# Advocacy strategies

- Negotiating a ladder approach to access.
- Considerations when bringing an access application.
- Seeking the standard access order versus defined access orders.





Thank you to  
our panelists!

