

»»»»»»»»»» Goal 5

Goal 5: Work Together

5.1 ESTABLISH COORDINATED EFFORTS - Bring all of the organizations involved in access to justice in each province or territory together to focus on local solutions.

5.2 INCLUDE EVERYONE - Involve the major institutions (courts, governments) professional groups (lawyers' associations), community groups and non-profits (clinics, PLE providers), academics and individuals to find new creative approaches.

5.3 BE BOLD; TAKE ACTION - Local and national coordination must lead, take action and inspire others to tackle access to justice.

5.4 WORK WITHIN INSTITUTIONS - In addition to coordinating across the justice system, access to justice should be a serious focus within judges' organizations, lawyers' and paralegals' associations, courts and institutions.

5.5 COORDINATE ACROSS CANADA - Keep momentum and sustained attention to these issues across the country to complement local and regional activity.

Work Together

A focus on collaboration is a shift in the culture of the justice system. The sector has historically been siloed into professional groups, divided by jurisdiction and focused on maintaining the independence of judges and lawyers by segregating institutions.

In response to the Action Committee's *Roadmap for Change*, issued in 2014, a collaborative group or committee has been established in each province or territory in the country. Each year, the Action Committee meets for its annual Summit bringing together representatives from these provincial / territorial collaboratives and representatives of the justice sector institutions to coordinate access to justice efforts. The Action Committee has also created two vehicles to share access to justice ideas in Canada. Anyone involved in access to justice can subscribe to its monthly A2J Newsletter to receive highlights of interesting projects and innovative approaches. The Access to Justice Research Network, hosted by the CFCJ, is a community of researchers working in universities and in community organizations, sharing research results, academic writing and new thinking on these issues. Links to these two communication tools and other Action Committee news can be found at justicedevelopmentgoals.ca

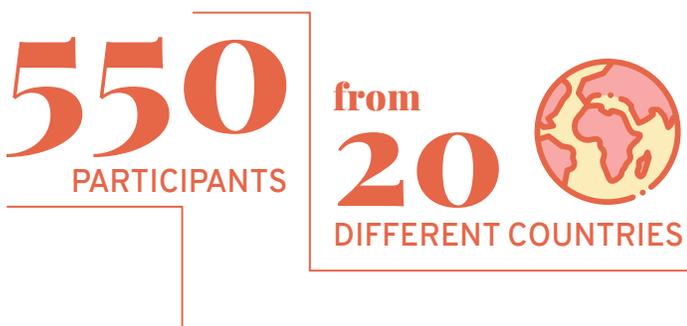
International Coordination

The Action Committee's 2017 *Report on A2J Progress* was included as part of Canada's Voluntary National Review to the United Nations, highlighting progress on the UN's sustainable development goals under Agenda 2030. The Action Committee also worked with the World Justice Project, linking its biannual *Access to Justice Index* with Canada's efforts and promoting Canada's JDGs model.

Educaloi built international connections by hosting the bi-annual Clarity conference in Montreal, with support from Justice Canada, Heritage Canada and the Quebec Ministry of Justice. 550 delegates from around the world came to discuss strategies for plain language legal communication. The Canadian Forum on Civil Justice launched its Community-Based Justice Research project working in Canada, Kenya, Sierra Leone, the U.S.A. and South Africa.

Between Governments

Alberta's Reforming the Family Justice System project worked with other provincial ministries to coordinate social services, health and educational resources to address the causes and impacts of family conflict. It participated in a Cross-Ministerial Working Group to create a model for Integrated Supports and Services in Alberta Schools and worked with organizations focused on the prevention of domestic violence. The Law Society in Manitoba asked the Attorney General to amend its legislation to permit alternative legal service models including provisions for legal technicians, paralegals and legal services provided by civil society.



attended the Clarity Conference in Montreal focused on plain language writing

With Other Professions

BC's Family Justice Innovation Lab worked with organization within and outside the justice system using a human-centered design model to create an experimental approach to experiential learning about the system. The Legal Innovation Zone at Ryerson University held an AI Challenge, working with tech start-ups to apply artificial intelligence innovation to legal processes. The Autonomy through Cyberjustice Technology project was launched, bringing together researchers, academics and community partners like PLEAC from across Canada and internationally.

The Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family worked with researchers and experts in ministries, advocacy bodies and community groups. The Law Society of Nunavut partnered with Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada to focus on unmet legal needs and research into domestic violence in the territory. Medical-legal partnerships continue in Ontario (Pro Bono Ontario) and Saskatchewan (CREATE Justice). Legal Aid Ontario funded a legal aid worker at Six Nations of the Grand River. The fifth *Cultivating the Dialogue* conference was held by the National Self-Represented Litigants Project bringing together self-represented litigants to discuss their experiences with people working in the justice system. The Law Foundation of Ontario funded 66 learning events for intermediaries.

