

**Ontario Justice
Education Network**

Annual Report

2006



OJEN | ROEJ
ONTARIO JUSTICE EDUCATION NETWORK
RÉSEAU ONTARIEN D'ÉDUCATION JURIDIQUE



OJEN is supported by a grant from the Law Foundation of Ontario
and is also supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation
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OJEN MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

MISSION STATEMENT

The Ontario Justice Education Network is dedicated to promoting public understanding, education and dialogue to support a responsive and inclusive justice system.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Ontario Justice Education Network are to:

1. Foster public understanding of the justice system and the challenges it faces.
2. Support and encourage the values of a public, transparent and accessible justice system through research and education.
3. Encourage dialogue between justice system participants and the public.
4. Develop, coordinate and deliver public legal education information and programs to students and others.

OJEN PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Executive Director's Report

Courtrooms & Classrooms

OJEN's programs continue to grow in numbers and in variety. In 2006, approximately 50,000 students visited the provinces' courthouses on *Courtrooms & Classroom* visits. An unknown number of additional courthouse visits occurred in courthouses where volunteers continue to deliver *Courtrooms & Classrooms* programming without a designated volunteer responsible for collecting and reporting the number of visits.

Justice sector volunteers complemented courthouse visits with classroom visits and by participation in Law Symposia and Mock Trials developed and delivered by local OJEN committees.

Values of the Justice System

The *Values of the Justice System* resource revised to complement the provincial Grade 10 Civics curriculum was distributed directly to 1500 English schools, 150 French schools and 250 French Immersion programs.

OJEN continues to distribute other educational resources directly to teachers and students through its website and email newsflashes. Four new Landmark Cases were developed and distributed in print version to over 200 teachers. They are available online in French and English. The 2006 Toronto and Ottawa Summer Law Institute materials have also been made available online.

The OJEN website receives approximately 9400 hits each month. On a daily basis, this is an average of 231 visitors, 108 of whom are new visitors and 126 of whom are repeat visitors. There are over 600 teachers subscribed to the OJEN Newsflash mailing list, receiving an email communication from OJEN every other Friday. Two issues of the OJEN Newsletter were distributed to 6500 recipients, in either French or English.

Trillium Programs

OJEN moved into the implementation phase of outreach initiatives funded by the Trillium Foundation. The progress of these projects, delayed last year by staffing changes, has resumed successfully, with a corresponding extension in the project deadlines granted by the Foundation. The development of replication models has begun, ensuring a method for piloted projects to be replicated locally with minimal OJEN staff support. The following programs represent a sample of the outreach initiatives funded by the Trillium Foundation grant.

Outreach Programs

Outreach into the Aboriginal community has progressed well with the launch of the Circuit Court Justice Education Project in partnership with



Youth from TCHC communities participate in Mock Trial activities.

Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services and Legal Aid Ontario. A Sentencing Symposium, held on Manitoulin Island, compared sentencing principles for aboriginal and non-aboriginal offenders. Planning is underway for a holistic educational event at Mnjikaning.

Programming for at-risk youth has been concentrated in the Greater Toronto Area. The social housing justice education model has continued to flourish in partnership with the Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) over the year. This program has been modified to suit the needs of expelled students at the Project 180° school. After an initial pilot, the positive response from students, teachers and lawyers was overwhelming and a second program was planned. A Town Hall session was held at West Toronto Collegiate to facilitate discussions between students and local officers and lawyers on the topic of youth – police relations.

Justice education models have been developed for English as a Second Language (ESL) students. The resources and visual aids are developed in collaboration with ESL teachers and tailored to the vocabulary level of students to ensure adequate integration into the classrooms. Newcomer youth involved with community organizations have also participated in sessions on human rights and diversity.

With the hiring of a bilingual Program Manager, the links with the Francophone community have been strengthened. The first French Summer Law Institute was held and drew teachers from across the province, supported by travel subsidies from the Ministry of Education. A protocol for coordinating French language courthouse visits is being developed. French language mock trials are being promoted, in partnership with AJEFO.

Art in the Courts

The *Art in the Courts* program continues successfully. Again this year, posters created by grade 5 students were framed and distributed to courthouses in each region. Five county law associations sponsored a poster for their local courthouse. Efforts to develop this sponsorship model to allow for broader distribution of Art in the Courts posters are underway. Unveiling events were held in Ottawa, Barrie, Windsor, Sault St. Marie and St. Catharines.



Art in the Courts poster unveiling: Justice Jennifer Blishen, Susheel Gupta and artist Kaitlyn whose poster was selected to hang in the Family Law Information Center at the Ottawa Courthouse.

