



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Justice education – providing opportunities for shared learning and collaboration



Jessica Reekie, Executive Director

OJEN's form of public legal education (PLE) goes beyond explaining rights and responsibilities and how the legal system operates; it includes skill-building and providing opportunities to access legal institutions and interact with justice sector professionals in an informal environment. We aim to build legal capability in young people, so that they are better able to deal with law-related issues throughout their lives. But our justice education philosophy also recognizes that our programs are opportunities for shared-learning; the justice sector professionals who volunteer their time to share legal knowledge and expertise with the community, are also there to listen and learn about how the public perceives and experiences the justice system. Strengthening people's legal capabilities through PLE is one important strategy in furthering access to justice. Encouraging justice sector professionals to learn from the lived experiences of diverse communities who encounter the justice system – is another.

This year, we have chosen to profile one initiative from each of our three main areas of program delivery: community-based justice education for youth, school-based justice education for youth, and training and professional development for the adults who work with youth. These areas of activity, combined with our efforts to promote and support the PLE community in Ontario, form the core of our work.

OJEN remains deeply committed to collaboration. Almost every single OJEN program or resource is undertaken in

partnership. We work with educational institutions and teachers to offer student-focused justice education programming in schools. We partner with community organizations across the province to engage young people in after-school programs and those disengaged from the education system. We collaborate with legal institutions and professionals to deliver quality professional development for teachers, youth workers and other trusted intermediaries. We're grateful to our many partners – 355 program partners this year – without whom we could not offer our programs and services.

The same must be said of our amazing volunteer base. As a small not-for-profit with a provincial mandate, we rely on over 1000 active volunteers each year to deliver our justice education initiatives across the province. Lawyers, teachers, judges, police officers – all give of their time and expertise – and for this, we are very thankful. Fourteen local OJEN committees comprised of representatives from the education, legal and community sectors operate in different cities throughout Ontario. These local committees are successful because of their ability to identify and call upon local resources, volunteers and expertise in order to create relevant justice education activities in their communities.

So here's to another year of successful justice education activity in Ontario! (For those of you counting, it's been 15 so far... many thanks to those who supported us with donations in this banner year!)

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How Justice Education Happened in 2017



355 Organizational Partners

collaborated with OJEN to deliver our justice education programs and resources province wide.

14

Local OJEN Committees

engaged

161

Volunteer Committee Members

who worked together on justice education initiatives that responded to local community needs.

1,354

Active Project Volunteers

contributed

6,275

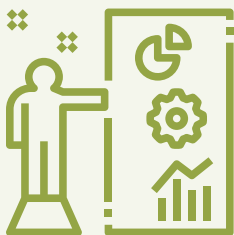
Volunteer Hours

to help deliver justice education programs and develop teaching materials.

95

Ontario Communities

hosted local justice education programs for youth in schools, courthouses and community-based organizations.



7,534 Youth

participated in school or community-based justice education programs

27,000

Students

visited



71

Ontario Courthouses

to observe court in action and meet with judges, lawyers and other justice sector professionals.

900

Adults

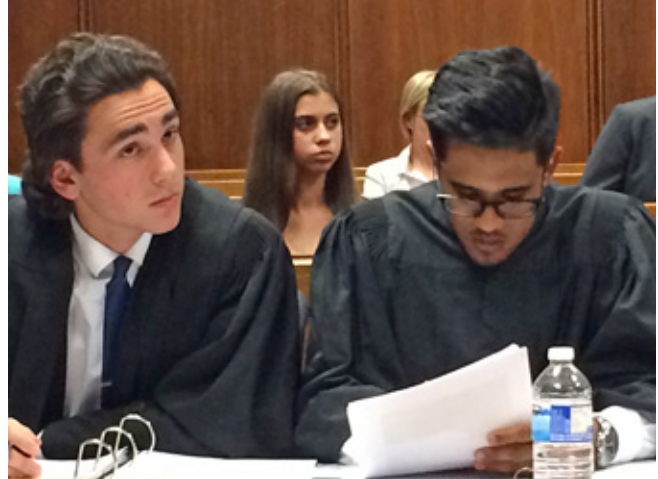
participated in OJEN training and received information & resources to help youth.

OJEN IN THE SCHOOLS

OJEN's Courtrooms & Classrooms activities enhance classroom learning by connecting students with the justice system and the professionals who work within it. Observing court in session, participating in mock trial tournaments, and connecting with justice sector professionals in the classroom – all help take law off the pages of the text book and into real life.



*Law Students from Richview Collegiate visit
361 University Avenue Court House*



OOCMT Toronto mock trial participants

Court Visits Teach About Law in Real Life

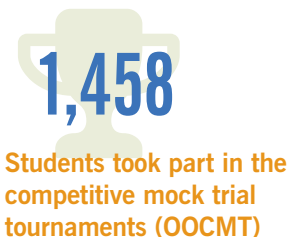
Each year thousands of students pass through the doors of Ontario courthouses to observe the justice system in action. Thanks to the OJEN Courtrooms & Classrooms coordinators at courthouses throughout the province, and the lawyers and judges who volunteer their time to meet with students, over 27,000 Ontario students took part in OJEN's court visit program last year alone.

