



Last updated: October 2022

What is access to justice (A2J)?

- Access to justice is a fundamental principle of our justice system and yet every day many are faced with barriers to getting the help they need. Vulnerable and marginalized populations face additional barriers to accessing justice based on factors like gender, race, culture, age, language, literacy, disability, income support and geographical location.
- Access to justice means that people have access to the information, resources and services necessary to effectively resolve their legal issues.

What is Access to Justice Week?

- Access to Justice Week in Ontario brings together a range of justice sector stakeholders to develop meaningful, public-centred solutions that advance systemic change in the justice system. This week is an opportunity to learn about new initiatives, connect with diverse partners and explore critical access to justice issues from different perspectives.
- Access to Justice Week is recognized across Canada. In 2022, the week's programming in Ontario is supported by:
 - Access to Justice & Law Reform Institute
 - Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters
 - Arab Canadian Lawyers Association
 - l'Association des juristes d'expression française
 - The Advocates' Society
 - Calibrate Solutions
 - Canadian Bar Association
 - Community Legal Education Ontario
 - Connecting Ottawa
 - Federation of Law Societies of Canada
 - Federation of Ontario Law Associations
 - Indigenous Bar Association
 - JusticeTrans
 - Law Commission of Ontario
 - Law Society of Manitoba
 - Law Society of Ontario
 - Law Society of Saskatchewan
 - Legal Aid Ontario
 - Manitoba Bar Association
 - National Self-Represented Litigants Project
 - Ontario Association of Black Paralegals
 - Ontario Justice Education Network
 - Pro Bono Ontario
 - Public Legal Education Association of Canada
 - Roundtable of Legal Diversity Associations
 - Social Security Tribunal of Canada
 - University of Manitoba, Faculty of Law
 - University of Ottawa's Law Practice Program
 - Women's Law Association of Ontario
- Access to Justice Week 2022 is the seventh year that The Action Group on Access to Justice has hosted this event in Ontario.
- Access to Justice Week 2022 features a series of awareness-building virtual programming, exploring the qualitative and quantitative data currently available to the justice sector, what data should be collected, and how data can be effectively used to understand and address the legal needs of Canadians.



Role of the Law Society of Ontario

- The Law Society has a mandate to maintain and advance the cause of justice and to facilitate access to justice for the people of Ontario. Supporting TAG: The Action Group on Access to Justice and Access to Justice Week in Ontario are central to fulfilling that mandate.

Role of TAG: The Action Group on Access to Justice

- The Action Group on Access to Justice (TAG) was established by the Law Society of Ontario in 2015 to facilitate better coordination and collaboration across the justice sector. With support from the Law Society of Ontario and the Law Foundation of Ontario, TAG works with a range of justice stakeholders to develop meaningful, public-centred solutions that advance systemic change.

The Law Society regulates [lawyers and paralegals](#) in Ontario in the public interest. The Law Society has a mandate to protect the public interest, to maintain and to advance the cause of justice and the rule of law, to facilitate access to justice for the people of Ontario and to act in a timely, open and efficient manner.

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