

JUSTICE

for CHILDREN & YOUTH

THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



JUSTICE
FOR CHILDREN
AND YOUTH

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS.

Children's rights protect the child as a human being.

Children's rights recognize the fundamental guarantees to all human beings including equality and the right to dignity through the protection of physical and mental integrity.

Children's rights are specifically adapted to take into account the child's inherent vulnerability, age and maturity.

Children's rights require adults to be duty bearers to safe guard these rights.

Children's rights prioritize the right of children to be heard and to be active participants in the promotion and protection of their rights and personal agency.

JUSTICE
FOR CHILDREN
AND YOUTH

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ABOUT Us

JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH (JFCY)

JFCY is a non-profit community legal aid clinic that specializes in protecting the rights of young people facing conflicts with the legal, education, social service or mental health systems. JFCY was formally incorporated as the Canadian Foundation for Children Youth and the Law in 1978, and has operated as Justice for Children and Youth since 1990. This year we celebrate our 44th anniversary.

JFCY'S VISION is to advance and protect the legal rights and dignity of children and youth.

JFCY'S MISSION is provide child-centred legal services that enhance justice and support inclusion for vulnerable children and youth through:

- Specialized legal expertise
- Leadership on systemic law reform and advocacy
- Legal education and outreach

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Rishma Bhimji, Vice-Chair
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Anne Irwin

Mary Birdsell

Message from the Chair and Executive Director

2022 has been a year of continued growth and evolution at JFCY. We have almost doubled our staff compliment in the last two years, having added 6 new people to our team this year. We are now 19 people providing enhanced legal services to children and young people across Ontario, with increased capacity to assist those who have been victimized by sexual, family and intimate partner violence, and to those who live with precarious or no immigration status. We are thrilled to have a social support person as a full-time staff member in order to be able to provide more specialized care and support to our clients.

As always, JFCY is dedicated to representing the highest standards of legal expertise and demonstrating best practice in the provision of services to children and youth who are facing significant adversity and struggling within systems—often including systems that are supposed to be helping them. The demand for our services continues to stretch our resources, and we continue, with the layered complexities imposed by the global pandemic, to engage in creative solutions that bring meaningful improvements for our clients.

The funding to support our expanded resources to help young people comes from a variety of sources beyond our core funding from Legal Aid Ontario. We continue to make considerable efforts to fundraise to ensure stability and security for these services, as you read further you will learn more about our services and our funders. On behalf of our Board of Directors and our staff, we thank them all, as well as the clinic's supporters who have attended our events and contributed to our fundraising campaigns.

It can be difficult to describe the myriad ways in which legal services and access to a lawyer – access to justice – can intervene to disrupt the adverse and traumatic experiences faced by JFCY clients. And people are sometimes unaware that the justice system and other social and support systems themselves are often traumatizing and destabilizing. Accessing JFCY's services is often the first step children and young people are able to take toward resolving the distressing circumstances in their lives. We hope that this Report will assist in building understanding of the need for and opportunities created by our services.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to our outgoing Board member Sapna Goel, who has resigned after many dedicated years of service. Sapna is a communications, marketing and branding professional, and has been a great asset to the Board. We thank her for her excellent service and wish her well.

We also want to take this opportunity to publicly thank each of our dedicated Board members for their contributions to JFCY, and on behalf of the Board, we thank each of our fabulous staff: Emily, Jane, Claire, Allison, Candice, Katherine, Jin, Kaffie, Alisha, Aisha, Athena, Lisa, Sarah, Gnanu, Dennique, Miriam, Talayeh, Barb, and our dedicated students, (as well as Samira and Karien, currently on leave). You are an extraordinary group of people, and your talent, skill and compassion inspire us all.

Mary Birdsell,
Executive Director

Anne Irwin,
Board Chair

Athena Caldarola, Law Clerk and Community Development Worker; **Dennique Lavia**: CASA Research Assistant; **Sarah Pole**, CASA Director; **Talayeh Shomali**, CASA EEA Project Director; **Lisa Salenga**, Administrative Assistant; **Allison Williams**, Staff Lawyer; **Candice Suter**, Staff Lawyer; **Gnanu Krishnapillai**, CASA Outreach Manager; **Jin Chien**, Staff Lawyer; **Claire Millgate**, SYLS Lawyer; **Jane Stewart**, Staff Lawyer; **Aisha Green**, Operations Manager; **Emily Chan**, Community Development Lawyer; **Katherine Long**, Staff Lawyer; **Alisha Riley**, Client Support Worker; **Kaffie Abdirashid**, Education Advocate; **Miriam Roger**, Your Way Forward Program Coordinator; **Mary Birdsell**, Executive Director.
 On leave: **Karien Gibson**, Operations/Office Manager; **Samira Ahmed**, Staff Lawyer. Not pictured: **Barb Hopkinson**, Receptionist.