Of all the Ontario courthouses, Toronto's 361 University Courthouse welcomes more students than any other. Courtrooms & Classrooms Coordinator, Tiffany Shaw, responds to teachers' requests, books courtrooms for "Question and Answer" (Q & A) sessions, recruits judges and Crown lawyers to speak with the students and manages the movement of the visitors. The

courthouse offers 85 Q & A sessions each year. Approximately 40 judges and 40 Crown lawyers participate in the program regularly. This year, she is hoping to include defense lawyers to the roster.

"Students get different things from court visits," Tiffany comments. "It can set some on a new career path. It may not be so profound for others. But having a first positive experience with the justice system is beneficial for everyone."

OJEN is thankful for the ongoing support of and partnership with the Ministry of the Attorney General which allows us to facilitate courthouse visits to 71 courthouses throughout the province of Ontario



OJEN resources and website provide teachers of Law and Civics with the case studies, concepts to teach with credibility. Finding guest speakers or booking field trips are simple. I am teaching Law again, and as textbooks are outdated for the revised curriculum, current cases and resources make the classroom come alive.

*Jan Haskings-Winner
Past-President, Ontario History and Social Science Teachers Association,
OJEN Co-Chair*

OJEN IN THE COMMUNITY

OJEN's outreach initiatives empower diverse youth populations with justice education programs that respond to their unique interests and circumstances. Partnering with community organizations, youth groups and cultural associations, OJEN staff and volunteers meet with young people where they live. Programs emphasize experiential learning, the development of legal capability and offer opportunities to engage with justice sector professionals. Hundreds of lawyers, judges, police officers and other legal professionals volunteer their time to help us deliver programs throughout the province each year.



Police officers and Indigenous youth from the Sudbury area took part in 2 days of relationship building including a drum-making workshop.



Ottawa youth participate in Youth-Police Dialogues

Building Better Relationships between Indigenous Youth and Police in Sudbury

Together with policing and community partners in Sudbury, OJEN designed a Youth-Police Dialogue (YPD) program tailored for a high risk Indigenous youth audience during the spring and summer of 2017. In October, a group of Indigenous youth, police officers, lawyers, Elders and frontline community staff came together over 2 days to problem-share and problem-solve challenging youth-police relationships.

Hosted by the Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre and supported by N'Swakamok Native Friendship Centre, this YPD program involved Indigenous youth 14 to 25 years old. Police officers from the Greater Sudbury Police Service, Ontario Provincial Police, Anishbeek Police Service, Wikwemikong Police Services, and U.C.C.M. Anishnaabe Police Service took part.

In addition to the usual program components – role-playing and scenario-based activities designed to develop knowledge of police practices and youth rights and responsibilities, as well as build communication skills – this adapted YPD included teachings by Indigenous elders, a drum making workshop and a traditional feast. Bonds of friendship began to emerge as youth and police shared their thoughts and stories.

Many officers indicated they would like to see this activity repeated annually so new officers could benefit from the relationship building experience and more young people could be reached. Youth left with greater confidence about their rights and responsibilities with police and a sense their voices had been listened to respectfully.



**Youth in Ottawa,
Sudbury & Thunder
Bay participated in
Youth/Police Dialogues**



**Partnerships
with community
organizations**



**High-risk youth
participated in justice
education programs
in Toronto**

In the fragile relationship between Indigenous peoples and police there can be many misunderstandings. The simple act of sharing our stories allowed us to build bridges, so to speak, in an open forum. The youth and officers were so receptive of each other's stories. It was true cross-cultural learning.

*Paul Pedersen,
Chief of Police, Greater Sudbury Police Service*

OJEN'S TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

When young people look for answers to legal questions they often go to teachers, youth workers and other trusted intermediaries. OJEN's training and professional development activities provide these trusted intermediaries with reliable sources of public legal education, information about legal support/assistance and classroom resources that explain how the legal system operates. Recently, we've expanded our training activities to explore new ways of preparing OJEN justice sector volunteers, like law school students, for justice education program delivery.



Teachers at Toronto's Summer Law Institute take part in Q & A with legal professionals.



Teachers attending the Toronto Summer Law Institute try out the Access to Justice game – a teaching resource demonstrating the challenges of getting help to resolve legal conflicts

OJEN's Justice Education Fellowships

This year OJEN launched a new Justice Education Fellowship program. Six students were selected from five Ontario law schools to organize local justice education initiatives. Before the start of the fall term, all six Fellows met in Toronto with OJEN staff for an intensive weekend of skill development in public legal education, workshop facilitation, youth engagement and project planning.

