

# JDG 6

## BUILD CAPABILITY

**6.1 EDUCATE LAW STUDENTS AND LEGAL PROFESSIONALS** - Offer training on access to justice, emerging approaches, changing social situations and the skills to meet people's needs, both at the start of and throughout legal careers.

**6.2 EXPAND JUSTICE EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS** - Introduce legal capability into elementary and secondary schools to prepare people for legal issues in their lives; Offer training about access to justice issues in post-secondary programs to integrate legal, health, social and education services.

School-age students and university students are the primary audiences for building legal capability. Having not yet settled on career choices, nor developed their own conflict skills, efforts to build legal capability in these audiences offers the potential to transform how people respond to legal conflict, whether in their own lives or in these professional roles. Law and paralegal students, developing practice skills and aptitudes at the beginning of their career, can be exposed to access to justice issues before they make career decisions. The efforts to build capability in these audiences is the priority under this goal, complementing the training of existing legal professionals.

Ongoing professional development is a critical responsibility of all legal professionals. Over the course of the year, lawyers, paralegals and judges completed training on access to justice issues and developed their practice skills. These opportunities were a combination of internal training opportunities offered by legal aid societies, judges associations and employers, cross-sectoral conferences and courses.

In 2019, the sector focused on growing the community of justice service providers through targeted training of intermediaries – those professionals who, in the course of serving the public, may encounter legal questions, such as librarians, poverty and housing advocates, newcomer organizations and social workers.

Organizations saying this is  
their primary impact on A2J: **1**

Projects aligned: **37**

## Empowering Trusted Intermediaries

The Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta developed Intermediaries Training on behalf of the Justice Sector Constellation. The training is for service providers and intermediaries such as community and faith community workers and volunteers outside of the justice sector. The purpose of the training is to help those outside of the justice sector to recognize the legal issues of clients and know where to refer clients for assistance. The anticipated outcome is more appropriate and timely referrals for clients to the resources they need. CPLEA delivers the training, which is eligible for Alberta College of Social Work Professional Development credits.

*"I was pleased with the information received at "Before you sign" workshop. The purpose of this workshop is to give frontline workers a general introduction and, in some areas, an in-depth look at providing legal advice versus legal information. Making that distinction as a frontline worker is important for various reasons; this information was very clear and distinct. The session not only covers areas that are concerning for newcomers; but also serves as a conduit for open discussions on each topic by posting questions and giving responses to questions from participants. This workshop was also used as a forum for establishing a network with other community agencies and partners with the potential for future collaboration. By applying the information that is applicable as frontline workers, we are more ready to perform our daily tasks and commitments".*

Frontline Community Worker

Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO) offered its 8-week online course "Building Skills in Legal Information and Referral" to two cohorts of learners in 2019. Originally developed in collaboration with the Ontario Library Association, the modules cover detecting legal problems, and making appropriate referrals, together with overviews of family law, consumer law, housing law, and employment law in Ontario. CLEO provides learners with individualized feedback and issues a certificate as "Legal Information & Referral Specialists" to those who complete the course successfully. Although it was originally conceived as a

program for library workers, in 2019, the course was opened to other community workers who provide "community justice help" to clients in Ontario. CLEO's "Before You Sign" project has identified the main legal challenges faced by newcomers and immigrants in the participating communities and is currently developing a curriculum to train front line workers across all sectors to identify challenges and leverage the resources currently available through CLEO.

In 2019, the Community Legal Education Association in Manitoba provided Community Legal Intermediary Training Courses to 14 service providers from low income advocacy organizations, Legal Aid, newcomer organizations and provincial government departments. The CLI is a series of 8 weekly, one and one-half hour workshops that train service providers about legal issues and resources in the community, covering a wide array of legal issues and areas of the law.

## Enhancing the Experience of Law and Other Professional Students

In 2019, the Canadian Bar Association, through the Access to Justice Subcommittee's Legal Education Working Group, launched "An Experiential Learning Guide for Law Students: Learning Law in Place". This Guide explains the theory behind experiential learning and how it works, and provides a workbook with exercises for law students to complete to enhance their understanding of and takeaways from their hands-on legal experience, as well as to support the larger pedagogical mission of supporting access to justice through legal education.

