

Goal 05

Work Together

The Action Committee works to bring people together nationally around a common agenda of improved access to justice. The Action Committee highlights ideas and projects that can be scaled up, replicated or shared across jurisdictions.



Justice
for all
Know the law before
you need it.

#JusticeForAll: Making Access to Justice Matter to Canadians

During 2017, the Action Committee ran a public engagement campaign about the importance of access to justice and everyday legal issues. This social media campaign was designed, pro bono, by Clementina Koppmann and her design team. The graphics incorporated statistics on the frequency of everyday legal issues with an invitation to Just... ..be prepared, ...protect yourself, ...breath. Viewers were invited to take a quiz to check their legal health. Links at the end of the quiz connected to public legal education and A2J efforts in each province or territory, as well as to the justice development goals website.

A2J organizations across Canada amplified the #JusticeForAll conversation by posting the campaign tools to their websites, blogs and newsletters and uploading to social media. Chief Justice McLachlin recorded videos in French and English, helping Canadians understand the importance of their own legal health. The campaign had over a half million engagements on the Action Committee's channels, and extended reach through the A2J community, helping to raise awareness and maintain momentum, funding and focus on A2J.

Working across Disciplines

Based out of UVIC's Faculty of Law, the Access to Justice Centre for Excellence has focused on projects that foster coordination between the legal sector and other disciplines meeting peoples' social, health, and wellbeing needs. The BC government held its annual Justice Summit bringing together 70 justice and technology experts to learn about the potential of technology to improve the administration of justice. It also entered into the Indigenous Justice Strategy Memorandum of Understanding with Indigenous leaders to address the specific justice needs of the Indigenous community. Justice Summits were held in St. Johns, NFLD and in Happy Valley Goose Bay, Labrador, to identify issues and action plans for sector reform. The Law Society of PEI convened a Call to Action Committee in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Report, looking at concrete justice sector responses and cultural awareness trainings needs. The ADR Institute of Canada brought judges, mediators and arbitrators together to discuss access to justice options for dispute resolution. Winnipeg's Legal Help Centre hosted a social worker placement, fostering cross-discipline coordination. The Bridge, a program of the PEI government, offers responsive support across mental health, justice and social services when people are in high risk or acute situations. New Brunswick's Integrated Service Delivery model provided mental health, addiction, intervention and social services to children and youth, based out of public schools. The Action Group (TAG), CLEO and OJEN co-hosted the Include, Inspire, Inform Conference for Intermediaries building the capacity of trusted professionals to help

people navigate to legal assistance. Manitoba's CLEA offers training courses for intermediaries on legal issues. The Winkler Institute held a multi-day design-thinking workshop for Aboriginal youth to develop technological solutions to build a justice system that is reflective of Aboriginal experiences and responsive to Aboriginal traditions.

Sharing Tools and Knowledge

CLEO's Steps to Justice plain language guide to legal issues is designed to be embedded in the websites of public and private sector entities, including law firms, encouraging everyone in Ontario to connect public visitors to reliable information with links to first steps and assistance. In BC, ClickLaw, a project of Courthouse Libraries, brings public legal education content from 25 different organizations to one web source, making it easier for people to find legal information. The Federation of Law Societies maintains a national inventory of access to justice initiatives at all of the Law Societies in Canada. The Public Legal Association of Canada held its national conference in PEI in October, sharing community outreach strategies from across the country. Educaloi, in partnership with FACIL'iti, offers a tool to make legal websites accessible to people with disabilities or to those who use adaptive technologies. OJEN produced a new video, The Person Beyond the File, about youth perspectives of justice sector and child welfare involvement, to promote greater understanding of the complexity of young people's experience.

Collaboration with a range of professions, including:

social workers, teachers, nurses, doctors, librarians, psychologists, faith leaders, community organizations, mental health workers, Indigenous leaders, mediators, arbitrators, advocates, and court users.

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Jurisdictions
with collaborative
entities