

## 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; Officer training about access to justice issues in post-secondary programs to integrate legal, health, social and education services.

#### Projects advancing this goal



42

#### Organizations identifying this goal as their primary focus



3

## HIGHLIGHTS

> 80 members

are now part of the National Trusted Intermediaries and Legal Information Network across Canada

24 legal clinics

were offered training by Egale Canada in 18 cities across Canada to build awareness about LGBTQI2S issues in the justice system

20 Éducaloi trainings

on the legislative framework of sexual violence offered for free to staff and student leaders at 46 CEGEPs, 16 universities and 17 private colleges

Braiding Diversity into Justice

by OJEN, connected young marginalized and racialized women with members of the legal sector

## What is JDG#6 About?

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. 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. Lawyers, paralegals and judges continue to expand their practice skills and awareness of access to justice issues. In 2020, these opportunities were a combination of internal training opportunities offered by legal aid societies, judges associations and employers, cross-sectoral conferences and courses.

Over this last year, many legal professionals have also examined their personal and professional roles in pursuing racial justice and reconciliation through formal and individual training.

## Building Legal Capability in Young People

Educational and competitive mock trials exposes thousands of students each year to legal professionals, careers in law and basic legal concepts. Offered by dedicated justice organizations like **Éducaloi**, **Ontario Justice Education Network (OJEN)**, **Level Justice** and the **Justice Education Network**. Members of the Manitoba and Ontario Bar Association volunteer to work with high school students and their teachers, preparing them to present mock trials. These programs happened virtually in 2020.

In Ontario the **OJEN** Charter Challenge is a mock appeal experience for high school students in which students receive a mock judicial decision in which complex Charter issues are raised on appeal. Students all over Ontario form teams and research and write a factum with legal arguments for either side of the arguments.

**Éducaloi** offers 14 legal education workshops to high school classes each year, delivered by one of its over 1600 legal sector volunteers. **Éducaloi** also held a 2nd edition of

its National Legal Education Week virtually, offering a fun way for students to learn about law in society and develop the skills to face simple or complex situations of everyday life, to take thoughtful actions, to develop a critical thinking about legal issues.

**OJEN** developed a new program “Braiding Diversity into Justice”, to connect young marginalized and/or racialized women with members of the legal sector. The **OJEN** Twitter Moot is an online debate for students from across Ontario who tweet their opinions either individually or in teams/classes, engaging in new and complex legal discussions.

## Empowering Trusted Intermediaries

As part of Alberta’s **Justice Constellation**, the **Centre for Public Legal Education Alberta** developed Intermediaries Training for service providers and intermediaries such as community and faith community workers and volunteers outside of the justice sector. The training helps those outside of the justice sector to recognize clients’ legal issues and know where to refer them for assistance.

As a part of Calgary’s poverty reduction strategy, the **Justice Sector Constellation** developed **Poverty and the Law: Expanding Perspectives**, a free, interactive online module for students and working professionals in nursing, education, development, psychology and social work. The free module builds understanding of the issues that arise at the intersection of poverty and the legal system.

The **Ontario Justice Education Network** developed new online delivery methods for training high school teachers to teach law and civics to Ontario high school students. The online delivery ensured that its annual Summer Law Institute remained a highlight of educators’ professional development.

**Éducaloi** offered training on the legislative framework of sexual violence for stakeholders in post-secondary institutions. Offered for free, 20 sessions were offered in 16 regions, building the capability of staff and student leaders at 46 CEGEPs, 16 universities and 17 private colleges.

In Manitoba, the Community Legal Intermediary Training Course offered by **Community Legal Education Association Manitoba** provides training for those in the community who are often called upon to help others with legal problems. In 2020, the program delivered nine virtual presentations reaching more community members than the in-person model.

2020 marked the first full year of meetings for the **National Trusted Intermediaries and Legal Information Network (TILI Network)**, which began as a collaboration between the **Saskatchewan Access to Legal Information Project**, the **National Self-represented Litigants Project** and British Columbia's **LawMatters Program**. The network has over 80 members from 9 jurisdictions across Canada. This year's discussions included COVID-specific sessions.

## **Supporting the Development of Legal Professionals throughout their Careers**

Law school students at the **University of Manitoba** can participate in Externships in their final year of law school based in family law, at the Law Society's Library Hub or in the Community Law Centre or the Legal Help Centre. Students help self-represented litigants and assist with legal aid cases in a range of areas including uncontested divorces, poverty law, summary conviction matters, Highway Traffic Act offences, small claims cases that involve consumer problems and individual disputes with Manitoba Public Insurance.

**Justice Canada** funded **Egale Canada** to develop and deliver the first national Gender Diversity and Inclusion Training Program for 24 Legal Clinics in eighteen cities across all provinces and territories. The training builds awareness and understanding among legal and paralegal professionals about LGBTQI2S issues as they intersect with the justice system. The project includes a bilingual handbook on gender diversity and inclusion geared to legal and paralegal professionals.

The Manitoba Bar Association offered educational resources to the legal community to increase awareness of the legacy of the Indian Residential School System, support anti-racism and anti-bias training and to increase cultural competency of legal professionals working with the Indigenous communities. These programs are part of efforts to remove barriers to Indigenous participation in the Association.

**Éducaloi** set up a Clear Communication 101 course for lawyers in Quebec's workplace health and safety agency with examples drawn from their practice areas. Offered to all staff, the program introduces them to plain language principles and develop skills for interviewing people accessing services.