LISA



DENNIQUE



SARAH



TALAYEH



CLAIRE



ATHENA



CANDICE



JIN



GNANU



AISHA



ALLISON



JANE



SAMIRA



EMILY



KATHERINE



ALISHA



MIRIAM



MARY



KAFFIE

OUR Team

OVERVIEW of JFCY Work

JFCY provides legal services – information, advice and representation – to children and young people in Ontario on a wide variety of legal issues. We provide trauma-informed legal services and have a strengths-based, multi-disciplinary approach to problem solving. This approach to our service delivery involves an intentional recognition of the whole client and their circumstances – personal, social, legal, and intersectional issues.

We also engage in systemic work – we promote a child rights respecting legal system and society, where children and young people are taken seriously, where their voices are heard and their dignity is honoured.

We engage in systemic test case litigation where outcomes in the courts, tribunals, and with decision-makers will influence children’s rights beyond the individual case.

We have specialized programs that focus on vulnerable young people often where there are intersections with systemic discrimination and social exclusion. We engage in public legal education, law reform and community development activities, with young people, adult supporters, professionals, academics, government, and community-based organizations.

In recent years as the COVID-19 global pandemic has significantly impacted young people in myriad ways, we have continued to offer our full range of services.

DIRECT CLIENT SERVICES

Many of our individual clients have multiple legal issues and we are able to help with all of them as part of our intersectional services. We provide our most comprehensive services to those facing complex personal, social, and legal issues. This is an important part of our unique approach to our clients who face situations that create overlapping vulnerabilities.

We take time to understand what our clients’ lived experience looks like – we meet them where they are, follow what they identify as their priorities and concerns, and begin our work there. We know that our clients are underserved – we seek to build bridges, and help our clients access the community and the institutional and organizational services they need, while fighting systems that diminish and devalue the rights and protections our clients deserve.

In the period October 2021 through October 2022, **we offered assistance to 1128 individual young people on 1373 individual legal matters.** As the pandemic evolves, it continues to impact children and young people in both predictable and unexpected ways, including in the legal services world. We continue to see some changes in the nature of the legal issues our clients are facing. During the course of 2021-2022 we have obtained increased resources to support increased service delivery.

OVERVIEW OF JFCY WORK

Our clients' experiences and situations are extremely varied. Here are some brief examples of the clients JFCY has worked with this year:

CLIENT STORIES

Over the last three years we have been working with a young person who was referred to JFCY by a youth mental health court worker when she was 16 years old. She has complex personal, legal, and social circumstances. She arrived in Canada as an "unaccompanied minor" after participating in survival sex work and struggling with drug and alcohol use in her home country. Her relationship with the adult she came to live with broke down quickly and she found herself homeless. She continued to struggle with substance use, as she lived with significant adversity – childhood trauma and neglect, loneliness, isolation and culture shock. She faced numerous legal issues including youth criminal justice, immigration, child protection, health care, privacy and victimization. We assisted her with these issues, helped her to get ID, open a bank account, and explore housing options as she turned 18. We continue to support her with some ongoing legal issues, and with accessing supports, services, community connections, and planning for her future.

A young person came to us after experiencing significant turmoil at home. The young person is 22 years old, identifies as LGBTQ2S+ and is currently living in a homeless youth shelter – they left home after experiencing family violence and abusive discrimination at home. We are working on confirming their immigration status as the child of a Canadian citizen, which also involves related advocacy in family court. Ontario Works (OW) initially denied their application on the grounds of immigration status, and we were successful in helping them secure OW income support through an Internal Review process.

JFCY represented a 15 year old who was a victim witness in a criminal case. The young person had experienced significant abuse in their family, and there was a criminal trial as a result. There were complex legal and practical issues about the way the young person was being expected to testify in the criminal trial. We were able to advocate for the young person to get access to the appropriate "testimonial aids" in the court room, to ensure that the Crown attorney and the court process addressed this young person's developmental needs, and that a trauma-informed approach that protected the young person's dignity was in place during their testimony.

JFCY was able to advocate alongside a 14 year old student who has Autism Spectrum Disorder, and his parents, so that he could return to school. He had been given an "involuntary transfer" for behavior related to his disability. We were able to advocate with the school and the school board to ensure that his Individualized Education Plan was properly updated, that his special education needs were adequately understood, and that he received the in-school supports that he needed.

