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November 16, 2017

**Update Report
TAG – The Action Group on Access to Justice**

ACCESS TO JUSTICE WEEK

Partners

Ontario's second annual [Access to Justice Week](#) was held from October 23rd to 27th. This year's program featured five events and nine initiatives that were organized with the following 12 organizations:

- Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice (CIAJ)
- Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO)
- Durham College
- Durham Community Legal Clinic
- Kingston Community Legal Clinic
- L'Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario (AJEFO)
- Legal Aid Ontario
- Ontario Justice Education Network (OJEN)
- Ontario Paralegal Association
- Peacebuilders Canada
- Pratiqo
- University of Ottawa Centre for Law, Technology and Society

Highlights from the week include:

- Keynote presentations from **Ontario's Attorney General Yasir Naqvi** and Chair of the National Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters, **Hon. Thomas A. Cromwell**.
- A [letter of support](#) from **Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin**.
- **MP Marco Mendicino** [delivering a statement in the House of Commons](#).
- Coverage in [CBC](#), [Toronto Star](#), [Metro News](#), [Winnipeg Free Press](#), [Advocate Daily](#), [The Lawyer's Daily](#) and other outlets garnering six million impressions — a measure of reach representing the number of potential viewers, readers or listeners for a given outlet — across print, digital and broadcast media.

New Report: *Millennials, Technology and Access to Justice in Ontario*

Access to Justice Week was launched with the release of a new report *Millennials, Technology and Access to Justice*. Building on last year's report which examined [public perceptions of the justice system](#), this research provides helpful insights and contributes to key questions that access to justice and legal technology advocates may be asking: Are Ontario Millennials ready for disruptive

services in justice? Why would Ontario Millennials seek justice through technology? What are some of the challenges to adoption digital justice initiatives might face?

Highlights from the study include:

- More than half (58%) of Millennials say finding information about even the basics of the Ontario's legal system is a key challenge.
- The most frequent legal challenges experienced by Millennials were employment and work-related matters (16%) and housing law (16%).
- Millennials show keen interest in a range of access to justice initiatives. The most appealing was an online legal database that allows user to search for information about common legal problems, learn from other people's experiences, or find a legal professional in their area. Nine in ten (91%) respondents felt this initiative was a good or very good idea.

Continuing Professional Development

This year's sessions provided 19 hours of free CPD credit about access to justice in Ontario with 5.5 of those hours delivered in French. The total breakdown is as follows:

- 16.5 Professionalism Hours
- 2.5 Substantive Hours

Initiatives and Resources

In addition to events, this year's program featured a wide range of initiatives and resources that engaged stakeholders from across the province. Highlights include:

- A series of blog posts for each day of Access to Justice Week on [Legal Aid Ontario's blog](#).
- A public legal education session about education rights at a public library in Kingston organized in partnership with the Kingston Community Legal Clinic.
- Launching Architects of Justice Students with OJEN, this program has student volunteers from all seven Ontario law schools engaging their communities in conversations about access to justice improvements.
- A Twitter chat hosted by Peacebuilders Canada about youth justice issues.
- Sparking conversation about access to justice innovation on social media with the hashtag [#A2J2017](#).

Events

Most Access to Justice Week events were video recorded and will be made available on [TAG's YouTube](#) channel. Follow-up materials will be made available on [TAG's website](#). To be notified of updates subscribe to [TAG's mailing list](#). A summary of each event is provided below.

[Access to Justice Innovation](#)

Partner: CLEO

October 23

Toronto

This half-day program kicked off Access to Justice Week by profiling innovative, community driven work from across the justice sector. It featured remarks from Ontario's **Attorney General Yasir Naqvi** and National Action Committee on Access to Justice Chair **Hon. Thomas A. Cromwell** profiled work from METRAC, Pro Bono Ontario, Peacebuilders Canada and TAG's Indigenous Child Welfare project which is coordinated with various university and community partners in Ontario, Nova Scotia and Alberta.

[Improving Health, Improving Service: Well Being in the Legal Profession and Access to Justice](#)

Partners: CIAJ, Law Society's Equity Department

October 23

Toronto

Recent studies have indicated that lawyers are at a higher risk for anxiety, substance abuse and depression than those in the general population. This susceptibility begins in law school and eventually has an impact on society by affecting people who rely on lawyers to manage their everyday legal problems. This program featured keynote remarks from University of Toronto Sociologists **Ronit Dinovitzer** and **Jonathan Koltai** as well as a panel discussion with law students.

[The Millennial Influence: Technology, Disruption and Justice](#)

Partners: University of Ottawa Centre for Law, Technology and Society

October 24

Ottawa

Known for doing things differently, Millennials are digital natives that are the next generation of justice system users and legal professionals. What does this mean for access to justice? This panel discussion explores the opportunities and challenges related to how Millennials approach legal technology. It featured the following speakers: **Jane Bailey** (University of Ottawa), **Maciej Czop** (Abacus Data), **Michael Gottheil** (Social Justice Tribunals), **Selena Lucien** (Small Claims Wizard), **Maurizio Romanin** (LawyerDoneDeal Corp) and **Amy Salyzyn** (University of Ottawa).

[Access to Justice in French](#)

Partner: PratiqO

October 25

Toronto

The event will featured presentations from **Justice Paul Rouleau** (Ontario Court of Appeal), **Julie MacFarlane** (University of Windsor) and representatives from various organizations including the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada, Office of the French Language Services Commissioner of Ontario, the Legal Information Centre, the Legal Centre for Ontario Women.

Paralegals and Access to Justice

Partners: Durham College, Durham Community Legal Clinic, Ontario Paralegal Association October 25

Toronto

This session featured a keynote presentation from **Stephanie Bell** (Durham College) about an innovative hub-based initiative that centres on paralegals enhancing access to justice in the Durham region. This was followed by a panel discussion with Paralegal Benchers Cathy Corsetti and Michelle Haigh along with Laurie Marshall and Stephen Parker from the Ontario Paralegal Association.

Include. Inform. Inspire: Community Legal Information in 2017

Partners: OJEN, CLEO

October 26

Toronto

This full day forum was open to community workers and others interested in public legal education and information. Sessions explored legal information and legal advice, the role of trusted intermediaries hands-on learning about clear language, clear design, and other skills. Speakers included Bencher **Malcolm Mercer**, **David Wiseman** (University of Ottawa), **Jessica Reekie** (OJEN), b (CLEO) and **Geordie Dent** (Federation of Metro Tenants Associations).

Saskatchewan's Access to Justice Week

Inspired by TAG, this month also featured Saskatchewan's second annual Access to Justice Week from October 16 to 20. Learn more about their program by visiting the [University of Saskatchewan Faculty of Law website](#).