



April 12, 2017

Update Report TAG – The Action Group on Access to Justice

Reference Group Meeting

A meeting of TAG's Reference Group was held on April 4, 2017. Sabreena Delhon provided an update on the recent meeting of the Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters and attendees discussed an evaluation to inform TAG's fourth year.

Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters Meetings

On March 22, Sabreena Delhon attended the Tools of Innovation, a roundtable organized by the Action Committee on Civil and Family Matters (Action Committee), the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice and the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice in Vancouver. There were approximately 50 people in attendance from across the country.

The program explored how design thinking, continuous improvements and data could advance change in the justice sector. Attendees were introduced to a new Action Committee project funded by the Law Foundation of Ontario that aims to inventory access to justice innovations across Canada. CALIBRATE Solutions has been retained to conduct this work.

The annual meeting of the Action Committee was held from March 23-24 with approximately 60 participants from across the country. The first day of the meeting featured a presentation from the Canadian Forum on Civil Justice with findings from a national online survey of access to justice activities. A draft report on the project was circulated in advance of the meeting and a final one is expected in the coming weeks.

This day also featured presentations from Steering Committee members on possible Action Committee priorities (John Sims, Jerry McHale) and potential steps to establish national access to justice metrics (Richard Fyfe, Jerry McHale, Christine Carron). The afternoon featured a powerful panel on Reconciliation and Indigenous Legal Orders (Scott Robertson, Mark Benton, Justice Crabtree, Jeff Hewitt, Sara Morales).

Day two of the meeting opened with a facilitated discussion with Chief Justice McLachlin that touched on the importance of innovation and how a resolution from the Canadian Judicial Council with aspirational access to justice goals could galvanize efforts. Sabreena Delhon presented TAG's work with librarians on a panel about engagement and also circulated an Impact Report. Fellow panelists included Serena Kullar (Social Worker, BC Women's Hospital) and Emma Halpern (Equity Officer, Nova Scotia Barristers' Society).

The Action Committee received funding from the Law Foundation of Ontario to mount a national access to justice communications campaign and has retained CALIBRATE Solutions for this work. Sarah McCoubrey made a presentation about her research on effective strategic communications campaigns and noted potential access to justice messages that meeting attendees could adopt to advance the Action Committee's Justice Development Goals. These goals, intended to be in line with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, were

originally presented in the 2013 Access to Civil and Family Justice: Roadmap for Change report and are now accessible via this website: <http://www.justicedevelopmentgoals.ca>.

A keynote presentation was given by Lisa Foster, former Director of the US Office for Access to Justice under the Obama Administration. Remarks focused on the importance of pro bono, partnerships with intermediaries and making access to justice relevant to other sectors. Ms. Foster closed by stating that “the opposite of poverty isn’t wealth but justice.” The day concluded with a return to potential Action Committee priorities (John Sims, Jerry McHale). The discussion emphasized the importance of engagement and data.