A 16 year old came to JFCY because he was experiencing homelessness and wanted help with his youth criminal justice matters. The young person was not well connected in his community, had been abandoned by his family, and had nowhere to turn. He spent some time living in a tent. We are representing him in youth criminal court, and we assisted him in securing temporary emergency shelter. We are also advocating on his behalf to access children's aid society support, but he is being denied because the children's aid society (CAS) has determined that he is not at risk or in need of protection. When he was discharged from the homeless shelter (after being there beyond the maximum allowable time period of 30 days) and with no intervention from CAS, the aunt of a friend offered him a place to stay after hearing of the story in the community. He was then able to return to high school full time.

OVERVIEW OF JFCY WORK

CLIENT STORIES

Over the past few years we have been assisting a young person who is in the extended care of a children's aid society. This young person has significant mental health and developmental needs, and is living quite far away from their home community. They are happy with their placement, have good connections with service providers, and are being well accommodated at school. While all of these aspects of stability are supportive to this young person's well being, there are some things that are complicated and possibly unsure about their future with the children's aid society (CAS). JFCY has been able to support this young person to have their voice heard with the CAS, to discuss and help to explain the legal issues that arise, and support the young person to navigate communication about their concerns and worries.

A young person with complex mental health needs, including Autism Spectrum Disorder, contacted JFCY for assistance regarding multiple youth criminal justice charges and for help overcoming barriers accessing supportive services in the community to address his mental health and disability-related needs. In the course of our representation of him, he accrued more charges, some arising from incidents at school, resulting in a possible expulsion and jeopardizing a supportive school placement. With the support of the youth mental health court worker and as a result of JFCY's advocacy, the young person is working on developing a treatment plan that would both address his complex needs and resolve his charges, and an expulsion was avoided.

JFCY was initially contacted by a 16-year-old young person seeking assistance in the context of contentious and lengthy family litigation between her parents and in particular, her desire to terminate family therapy and to develop a plan regarding parenting time that accorded with her own self-identified needs and best interests. JFCY advocated for her both with counsel and with the court, and assisted her to navigate these issues with her parent while the matter remains before the court. Her 12-year-old sister subsequently contacted JFCY for her own assistance, particularly with respect to her desire to obtain individual counselling from a preferred provider over the objections of a parent, engaging her rights under the Health Care Consent Act. JFCY brought a motion to represent both young people in order to ensure their views will be before the court and their interests protected when the matter comes to trial, and succeeded in arguing that the younger sibling was entitled to access the mental health services of her choice, in a context of trust, privacy, and confidentiality.



OVERVIEW OF JFCY WORK

CLIENT STORIES

A 16 year old came to JFCY for help securing their own immigration status, and for help in reconnecting with their family who is still abroad. This young person arrived in Canada alone, as an "unaccompanied minor". They fled their country of origin in urgent circumstances during a mass evacuation. We were able assist them to successfully obtain permanent residence (the first step to immigration security) for the young person. We also explored the legal options to assist our client in re-uniting with their parents and siblings here in Canada. This was an agonizing process for our client. The legal issues at play for an unaccompanied minor to support family to come to Canada are complex. With the assistance of the children's aid society we have been able to secure an independent legal consultation for the family in order for them to make their own immigration claim.

A 16 year old left her abusive home and went to a friend's house. Her attempts to self-advocate for financial supports from a children's aid society and Ontario Works (OW) income support were unsuccessful. She was eventually referred to JFCY by another lawyer. We had to advocate persistently to support the young person and to have their voice taken seriously. We were able to assist the young person to access OW. We continue to support the young person in addressing issues that commonly arise when home is not a safe place to be – including sibling access and financial coverage for dental procedures.

A young person who was precariously housed after having been exploited in the sex trade (often called human trafficking) came to JFCY for assistance with serious financial consequences of having been trafficked. When she was referred to JFCY by a community partner organization, she owed over \$30,000 for driving tickets. She could not renew her driver's license, or get an Ontario ID card (a basic piece of identification), because of these fines. At the time, the young person did not know about her traffic court dates because of the total control her trafficker had over her life, movements and even her mailbox. She was convicted in her absence of these tickets and given fines, which went unpaid for years. JFCY brought three appeals, in different parts of the province. All were successful. The young person has been relieved of these debts and will be able to renew her driver's license, and get other government ID.

