

Letters to the Editor

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Cut justice's costs

Re High-Priced Justice (editorial, Jan. 6):

I've been a divorce lawyer for 20 years. When I look across the table at a "self-represented litigant" (the opposing spouse without a lawyer), we know our side's legal bills will climb. Not understanding the law drags out legal cases, it does not speed them up.

No government is going to throw millions of dollars at building new courthouses, appointing more judges and providing training courses for "self-represented litigants." The solution to the high cost of access to justice is simplifying legal processes: Courts are notoriously process-driven; our legal system still relies on paper, not technology (the court system does not take advantage of electronic documents or electronic calendaring, for example).

With half of Canadians predicted to face a justiciable event, all Canadians should demand new laws and rules to cut time and paperwork, and therefore costs.

Andrew Feldstein, Markham, Ont.