Chief Justices' Award

The *Chief Justices' Award* was given to Paul Regan. He is responsible for developing the Simcoe-Muskoka Mock Trial Competition over 15 years ago, and for cultivating local support for justice education in that community. The three Chief Justices presented the award at



Paul Regan, 2006 Chief Justices' Award recipient, surrounded by family and friends.

a reception held in conjunction with the Great Debate during Law Week and attended by Paul's family, friends and nominators.

Criminal Code Donations

OJEN received and distributed approximately 1100 Criminal Codes to 225 schools, either by giving individual copies to teachers or class sets to schools. Criminal Codes are being collected directly by OJEN Committees in the Ottawa, London and Brampton courthouses. As a result of changes to the LSUC's professional licensing process, 1000 student copies of the current Criminal Code were distributed in sets of 10 - 15 to 85 schools. Constitutional, family and international law texts and statute collections, as well as copies of the Annual Practice Guide have also been provided to schools.

Adopt-a-School

The pilot of the *Adopt-a-School* partnership with the Toronto District School Board and the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG), was completed in June. Based on the results, the partnership was expanded to 11 schools in the fall of 2006 and an additional 40 MAG lawyers were trained. The Adopt-a-School model is continuing in other communities through OJEN facilitated matches.

Law Day

Law Day continues to be a successful event. OJEN participates as a partner on the Law Day Committee. Last year's events, organized around the theme *Democracy, Diversity, Freedom*, occurred during the week of April 3 - 7, 2006. OJEN focused on enhancing bilingual programming throughout Law Day events.



Chief Justices Lennox, Smith and McMurtry with opening ceremony speakers Alan Borovoy, Counsel for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and Saeed Selvam, Grade 11 student.

General Programming

OJEN has begun to facilitate networking between post-secondary institutions in order to collect information and share best practices about links between the institutions and public secondary schools. OJEN staff



Justice Patricia Hennessy with the Sudbury Mock Trial Tournament participants.

continue to present at various conferences and provide information and resources at teacher professional development programs.

The OJEN Committees continue to deliver *Courtrooms & Classrooms* programming at various levels across the province. Each Committee is made up of justice

sector volunteers and educators in the region. The contributions of these volunteers have been understated as local activities would not be possible without them. The level of activity varies according to the time and resources of the volunteers and the enthusiasm and requests generated in each area. The OJEN office continues to offer centralized support to the Committees through resource development, minor funding, and the promotion of various events. Through a comprehensive evaluation process, the level of activity and needs of each region is being assessed to determine the type of support the provincial office can provide.

A civil society through education and dialogue.

FUTURE PLANNING

OJEN continues to develop the *Courtrooms & Classrooms* program as local Committees plan and facilitate justice education for a greater number of students each year. Additionally, OJEN continues to expand its focus to address the needs of teachers and to promote wider access to justice education. In order to ensure quality programming while also expanding in areas of need, OJEN's Board of Directors adopted a strategic plan to guide the organization based on the following Goals, Strategies and Priorities.

GOALS

1. To continue to develop and promote justice education across Ontario, providing support to regional volunteers, educators and members of the justice sector
2. To cultivate an environment within the justice sector and within the education sector that values and prioritizes justice education as important to civic responsibility, respect for public institutions, professional aspirations, and society-wide involvement in education
3. To promote public legal education as an important *pro bono* responsibility for the legal profession
4. To deliver quality programming that meets the expectations of teachers and justice sector volunteers in both official languages
5. To develop more inclusive programming and resources through outreach to marginalized communities
6. To strengthen the Network by facilitating information and resource sharing

7. To evaluate existing justice education activity, assessing the need for support and program development
8. To preserve and enhance OJEN's positive reputation with educators, the public and the justice sector
9. To achieve organizational stability that allows for continued growth and responsiveness to good ideas without overtaxing staff and Board resources
10. To create a level playing field for educators and students seeking access to justice education

STRATEGIES

OJEN will continue to deliver its *Courtrooms & Classrooms* justice education program focused primarily on high school aged students through schools or other appropriate organizations.

OJEN will use a community development methodology of providing staff and resource assistance to initiate programs, cultivating a strong volunteer base with careful evaluation and replication strategies. Once a program has established community connections and initial success, OJEN staff will move to disengage from direct programming where appropriate and provide centralized support when needed.

To catalyze and/or support collaborative activity across the province, OJEN will bring focus to justice education activity through communication, collaboration with OJEN Network partners and dissemination of classroom resources and best practices.