A 15 year old who is facing youth criminal justice charges sought the assistance of JFCY's Education Advocate to help him re-engage in school after being absent from school for many months. We assisted him to get re-enrolled, but he found that he was so agitated that he would be desperate to leave after being there for only an hour. We advocated with the school for a schedule that accommodated his mental health. His schedule was adapted so that he could attend school for half of the day with regular breaks and exercise built-in. With this change he is able to engage in school, meet the behavioural expectations of the classroom, and find healthier ways of communicating and resolving conflict.

A 16 year old who had a difficult and unstable home life has been out of school for a long period of time, and did not have many credits. The young person was working full-time to meet their basic needs and did not want to return to a typical school environment. We were able to explore non-traditional educational avenues and programming and assist them to enroll in school with a set up that met their complex needs.

STATISTICS

TOTAL INTAKES TO THE OFFICE: 1587

LEGAL SERVICES TO: 1128 INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE WITH 1373 MATTERS

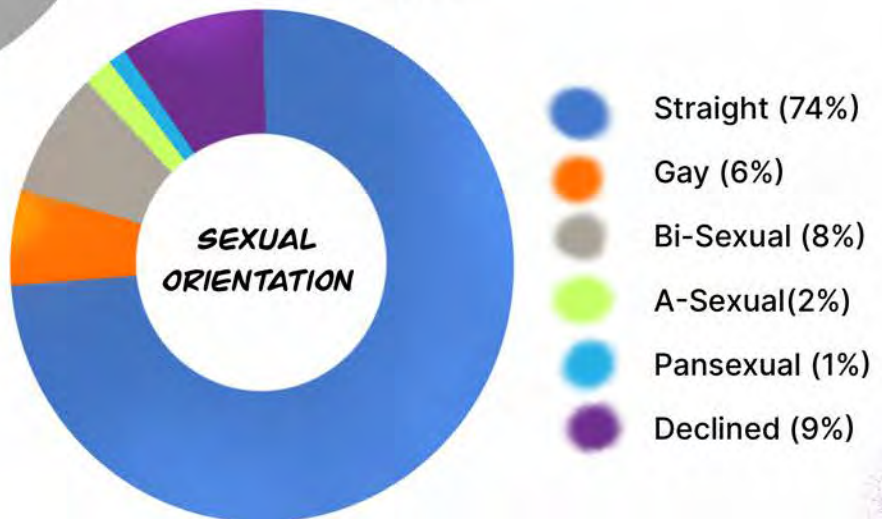
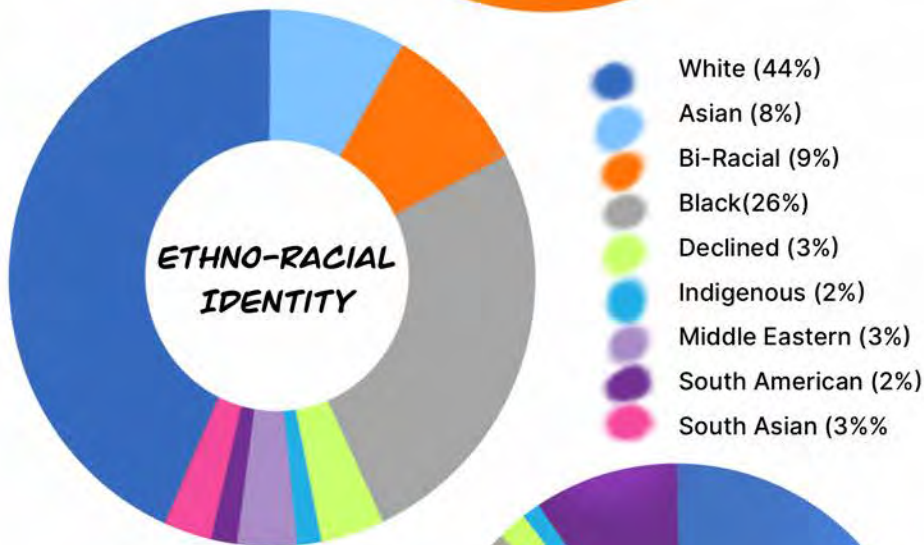
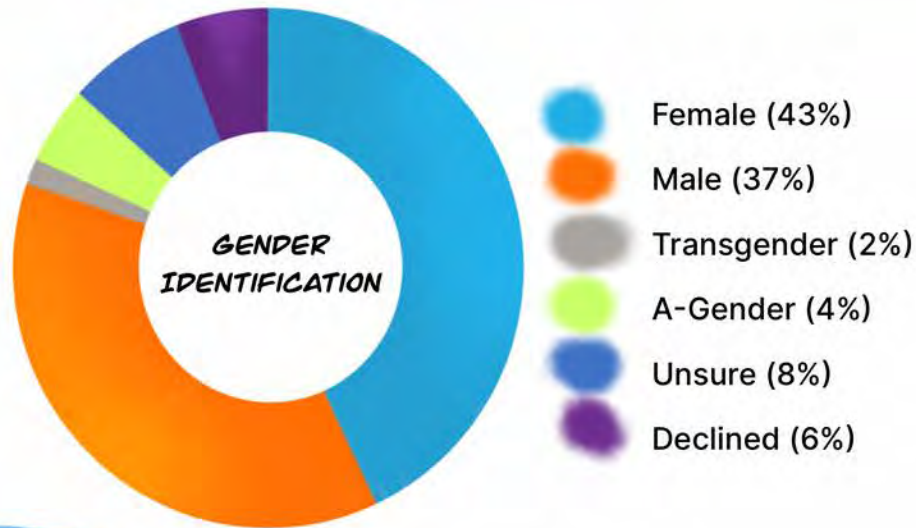
REFERRALS MADE TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS: 214