With Indigenous People

Law Societies and Bar Associations are working collaboratively with Indigenous organizations and leaders. Courthouse Libraries in BC established a Truth and Reconciliation Commission Working Group, as did the BC Law Society. The Federation of Law Societies of Canada's national TRC Working Group examined responses to the Calls to Action. The Manitoba Bar Association signed on as a partner to the City of Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord. The BC government worked collaboratively with First Nations to develop Draft Principles to Guide the Province of BC's Relationship with Indigenous People.

Across the Justice System

The Action Committee continues to facilitate national collaboration, inviting people to join its annual pop-up Communities of Practice to share ideas and innovations in other sectors. Within each province and territory, collaboration across the sector expanded over the past

year. A2JBC secured formal endorsement for its Triple Aim Approach from 30 institutions. It also facilitated cross-sector coordination through its Unbundling Working Group, Steering Committee and promotion of its measurement framework in law reform efforts in BC.

30+ formally endorsed A2JBC's cross-sector commitment to access to justice

**ORGANIZATIONS
LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER**

The Public Legal Education Association of Canada connected PLEI organizations in every jurisdiction. The Federation of Law Societies and the Canadian Bar Association both had active Access to Justice Committees and coordinated with their provincial and territorial affiliates. The Canadian Association of Provincial Court Judges and the Superior Court Judges Association provided a platform for judges to share challenges, resources and new approaches. Alberta's Reforming the Family Justice System project worked with Divorce Magazine, participating in its four Divorce Symposiums, to encourage the private sector to offer supports for families.

Access to Justice week, first established by TAG in Ontario in October of 2016, was celebrated in BC, Saskatchewan Ontario, and for the first time in Alberta in 2018. The week of public events, learning symposiums and connection with intermediaries in other professions continues to raise awareness about the relevance of access to justice to all Canadians. BC's events were a collaboration between the province's three law schools, connecting law students with self-represented litigants to build understanding of the challenges people face when dealing with legal issues.

In Quebec a retreat on access to justice brought people from government, courts and professional associations together, as did the annual Justice Summit in BC. Access Pro Bono hosted the 7th annual Pro Bono conference in Vancouver. CREATE Justice hosted 'telephone huddles' to connect people across Saskatchewan and published monthly bulletins of A2J activities. #TalkJustice continued to inform the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society's Race Equity and Gender Equity Committees. Pro Bono Saskatchewan

is one of the collaborating partners on the French Legal Services Working Group.

In BC, a new electronic ticketing initiative brought the Ministry of Attorney General, the Courts, RoadSafetyBC, ICBC, the Ministry of Finance and the RCMP together. The BC Crown's office led a Bail Project with six provincial partners. Alberta's Justice Sector Constellation developed a Strategic Plan for the sector while the two levels of court and the Ministry of Justice made a joint submission in favour of a unified family court. An access to justice committee in Sault Ste Marie focused on local access to justice issues. Legal Aid Ontario continues to partner with Pro Bono Students Canada on the Family Law Project, offering pro bono services in family courts across Ontario.

The Action Committee's Metrics Working Group partnered with Justice Canada and Statistics Canada to develop a legal needs component to national surveying. The new Access to Justice and Law Reform Institute of Nova Scotia was established, based at the Schulich School of Law. Four BC PLEI organizations worked together to establish common metrics and publishing standards, supported by the BC Law Foundation. In Manitoba, the Law Society brought together key stakeholders including the Legal Help Centre, CLEA, the Faculty of Law and the Courts to develop a model for a Library Hub within the courthouse that will provide legal information and limited representation to the public.

»»»»»»» The Provincial / Territorial Collaboratives

- A2JBC - Access to Justice BC
- Access to Justice Committee, Yukon
- Reforming Family Justice System Project, Alberta
- Northwest Territories Access to Justice Committee
- Saskatchewan Access to Justice Network
- Access to Justice Steering Committee, Manitoba
- TAG - The Action Group on Access to Justice, Ontario
- Access to Justice Committee, Nunavut
- Forum québécois sur l'accès à la justice civile et familiale
- Access to Justice Committee, P.E.I.
- Access to Justice and Law Reform Institute of Nova Scotia
- Access to Justice Committee, New Brunswick
- Access to Justice Steering Committee of Newfoundland and Labrador