



BCACC Fee Schedule Survey

2021



BCACC

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Background

BCACC surveyed the membership in Fall of 2021 to gather information to assist members in setting their private practice fees. The last time the fee schedule was updated was in 2019 when BCACC engaged Strategic Initiatives Inc. to assist us with this process. At that time, BCACC surveyed the membership with the intention of providing information to assist counsellors to know what their peers felt was an appropriate rate (or range of rates) and what factors the membership as a group felt were important to consider when setting those rates. For the purposes of continuity, BCACC again engaged Strategic Initiatives Inc., and used the same parameters to survey the membership in 2021, with the addition of a few new questions. The invitation to participate was emailed to 5,438 members between Sept. 8 - 21st, 2021. Of that amount, 1,594 members (29%) responded. A typical response for a survey is considered to be between 20% - 30% (SurveyMonkey, 2019). The purpose of this report is to support counsellors by providing useful information they can use when deciding rates for services.

Results

FEE RANGE: Survey results showed that the majority (65%) of surveyed members favoured a range of rates over a single rate.

ONLINE/TELEPHONE COUNSELLING: Survey results showed that the majority (79%) of surveyed members did not believe there should be a difference in rates for services provided in an eCounselling, telecounselling or online environment.

EXPERIENCE LEVEL: Survey results showed that the majority (66%) believed a counsellor's experience level is a factor to be considered when setting rates.

FEE BY REGION: Survey respondents were undecided (49%) on whether fees should vary by region to reflect higher costs in the Lower Mainland versus other areas of BC.

FREE CONSULTATION TO POTENTIAL CLIENTS: Survey results showed that the majority (78%) of surveyed members offer a free consultation to potential clients. Of this, 34% indicated that the length of this consultation is 15 minutes with lesser percentages indicating 10 - 30 minute timeframes.

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SLIDING SCALE FEES: Survey results showed that the majority (72%) of surveyed members offer some form of sliding scale fee for their clients. Most frequently, these sliding scale fees are based on the client's income; almost half (42%) of respondents said clients' income was the basis for their sliding scale fees.

PRO-BONO COUNSELLING: The majority of survey respondents (52%) do not offer pro bono services to clients. More than one third of respondents (39%) offer pro bono services to less than 10% of their clientele.

Fee Recommendations for 2021

Individual therapy (50 minute session)	\$135 - \$150
Family/Couples therapy (50 minute session)	\$150 - \$175