1373 CASES WENT TO JFCY LAWYERS

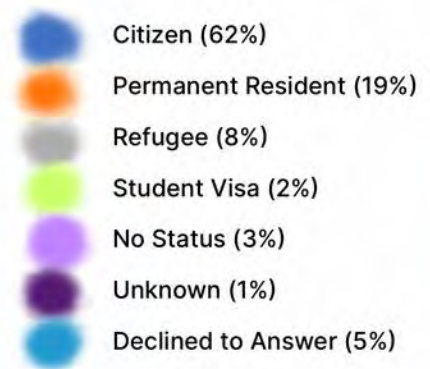
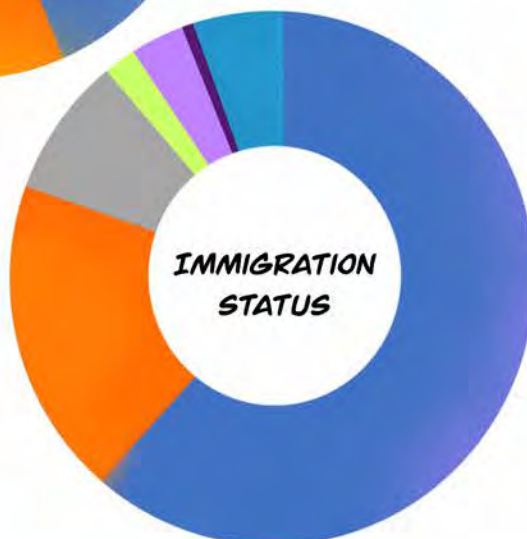
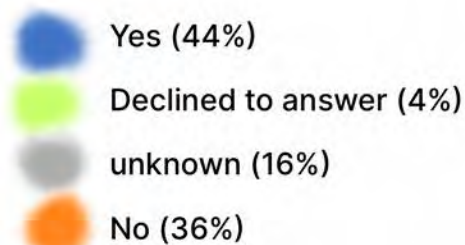
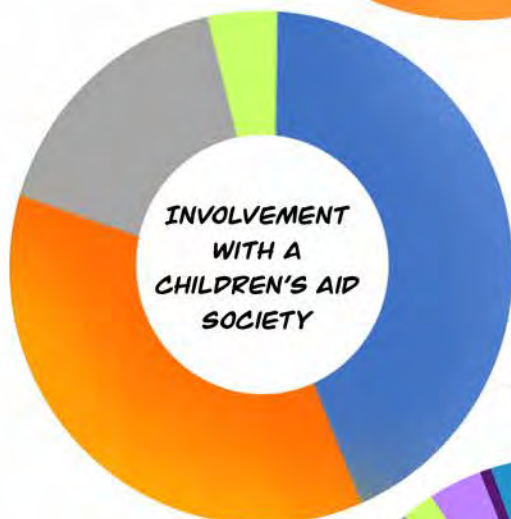
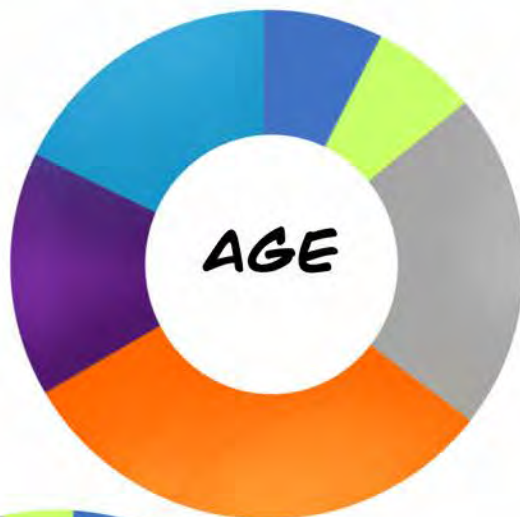
AREA OF LAW BREAKDOWN:

Type of Matter	Number of Intakes	% of Intakes
Administrative	52	4%
Child Welfare	44	3%
Criminal	274	20%
Education	397	29%
Employment	14	1%
Family	103	7%
Health Care	30	2%
Housing	49	4%
Human Rights	4	1%
Immigration and Refugee	129	8%
Income Maintenance	82	6%
Leaving Home	119	8%
Policing	3	1%
Privacy	17	1%
Violence	51	4%
Wills and Estates	5	1%

DEMOGRAPHIC Information



DEMOGRAPHIC Information



NEW Client Support

SOCIAL SUPPORT FOR OUR CLIENTS

Introducing JFCY's Client Support Worker

With the generous support of The Bulmash-Siegel Foundation, the Aubrey and Marla Dan Foundation, and the individual contribution of David Chernos and Lesley Bruce, we have been able to expand our direct client services to include social support to our clients.



In April 2022 we welcomed Alisha Riley to the JFCY team, in the newly created position of Client Support Worker. For the past decade, Alisha has been working in the youth homelessness and harm reduction sectors, providing supports, guidance and case management services to young people across the GTA. We are incredibly lucky to have Alisha's deep experience, knowledge, and wisdom as we have developed this new role and continue to learn how to best integrate her support into our client service delivery.

Alisha has experienced first-hand how institutions and services, including those set up to help young people facing adversity, are difficult to navigate, even for service providers let alone for the young people who need supports. With Alisha on board, JFCY's legal services team is able to be that much more effective, and that much more comprehensive as we advocate and assist children and young people to navigate these systems in order to meet their needs. The Client Support Worker role is already an essential aspect of our holistic, wraparound services for young people.

Alisha began immediately supporting individual young people, and in her first six months has provided comprehensive and ongoing support, case management, crisis intervention, and direct assistance in accessing community-based supports and services to over 30 young people. She has assisted many more indirectly by supporting other JFCY staff to connect with services for their clients.

The young people Alisha is working with have multiple legal issues, and have complex and dynamic needs – they require, and deserve ongoing support. They need active assistance to connect with mental health supports, housing, income supports, social assistance, safe employment, replacing or applying for identification, and crisis intervention – all in both practical ways and emotionally supportive ways. Practical and task-oriented supports are crucial, but so too are the broad range of other kinds of supports. In Alisha's words:

"... there is so much more to it, being a cheerleader, and giving unwavering moral support; and often being a bit of a personal assistant, keeping track of important dates, tasks, and appointments while working towards challenging but fundamental goals, like wellness, stability, housing. I think the best part of my role is exploring young people's passions, interests, hobbies, and trying to find creative solutions and opportunities for them to have fun, and to support folks in cultivating the space in their lives to prioritize joy."

Indeed, these are the very things that are so often left out when young people face the kinds of adversity that bring them to JFCY. We are thrilled to be more able to add these life changing elements to our whole-client service delivery

TEST CASE Litigation

JFCY engages in test case litigation to try and ensure that courts' decisions respect the legal rights and interests of children, are in compliance with child and youth rights under the Charter, and that due consideration is given to the best interests the child, the participation and voice of the child and other rights as provided for in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Due to the pandemic, some matters are moving through the courts more slowly than they otherwise might. Some cases we highlighted in 2021 are still pending.

Daria Kandaharian by her Litigation Guardian v York Catholic District School Board, Superior Court of Justice, Divisional Court Branch, 2022 ONSC 4969 715/21.

JFCY acted as co-counsel with Torys LLP, representing a high school student who challenged her school board's policy requiring its student trustees be Roman Catholic. In their October 6, 2022 decision, the Court found that the school board policy breached the Charter of Rights and Freedoms section that protects individuals from discrimination on a enumerated grounds including religion (s. 15(1)), and was not a reasonable limit that could be justified (under s. 1 of the Charter). The policy was also found to be ultra vires or outside of the jurisdiction granted to the school board under the Education Act. JFCY is hopeful that this decision will be a precedent that motivates other Catholic school boards in the province with similar policies to pre-emptively review and change their policies in accordance with the court's conclusions and in promotion of children's rights.

