



Last updated: October 2023

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 2023, the week's programming in Ontario is supported by:
 - Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters
 - l'Association des juristes d'expression française
 - Calibrate Solutions
 - Canadian Bar Association
 - CliquezJustice.ca
 - Community Legal Education Ontario
 - Connecting Ottawa
 - Federation of Ontario Law Associations
 - JusticeTrans
 - Law Commission of Ontario
 - Law Society of Manitoba
 - Law Society of Ontario
 - Law Society of Saskatchewan
 - Legal Aid Ontario
 - Level Justice
 - Manitoba Bar Association
 - Ministry of Attorney General
 - National Self-Represented Litigants Project
 - Ontario Association of Black Paralegals
 - Ontario Justice Education Network
 - Ontario Legal Information Centre
 - Pro Bono Ontario
 - Public Legal Education Association of Canada
 - University of Manitoba, Faculty of Law
 - University of Ottawa's Law Practice Program
 - University of Saskatchewan
 - Women's Law Association of Ontario.
- Access to Justice Week 2023 is the eighth year that The Action Group on Access to Justice has hosted this event in Ontario.
- Programming is free and open to the public. For legal professionals, many programs are accredited for CPD hours.
- The theme for this year's A2J Week focuses on the [10th Anniversary of Canada's Justice Development Goals](#).
- Access to Justice Week 2023 features a series of awareness-building virtual programming, exploring the progress we have made in advancing access to justice and assessing the



work that lies ahead. Importantly, this week is an opportunity to create meaningful commitments and actions plans for the next 10 years to continue challenging systemic barriers, to innovate, and to ensure a justice, effective and accessible justice system for all.

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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