

# »»»»»»»»»» Goal 6

## Goal 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.

## Build Capability

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 their 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, and cross-sectoral conferences and courses. Professional development opportunities have expanded to include more focus on access to justice and self-represented litigants' experiences.

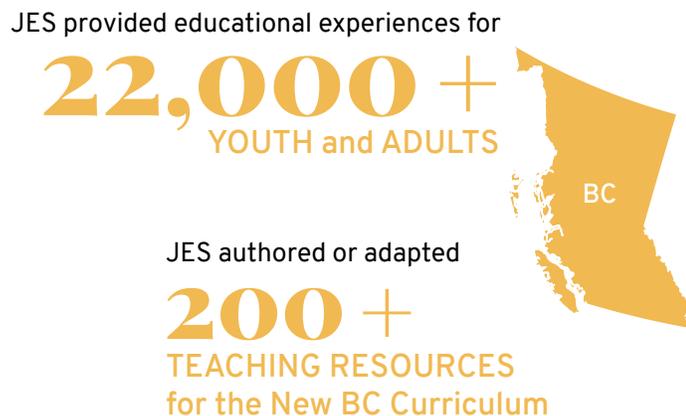
## Children and Youth

Justice education programs in many jurisdictions exposed children and youth to curriculum-linked experiences to learn about the rule of law, legal concepts, careers, and advocacy skills. The Ontario Justice Education Network's programs built legal capability in over 200,000 youth, relying on the efforts of 1200 justice sector professionals. OJEN's provincial mock trial program supported experiential learning in classrooms leading up to 15 regional mock trial tournaments at courthouses. PEI and Newfoundland and Labrador's PLE providers both offered Youth Justice Camps over the summer. Educaloï added a new resource on bullying to the suite of educational resource available on its *educationjuridique.ca* site. Nova Scotia's Barristers' Society welcomed high school students to its Equity and Access Office. The Legal Services Society published graphic novels designed for Indigenous youth. Alberta's CBA branch offered its *My Justice System* resource for high school students. At Thompson Rivers University, high school students toured the law school during BC's A2J Week.

Over 22,000 youth and teachers in BC met with judges of the provincial court as part of the Justice Education Society's program. JES also revised its classroom resources to reflect the new BC curriculum, with over 200 linked resources available online. In Manitoba, CLEA arranged for classroom speakers. Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan revamped its teachers' website and published new school resources on Healthy Relationships and Consent. Law Day events, run by non-profits, courts, law firms and the Canadian Bar Association branches across the country included high school symposiums, essay contents, and careers sessions. Through its grants to community organizations, the Law Foundation of Ontario funded 1670 trainings on law and democracy.

## Law Students

Access to justice themed courses and clinical experiences were offered in most Canadian law schools. The Canadian Forum on Civil Justice's new resources on the costs of civil justice and J.P Boyd's research into the effects of family conflict were incorporated into these courses. Students received academic credit for placements at Manitoba's CLEA, Pro Bono Saskatchewan's Residential Tenancies Panel Program and at the Legal Help Centre of Winnipeg. The BC Provincial Court offered internships to UBC law students while the Manitoba Courts provided a judge shadowing opportunity. Educaloï offered plain language drafting training to law students. The CBA and CREATE Justice released *Learn Law in Place: Experiential Learning Guide for Law Students*. Law Foundations in Ontario and BC funded public interest articling positions.



Law students at University of Manitoba  
Community Law Centre provided assistance to



The Association of Canadian Clinical Legal Education's student legal clinics offered law students an opportunity to apply their knowledge and learn about the reality of litigants' circumstances, supported by Legal Aid, Law Foundations and law schools in each community. Pro Bono Students Canada involved 1600 law students in projects across the country, with 85% of them indicating that they plan to continue pro bono work throughout their legal career. PBSC's Family Law Program, supported by LAO in Ontario and local partners in other provinces, let students learn about the challenges self-represented litigants face while helping with family law forms. An A2J Hackathon kicked off A2J Week in BC. Justice Canada hosted a human rights competition for law students.



Each term, Community Legal Aid and Legal Assistance Windsor offered volunteer and academic credit positions for

**120**  
LAW and  
SOCIAL WORK  
STUDENTS



### Students in Other Disciplines

Training and practicum opportunities for social work, nursing, criminal justice, human justice and education students were offered by the Legal Help Centre in Winnipeg, Pro Bono Saskatchewan and Community Legal Aid and Assistance of Windsor. Alberta's Centre for Public Legal Education offered training to intermediaries. The Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia worked with pro bono IT students to develop two new apps. The Winkler Institute for Dispute Resolution had 19 undergraduate students complete its Legal Information Technology course. IT students answered calls to PLEIS-NS's family law information line.