R v NM, Ontario Court of Justice (OCJ), Brampton 00766 (oral decision on March 31, 2022). Judicial review / application for certiorari of OCJ decision before the Superior Court of Justice (SCJ) (oral decision on April 6, 2022). SCJ decision currently on appeal to the Court of Appeal for Ontario (no court file number yet assigned).

In the context of a homicide trial of a young adult in the Superior Court of Justice, the Crown had in its possession the youth record of the accused, which it had obtained during the statutory access period provided for under section 119 of the Youth Criminal Justice Act. The access period had expired by the time trial commenced, meaning that the records could only be accessed and disclosed by meeting a stringent statutory test under section 123 of the YCJA and that the records ought to have been destroyed at the close of the access period by the RCMP.

The Crown sought to enter the youth record into evidence and cross-examine the accused on them for the limited purpose of undermining his credibility, and brought an application before the youth court for authorization to access and disclose the records. Defence counsel opposed the request, and JFCY intervened in the youth court application in order to provide submissions on the meaning and proper operation of the privacy provisions of the YCJA.

The youth court judge granted the application, notwithstanding the minimal nexus of the records to the issue of credibility given both the nature of the offences and the presumption of diminished moral blameworthiness. Defence counsel sought judicial review of the decision by way of an application of certiorari, which was dismissed by the Superior Court. The matter is now on appeal to the Court of Appeal for Ontario, where JFCY intends to seek leave to intervene again.

TEST CASE Litigation

Voting Age Challenge – Penney-Crocker et al. v Canada, Superior Court of Justice, Court File No.CV-21-00673219-0000

JFCY and the David Asper Centre for Constitutional Rights is representing a group of individual young people from across Canada in a constitutional challenge to the Federal Voting Age. The 13 young people range in age between 12 to 18 years old and hail from coast to coast to coast, including Nunavut, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia.

Section 3 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms states that all Canadian citizens have a right to vote in federal and provincial/territorial elections, and section 15 states that everyone is equal before and under the law without discrimination based on age. Additionally, the Supreme Court of Canada, in the case *Frank v Canada*, 2019 SCC 1, made it clear that any limit on Canadians' right to vote must be clearly justified. Children represent nearly one quarter of Canada's population, yet they remain the only disenfranchised citizens in our society.

Currently, the four larger political parties in Canada all allow people to be members and vote for party leadership at age 14, and there are jurisdictions around the world that have lowered the voting age to 16, including Scotland, Wales, Austria and Germany (local). The government (federal Attorney General) has agreed to not oppose our Motion to dispense with the requirement for a litigation guardian. The application was filed in December 2021; preliminary motions are in progress and a hearing date has not been set.

Legal Arguments

Right to Vote Charter section 3

The Charter guarantees the right to vote to all Canadian citizens, regardless of their age.

The fact that the government has put an age restriction on voting violates this right.



Right to Equality Charter section 15

The Charter guarantees equality before and under the law, and equal protection and benefit of the law.

Denying citizens under 18 the right to vote,

- promotes the discriminatory view that young people and their interests are of lesser value to society,
- reinforces the political powerlessness of young people, and
- is based on negative stereotypes that young people are less capable and less deserving of participating in Canadian democracy.



Not a Justifiable Limit

Evidence shows that 16 and 17 year-olds are just as capable as adults 18+ of making informed and responsible decisions when voting.

Saying that young Canadians are "not mature" is not a good enough reason to stop a large portion of Canadian society from having their right to vote.



LOWERING THE VOTING AGE



TEST CASE Litigation

LS v YouthLink Youth Services, Court of Appeal for Ontario, 2022 ONCA 313

In March 2020, LS was evicted by Youthlink Youth Services. She had been living at Youthlink's transitional housing program, a type of supportive housing that provides residents with a place to live for at least one year, as well as supports to help them build the skills needed to transition to adulthood and to obtain more independent, long-term housing.

Youthlink's agreement with its residents failed to provide any procedural protections against sudden evictions. There was no notice, no opportunity to resolve the dispute, no appeal option and no support in finding alternative accommodation. As a result, the eviction led to police involvement and long term housing instability for LS.

JFCY appealed the eviction to the Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB), arguing that a recent amendment to the Residential Tenancies Act (RTA) required Youthlink to have a robust occupancy agreement that protects tenant's basic procedural rights in order to be exempt from the RTA. The LTB disagreed, as did the Divisional Court. Both found Youthlink was exempt from the RTA under a different provision that did not require a robust occupancy agreement.