OJEN will carry out its programming by working with geographic communities or communities of interest to maximize its minimal staff resources and utilize its broad base of justice and education sector volunteers.

OJEN will analyze the results of its Province-wide Survey to develop avenues for greater support of existing OJEN activities as well as long-term plans for growth. This survey will form the first phase of a more comprehensive evaluation framework that will become a regular component of OJEN's mandate.

OJEN's programming with targeted communities, supported by the Trillium Foundation funding, will continue to develop and eventually be integrated into OJEN's existing model of facilitating and supporting local activity.

OJEN will develop its funding, internal organization and staff resources as programming expands to ensure ongoing sustainability.

PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS

- OJEN will have solidified and refined its programs to ensure sustainable justice education activity on local levels across Ontario that is inclusive of the province's diverse communities and furthers the justice education work of Network partners
- OJEN will be the primary place that judges, lawyers, teachers and others turn to for news, opportunities and resources linked to justice system education in Ontario
- Teachers and educators will continue to identify OJEN materials as being reliable and of high quality
- OJEN volunteers will identify their involvement with OJEN programs as a positive aspect of their work or volunteer commitments
- OJEN will have established a communication strategy

- OJEN will have diversified its funding sources
- OJEN will remain financially and administratively stable
- OJEN will have conducted both a survey and a qualitative assessment as part of its Evaluation Framework and will have established a method for ongoing evaluation



OJEN Board Chair Justice Fran Kiteley and Ontario Court of Appeal Justice Eleanore Cronk speak with teachers at a “Courtrooms & Classrooms” presentation held during the Summer Law Institute.

GOVERNANCE

Directors Appointments

As of the Ontario Justice Education Network's Fourth Annual General Meeting held on November 29th 2006, the directors of the Corporation were:

John Kromkamp, *appointee of the Chief Justice of Ontario*

Justice Fran Kiteley, *appointee of the Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice*

Justice Nancy Kastner, *appointee of the Ontario Court of Justice*

Ann Merritt, *appointee of the Deputy Attorney General of Ontario*

Ginette Plourde, *appointee of the Deputy Minister of Education*

Lorne Sossin, *appointee of the Law Foundation of Ontario*

Allan Hux, *appointee of the Ontario History and Social Science Teachers' Association*

Pat Hatt, *appointee of Community Legal Education Ontario*

Marion Boyd, *appointee of the Law Society of Upper Canada*

Sherry Cameron-Stobie, *appointee of Legal Aid Ontario*

Renée Lapointe, *appointee of OJEN*

Angelo Bolotta, *appointee of OJEN*

New Term Appointments

The following Board members were re-appointed for another term:

Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice appointee: Justice Fran Kiteley

Deputy Attorney General of Ontario appointee: Ann Merritt

Ontario History & Social Science Teachers' Association appointee: Allan Hux

Community Legal Education Ontario appointee: Pat Hatt

All four of these Board members have indicated their willingness to sit for a second term. Their appointing organizations have confirmed their appointments in writing.

Officers of the Corporation

Chair: Justice Fran Kiteley

Treasurer: Pat Hatt

Secretary: Vacant

Executive Director: Sarah McCoubrey

The following were appointed signing officers of the Corporation:

John Kromkamp, Pat Hatt, Lorne Sossin, Sherry Cameron-Stobie and Sarah McCoubrey

Since the conclusion of the third annual general meeting, the Board of Directors has met in person four times and has conducted two electronic votes on time-sensitive issues:

February 28, 2006

May 11, 2006

June 23, 2006 (*electronically*)

August 28th

October 17, 2006 (*electronically*)

October 25th

Charitable Status

The Corporation has continued its charitable status.

Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance

The Corporation carries Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance with Trisura Guarantee Insurance to a total limit of \$1,000,000.

Board Standing Committees

Organization & Development Committee

Committee Chair: Justice Fran Kiteley

Marion Boyd

John Kromkamp

Julie Matthews

Elizabeth Goldberg

Programs Committee

Committee Chair: Allan Hux

Angelo Bolotta

Lorne Sossin

Ginette Plourde

Justice Nancy Kastner

Funding Committee

Committee Chair: Pat Hatt

Gail Sinclair

Ann Merritt

Communications Committee

Committee Chair: John Kromkamp

Elise Brunet

Sherry Cameron-Stobie

Audit Committee

Pat Hatt

Marion Boyd

**The Executive Director is an ex-officio member of all Standing Committees, with the Program Managers directly supporting the Communications Committee*

