

Goal 06

Build Capability

Building the capability of the next generation of citizens to anticipate and manage legal problems is a long-term strategy for increasing access to justice. Preparing law students to better meet legal needs is a more immediate strategy. Both of these efforts build capability to identify, anticipate and respond to legal problems.

The 2016 baseline

When completing the 2016 survey, thirty-four organizations had helped with justice education justice in primary or secondary schools with 47% offering lectures, workshops or in-class programs, 38% providing justice related volunteer opportunities, 35% offering written classroom materials, 26% creating curricular material and 21% offering specific courses for students.



1500+

law students across the country provided legal services free of charge to low-income citizens and not-for-profit organizations through Pro Bono Students Canada projects.

Public and High School Students

Justice education in elementary and high schools across the country expose students to legal concepts, processes and professionals while helping them build the skills to deal with legal issues, including knowing when and how to ask for help. Thousands of students visited courthouses every province and territory, watching court in action, meeting lawyers and judges and seeing first-hand what happens in courthouses. Mock trials, classroom resources, school presentations and job shadowing programs promoted skill development and comfort with legal concepts.

2017's specific justice education for children and youth included Youth Justice Summer Camps in P.E.I., Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador. The Canadian Bar Association coordinated Law Day activities across the country, including mock trials in courthouses and symposiums in schools. OJEN offered Ontario students a Mock Appeal for Grade 12 students and a Grade 5 Poster Contest, both focused on Charter concepts. It worked with Nishnawbe Aski Nation youth to prepare radio programs about youth rights with the police. The Law Society of BC held an essay contest for high school students. Teachers received dynamic professional

development in B.C. and at multiple locations across Ontario. The Justice Education Society of BC offered an online academy for teachers and published new Grade 5-7 classroom resources. New classroom resources were published by Educaloi, Saskatchewan's PLEA and OJEN. In Manitoba, Ontario, and Newfoundland lawyers spent time in schools talking about the law.

Law Students

The preparation of the next generation of lawyers and paralegals has also seen new initiatives this past year. These new projects are in addition to the work of law schools, clinical programs and individual professors and students to address access to justice challenges in the classroom. The Faculty of Law in Windsor is offering a credit course in legal coaching, teaching a new skill to future lawyers. The Access to Justice Centre of Excellence at UVIC focused on presentations about the crisis. Saskatchewan law students worked with multi-disciplinary students at the CLASSIC legal clinic, just one example of the experiential learning happening in legal clinic programs across the country. The Legal Help Centre in Winnipeg offered internships and mentoring for law, social work and other post-secondary students.

Pro Bono Students Canada created new need-based project models to involve students in pro bono work at the very start of their legal career. The Law Society of Manitoba supported law students committed to access to justice through its Forgivable Loan Program. OJEN offered four justice education fellowships to law students. The Mapping Her Path project, a collaboration between law schools, legal institutions and the Justice Education Society of BC, provided trainings to law students to ensure that they have the information to

make career decisions. In Alberta, law students were able to take a community-based Poverty Law course. The Winkler Institute ran a Justice Design Project for undergraduate students to design new approaches to legal challenges. In Ontario, The Action Group on Access to Justice offered a symposium on the role of paralegals in advancing access to justice and the National Self Represented Litigants Project held Self-Represented Litigant Awareness Days at five law schools.



New BC curriculum resources for grade 5-7



Law students learn about A2J in legal clinic placements in 8 provinces and can choose A2J-themed courses in either law school or paralegal programs.



Thousands of high school students in every province and territory visited courthouses