With ongoing supervision and support from OJEN staff, each Fellow delivered a minimum of three justice education projects, partnering with schools and community organizations in different parts of the province. They also contributed to other programming organized by local OJEN committees and OJEN staff in their communities.

This year, Fellow-initiated projects ranged from an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program for Ottawa high school students and a cyberbullying workshop for Indigenous youth in Tyendinaga, to human rights and employment law workshops for Syrian refugees and newcomer youth in Kingston, to mention just a few.

Justice Education Fellowships allow OJEN to expand the reach of our activities, while developing a core group of new lawyers with good training, experience and appreciation for public legal education. We hope that this experience at the beginning of their career will have long-term impacts on their ability to help their clients and their commitment to ensuring a more accessible justice system.



**Law students
received
PLE training**



**Adults who work
with youth received
training or PD**

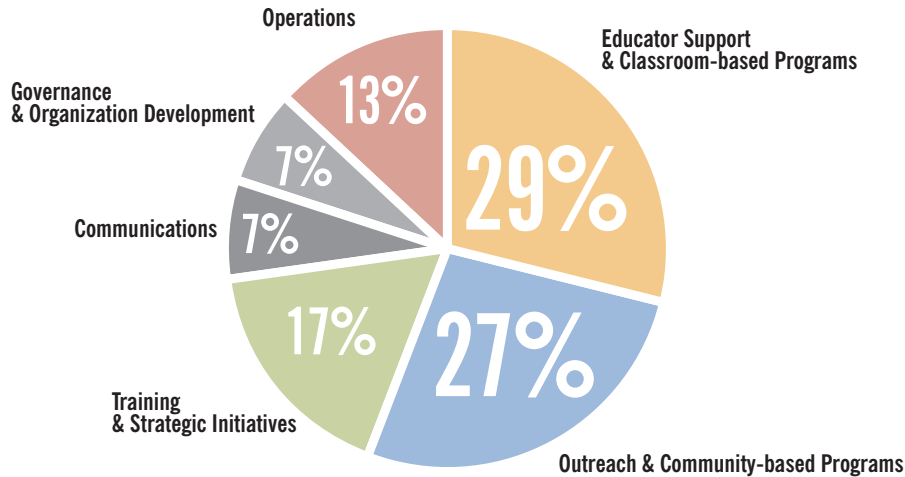


**Teachers attended Law
Institutes in Toronto,
Thunder Bay & Windsor**

The Justice Education Fellowship offers more than an opportunity to provide workshops on legal issues and concepts to youth in Ontario. This Fellowship has prepared me to enter the legal profession as an informed advocate with the ability to engage my audience in complex discussions about the justice system. In my practice I will employ these same skills when I inform clients on how the law interacts with their life. As I approach my graduation this spring, I am grateful for having the opportunity to engage with my community as the University of Ottawa OJEN Fellow.

*Laura Anne Epplett,
University of Ottawa OJEN Fellow*

BUDGET 2017



AREA OF OJEN ACTIVITY	EXPENSE	%
Educator Support & Classroom-based Programs	\$ 317,222	28.92
Outreach & Community-based Programs	300,561	27.4
Training & Strategic Initiatives	190,203	17.34
Communications	76,990	7.02
Governance & Organizational Development	71,416	6.51
Operations	140,541	12.81
TOTAL	\$ 1,096,933	100.00

FUNDERS

OJEN is funded by grants from:



Law Society
of Ontario | Barreau
de l'Ontario



Government
of Canada | Gouvernement
du Canada



ONTARIO BAR ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION DU BARREAU DE L'ONTARIO
A Branch of the Canadian Bar Association
Une division de l'Association du Barreau canadien



OJEN is grateful for the generosity of the many individuals who make donations in support of our justice education activities. Special thanks to –

The Herbert family, The Paterson Smith Foundation, and individual donors to Tate's Tableaux,

The Honourable Roy R. McMurtry for donating one of his original oil paintings and to the individuals and businesses who made donations in kind to our 15th Anniversary Silent Auction.

Donate online through Canada Helps or send a cheque to

OJEN

180 Dundas Street W., Suite 505, Toronto, ON M5G 1Z8

Charitable registration number: 85548 9134 RR0001



OJEN's goal to promote understanding, education and dialogue to support a responsible and inclusive legal system would be impossible without the support and guidance of our loyal and varied Network partners. The value of our collaborative efforts is evidenced by the overwhelmingly positive feedback given by the thousands of people served by the wide array of legal education programs developed and delivered by OJEN staff. It's truly a pleasure to be part of such an enthusiastic team.

*Justice Katrina Mulligan,
Ontario Court of Justice, OJEN Co-Chair*

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The Deputy Minister of Education

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The Treasurer of the Law Society of Ontario

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The Executive Director of the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants

Representative of the Ontario Council of Law Deans

The President of the Association of French Speaking Jurists of Ontario (AJEFO)

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