THE NETWORK

Network Participants

As of the Ontario Justice Education Network's Fourth Annual General Meeting, the following are represented on OJEN's Network:

The Chief Justice of Ontario
The Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice
The Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice
The Deputy Attorney General of Ontario
The Deputy Minister of Education
The Chair of the Law Foundation of Ontario
The Treasurer of the Law Society of Upper Canada
The Federal Minister of Justice
The President of the Advocates' Society
The President of the County and District Law Presidents' Association
The President of the Ontario Bar Association
The Chair of Legal Aid Ontario
The President of the Ontario History and Social Science
Teachers' Association
The Executive Director of Community Legal Education Ontario
The Executive Director of the Association of Community Legal Clinics
of Ontario
The Ombudsman of Ontario
The Education Director of the Canadian Civil Liberties Education Trust
The Institute for Catholic Education
The Ontario Principals' Council
The ESL/ELD Resource Group of Ontario
The Executive Director of the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship
Centres
The Executive Director of the Ontario Council of Agencies
Serving Immigrants
The Ontario Council of Law Deans
The President of L'Association des juristes d'expression française
de l'Ontario
The Ontario Business Educators' Association

The Chief Justice of Ontario, the Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice, the Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice, the President of the Advocates' Society, the President of the County and District Law Presidents' Association, and the President of the Ontario Bar Association are all mandated as Network participants by the Corporation's By-law. All other Network participants are appointed by the Board.

The newest Network participant is the Ontario Business Educators' Association, which was invited to join the Network in 2006.

Network Meetings

The Network met on two occasions since the last annual general meeting, March 22, 2006 and October 18, 2006, with high attendance and participation of its members at each. At the March meeting, Network members participated in a discussion of the needs of immigrant youth. At the October network meeting the Deputy Attorney General introduced the initiatives that MAG staff are spearheading around the province. Network members discussed strategies for sharing best practices.

STAFF

Executive Director

Sarah McCoubrey remains the Executive Director of OJEN.

Executive Assistant and Financial Administrator

Nadine Demoe has continued in the position of Executive Assistant and Financial Administrator throughout the year.

Program Managers

Julie Petruzzellis continued as Program Manager, with responsibility for aboriginal youth outreach, until the end of June, 2006, when she took a leave. Meghan Meisters was hired to replace her and continues in the position. Sarah Pole returned from maternity leave in March to the position of Program Manager with responsibility for at-risk youth outreach. Julie Kon Kam King continued on a contract basis until the end of March. She then competed for and was selected for the new Program Manager position with responsibility for immigrant youth outreach. OJEN created a new Program Manager position, in partnership with AJEFO, and hired Danielle Manton, who devotes 50% of her time to OJEN.

OJEN hosted two summer interns from the LAWS program these Grade 10 students, Sarha Mohamud and Sarha Hassan, completed three week placements, assisting with OJEN programming and providing a youth perspective on new initiatives. In September, Michelle Newton, a student in the George Brown Community Worker Diploma program, began an eight-month placement at OJEN during which she spends two days each week, as well as two week-long blocks, assisting generally and focusing on immigrant youth outreach.

Other staffing needs have been filled on a contractual basis. Notably, Dana Dawson was contracted to conduct surveys as part of the provincial quantitative assessment. Renate Sitch has been updating the database on a contract basis.

Space

OJEN continues to inhabit office space provided by the Law Society of Upper Canada at 393 University Avenue, Suite 501. This space has been conducive to the staff changes and reorganization undertaken over the year, facilitating collaboration, committee meetings and internships. In addition to the office space, OJEN has storage space in the 130 Queen Street West LSUC location.

FUNDING

The Law Foundation of Ontario continues to provide core funding for OJEN, supporting the *Courtrooms & Classrooms* program, as well as the administration of the organization. This ongoing support is the result of a very positive relationship with the Law Foundation that is anticipated to continue.

The Trillium Foundation provided three year capacity building funding, which will conclude in September of 2007.

The Law Society of Upper Canada provides significant support of OJEN through its donation of office space, computer and telephone equipment and support, facilities and web hosting space. These contributions have allowed a small organization to operate with relatively few operational difficulties.

Other in-kind support is provided by Network partners, including use of facilities in Osgoode Hall, distribution of educational resources and other in-kind contributions as required.