Building off the success of the Clinical Criminal Law Course provided in collaboration with the University of Manitoba Law School, in 2019, Legal Aid Manitoba partnered with the University of Manitoba Robson Hall Faculty of Law to reintroduce its Clinical Family Law Course in an updated format within the existing Clinic funding provided by the Law Foundation of Manitoba, Legal Aid Manitoba, and the Faculty of Law. Student duties include course work combined with the conduct of family files including interacting with the Legal Aid program and all aspects of case conduct under the supervision of a qualified lawyer.

The Law Society of Manitoba continues to offer its Forgivable Loan Program to provide financial assistance to students who want to practice law in Manitoba communities in need of more lawyers (under-serviced

communities.) Over time, the eligibility and selection criteria have been expanded so that the program could be better utilized. In 2019, the criteria was expanded even more such that lawyers who are just starting out or who are two - three years post-call may also apply to receive financial assistance in the form of a loan that would not have to be repaid if the new lawyers commit to provide their legal services in an under-served community for a period of three years. Students in any year of law school may continue to apply.

*« A newly-arrived international student attending a local college rented a room from a home owner. Soon after, the home owner locked her out of the house and kept most of her possessions. With no place to turn in an unfamiliar country, she asked for our help. We sued the home owner and obtained judgment. When the home owner failed to pay the judgment, we enforced it and the student collected the entire judgment.»*

Community Legal Services, Western University

Community Legal Services, the legal clinic at Western University, and Pro Bono Students Canada put on a radio show on Radio Western on legal issues of interest to students. They also partnered with Pro Bono Students Canada to provide additional legal services to students and members of the homeless community.

The Justice Sector Constellation collaborative operated through Enough for All in Alberta is developing a Poverty and the Law Educational Module. The purpose of the Module is to sensitize post-secondary students in various disciplines to the issues that arise at the intersection of poverty and the legal system, to better equip them to serve their clients and communities on graduation. The Module will be offered to instructors at post-secondary institutions in various faculties and departments, including criminal justice and criminology, social work, nursing, sociology, education, psychology, and children and youth. The Module was piloted in the fall 2019 session at Ambrose University, Bow Valley College, and to both Faculty of Law and Development Studies students at the University of Calgary. In addition, PowerED at the University of Athabasca has been retained to convert the Module into an online offering, to increase its availability. An instructor manual will be developed to facilitate instruction of the Module.

## Building Legal Capability in Young People

Éducaloi's in-class workshop program involves a network of over 1,000 volunteer jurists from across Quebec to deliver Éducaloi's workshops to high school students. More than 10,000 students in 80 schools were able to receive these workshops in 2018-19, in both English and French. Approximately 100 teachers participating in the program were able to choose from our 14 legal education workshops while taking advantage of many educational resources, all available free of charge on website [educationjuridique.ca](http://educationjuridique.ca).

*« Je suis convaincue qu'une meilleure compréhension des citoyens de leurs droits et obligations est l'une des clés de l'accès à la justice. Fière que l'éducation juridique soit l'une des priorités de notre gouvernement, j'ai accepté avec enthousiasme d'être la marraine de la toute première Semaine de l'éducation juridique organisée par Éducaloi. C'est toute la société qui bénéficiera des connaissances ainsi acquises par les citoyens de demain! »*

Madame la Ministre Sonia LeBel

For the first time this year, Éducaloi organized a Week of Legal Education. The purpose of the conference was to raise awareness among the public and school communities of the importance of educating young people about rights. Since no law course is compulsory in the training of high school students in Quebec, they must be made aware of it through other channels or initiatives. For a week in December 2019, 70 workshops on rights and justice were held in the 17 administrative regions of Quebec.

On May 17, 2019, the Nova Scotia Courts worked with Phoenix Youth to host a Justice Day Camp for African Nova Scotian youth from north-end Halifax to learn firsthand about the Courts and the institutions that make up the legal system. Participants have direct access to judges, lawyers, deputy sheriffs, police officers, and others who work in justice. A similar program was developed for Take Your Kids to Work Day on Nov. 6, 2019.

The Youth Voices initiative of the BC Family Innovation Lab aims to improve the well-being and resilience of children and youth experiencing parental separation by developing opportunities for them to express themselves. The prototypes to be tested are an online digital platform (hosting stories and creative content) and in-person workshops led by and for youth.

OJEN launched the Newcomer Community Justice Program, introduced newcomer youth to Housing Law, Employment Law and Immigration and Refugee Law, with a focus on failed refugee claims. OJEN partnered with the Afghan Women's Organization (AWO), Parkdale Collegiate Institute (PCI) and the Centre for Spanish Speaking People (CSSP).

Inuit youth in Nunavut were introduced to the processes and goals of the criminal law system in workshops designed by OJEN for the Law Society of Nunavut. In the hamlet of Pangnirtung it ran twice, so that the entire student population of Attagoyuk High School could participate. The Makkuttukkuvik Youth Centre also hosted the workshop for attendees of its drop-in program in Iqaluit.

The Supreme Court of Canada engaged directly with high school students when it sat in Winnipeg - the first time it sat outside of Ottawa in 144 years. Justices faced a barrage of tough questions from high school students who visited the court. Students asked questions on issues ranging from First Nations land claims to the essence of legality and morality. Each judge then visited a local high school.

## Supporting the Education and Development of Legal Professionals

The Saskatchewan Legal Coaching and Unbundled Services Project (LCUP) was established in 2019, supported by the University of Saskatchewan, to support, enhance, and advance legal coaching and the use of limited scope retainers in Saskatchewan. The project has emerged in response to Saskatchewan lawyers' interest in the topic area and out of discussions at the 2013/14 meetings of the Dean's Forum on A2J. The Working Group engaged in a number of actions to advance this topic in 2019, such as posting a list of lawyers who are interested in engaging in legal coaching and unbundling to improve the public's access to such services, continuing to deliver Continuing Professional Development seminars for lawyers on the topic, developing related practice resources, and, thanks to the support of the Canadian Foundation for Legal Research, will be conducting a research study associated with the pilot project. The Working Group seeks to contribute to a foundation for data on the topic in Canada, which aims to positively impact both legal practice and policy development.

L'Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario (AJEFO) in Ontario launched two major websites with resources for legal professionals, students, and education professionals. Jurisource.ca is a virtual library of legal resources in French. This French common law site offers

over 10,000 free legal and terminology resources in French. Aimed at both professionals and students of common law, Jurisource.ca makes available templates, infographics, decision summaries and other tools to encourage exchanges between professionals and facilitate practice in French. Cliquezjustice.ca is a French and Canada-wide website (outside Quebec) that clearly and concisely explains the rights of Canadian citizens based on everyday situations. The site addresses various areas of law and also offers turnkey workshops for education professionals.



The graphic features the text "Jurisource.ca offers" in a sans-serif font. To the right is a yellow search bar with a magnifying glass icon. Below this, the number "1000" is written in a large, bold, dark blue font. To the right of "1000" is a yellow outline of the province of Ontario with the letters "ON" inside. Below the "1000" and the Ontario map, the text "FREE LEGAL + TERMINOLOGY RESOURCES in FRENCH" is written in a bold, dark blue font. A thin yellow line connects the "1000" to the Ontario map.

As a part of reconciliation and responding to the recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Manitoba Bar Association offered educational resources to both the legal community and Bar Association staff to increase awareness of the legacy of the Indian Residential School System, support anti racism/ bias training and increase cultural competency as it relates to the Indigenous community.

Each year, Justice Pro Bono in Quebec organizes the Legal Clinics Forum, which brings together legal stakeholders around a topic that may be of interest to people working with vulnerable populations. The 11th edition of the Forum took place on December 13, 2019 at the École du Barreau and dealt with "Harassment (work, social networks, daily life): what legal tools exist to assist litigants?". Some 60 representatives from various legal clinics were able to learn and discuss best practices and tools available to assist individuals who are experiencing harassment, at work or elsewhere.

The Fonds Accès Justice of the Ministère de la Justice du Québec launched a directory of accredited civil mediators recognized by the Ministère de la Justice du Québec on December 11, 2019.

The U-40 Conflict Resolution Initiative is an ADRSK initiative providing support, networking & skill development for new dispute resolution professionals in Saskatchewan. It is supported by the Panko Collaborative Law and Mediation in Saskatoon SK.