AUDIT

**ONTARIO JUSTICE EDUCATION NETWORK /
RÉSEAU ONTARIEN D'ÉDUCATION JURIDIQUE**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2006

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members,
Ontario Justice Education Network /
Réseau Ontarien D'Éducation Juridique

We have audited the statement of financial position of Ontario Justice Education Network / Réseau Ontarien D'Éducation Juridique as at March 31, 2006 and the statement of operations and net assets for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at March 31, 2006 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Cowperthwaite Mehta
Chartered Accountants

June 19, 2006
Toronto, Ontario

**ONTARIO JUSTICE EDUCATION NETWORK /
 RÉSEAU ONTARIEN D'ÉDUCATION JURIDIQUE**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT MARCH 31, 2006

	2006	2005
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 54,054	\$ 37,347
Accounts receivable	4,464	3,726
	<u>\$ 58,518</u>	<u>\$ 41,073</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 2,300	\$ 17,897
Deferred revenue (note 3)	51,521	18,399
	<u>53,821</u>	<u>36,296</u>
Net assets		
Unrestricted	<u>4,697</u>	<u>4,777</u>
	<u>\$ 58,518</u>	<u>\$ 41,073</u>

Approved on behalf of the Board:


 _____, Director


 _____, Director

see accompanying notes

**ONTARIO JUSTICE EDUCATION NETWORK /
RÉSEAU ONTARIEN D'ÉDUCATION JURIDIQUE**
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND NET ASSETS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

	2006	2005
REVENUE		
Grants (note 4)	\$ 424,898	\$ 434,531
Printing cost reimbursement	16,742	—
Registration fees	8,394	8,060
Art in the courts/Chief Justices' Award	5,230	2,070
Interest and other	1,461	73
	<u>\$ 456,725</u>	<u>\$ 444,734</u>
EXPENSES		
Personnel	\$ 317,546	\$ 348,639
Meetings, conference and regional network development	43,099	34,831
Publication and production	38,324	35,126
Program reference materials	28,382	7,524
Corporate	6,965	3,346
Office equipment	6,945	3,222
Office and general	6,585	7,026
Organizational development	5,813	1,973
Art in the courts	3,146	2,070
	<u>\$ 456,805</u>	<u>\$ 443,757</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR	\$ (80)	\$ 977
Net assets, beginning of year	4,777	3,800
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 4,697	\$ 4,777

see accompanying notes

**ONTARIO JUSTICE EDUCATION NETWORK /
RÉSEAU ONTARIEN D'ÉDUCATION JURIDIQUE**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2006

1. THE ORGANIZATION

Ontario Justice Education Network / Réseau Ontarien D'Éducation Juridique is a not-for-profit organization incorporated under the Canada Corporations Act without share capital.

The organization is dedicated to promoting public understanding, education and dialogue to support a responsive and inclusive justice system.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies of the organization are in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Outlined below are those policies considered particularly significant:

Revenue Recognition

The organization follows the deferral method of revenue recognition. Under the deferral method, grants received in the year for expenses to be incurred in the following year are recorded as deferred revenue.

Donated materials and services which are normally purchased by the organization are not recorded in the accounts.

Property and equipment

Property and equipment are expensed to operations in the period of purchase.

**ONTARIO JUSTICE EDUCATION NETWORK /
RÉSEAU ONTARIEN D'ÉDUCATION JURIDIQUE**
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2006
3. DEFERRED REVENUE

Deferred revenue is composed of the following:

	2006	2005
The Ontario Trillium Foundation	\$ 44,158	\$ 7,018
The Law Foundation of Ontario	6,053	8,451
Toronto Catholic District School Board	950	nil
Art in the courts	nil	2,930
	<u>51,521</u>	<u>18,399</u>
Deferred revenue, end of year	<u>\$ 51,521</u>	<u>\$ 18,399</u>

Continuity of deferred revenue for the year is as follows:

Deferred revenue, beginning of year	\$ 18,399	\$ 50,000
Add cash received from grants in year	458,020	402,930
Less grants recognized in year (note 4)	(424,898)	(434,531)
	<u>51,521</u>	<u>18,399</u>
Deferred revenue, end of year	<u>\$ 51,521</u>	<u>\$ 18,399</u>

4. GRANTS

Grants recognized in the year were as follows:

	2006	2005
The Law Foundation of Ontario		
Courtroom and Classrooms Program	\$ 387,398	\$ 341,549
The Ontario Trillium Foundation	37,500	92,982
	<u>424,898</u>	<u>434,531</u>
	<u>\$ 424,898</u>	<u>\$ 434,531</u>

5. INCOME TAX STATUS

The organization is exempt from income tax in Canada as a registered charitable organization under the Income Tax Act (Canada).