On appeal to the Court of Appeal, the Court again allowed Youthlink to be exempt from the RTA. The Court was very concerned that transitional housing providers be given the greatest freedom and ability to control their own processes, even when they are working with the province's most vulnerable tenants. In doing so JFCY believes that the Court missed an opportunity to protect and uphold the right of tenants in transitional housing programs to protective occupancy agreements to prevent sudden and unfair evictions from transitional housing. Transitional housing programs are often the first step away from homelessness, and without such housing young people often have no other options. JFCY continues to engage in further advocacy and law reform efforts on this issue, including engaging directly with transitional housing providers.



TEST CASE Litigation

The Coroner's Inquest into the Death of Devon Freeman—JFCY was granted standing as a public interest party at this Inquest which took place over four weeks in September and October 2022.

Devon Freeman was a 16 year old Indigenous child and member of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation. He was in the care of the children's aid society and was living at a residential children's mental health facility / group home when he went missing, in October 2017. Over six months later, Devon's remains were found in the woods 35 meters from the facility / group home where he lived. He died by suicide.

The Inquest explored the circumstances of Devon's life and death, and considered ways to prevent future deaths in similar circumstance. The Inquest heard evidence from children's aid society workers and senior managers, group home staff and senior managers, police officers, psychiatrists, and Indigenous psychologists, service providers, and elders. JFCY also presented an expert report regarding the relevance and importance children's rights principles in the context.

An Inquest Jury has the opportunity to make recommendations arising from the evidence presented; and the parties are able to propose recommendations for the Jury's consideration. Here, the Inquest Jury adopted almost all of the recommendations proposed by the parties, strengthened the wording on a number of the recommendations, and added three of their own.

The Devon Freeman Inquest was an important proceeding where a careful investigation of the complex issues related to the experience of Indigenous children and families seeking children's well-being supports was examined. Some powerful ceremony lead by the Chippewa's of Georgina Island First Nation was incorporated into the Inquest. It was a profound and emotional experience and we hope that important systemic changes will result from the implementation of the Inquest Jury's Recommendations. We also hope that important connections and opportunities to do meaningful work will flow from JFCY's participation.



The opening of the Ontario inquest into the death of Devon Freeman. Photo: Fraser Needham/APTN.

PROGRAMS at JFCY

JFCY is fundamentally engaged in advancing access to justice for children and youth in Ontario. We engage in focused programs to address the unique access to justice barriers and challenges faced by groups of young people who face specific kinds of adversity. In projects big and small we seek out, create, and take up opportunities to address unique access to justice challenges in all aspects of our work – client services, test cases, PLE, law reform, and community development.

We are currently providing four programs—intentionally structured services—designed to address the legal services needs of young people facing specific kinds of adversity. Those are:

- young people victimized by sexual or family violence (Your Way Forward)
- young people experiencing homelessness (Street Youth Legal Services)
- young people who have grown up in Canada with no or precarious immigration status (Childhood Arrivals Support and Advocacy)
- young people with intersecting criminal Justice and education law needs (Education Advocate)



YOUTH STAND UP!

PROGRAMS AT JFCY

EXPANDED LEGAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN ONTARIO

In January 2022 JFCY and eight other legal clinics received funding from the Federal Department of Justice to provide legal advice and legal representation to people who have been victimized by sexual or family / intimate partner violence.

JFCY has always provided services to children and youth in Ontario who have been victimized in this way, including young people who have been exploited in the sex trade and human trafficking. The experience of violence leads to legal issues directly related to that experience, as well as a whole range of corollary legal issues that arise – each beset with access to justice barriers, and compounding the experience of trauma. With this new funding JFCY welcomed 2 new lawyers into 1.5 FTE positions, making it possible to increase our services across the province.

Many of our clients come to us with experiences of family violence, particularly vertical family violence. We also routinely support children and youth who are victims of sexual assault, physical violence or domestic violence, or those who are exploited in the sex trade.

This project has been named **Your Way Forward** and is described below.

YOUR WAY FORWARD (YWF)



Your Way Forward is a four-year, nine-clinic project to provide legal services to people who have been victimized by Gender Based Violence (GBV). The COVID-19 pandemic saw increased rates of gender-based violence (GBV) and magnified systemic and longstanding inequalities, including gaps in service provision for survivors of GBV. As part of the Government of Canada's strategy to address such violence, a call for proposals was made by the Department of Justice for organizations who wished to provide holistic legal services (including independent legal advice and representation) to survivors of sexual violence and intimate partner violence.

JFCY and eight sister legal clinics made an aligned application and were successful in obtaining more than four years of funding through the Victims Fund and the Justice Partnership and Innovation Fund, with a total investment from the Department of Justice of \$6.6 million. Over the course of the four years, the nine partnered clinics will provide legal education, advice, representation and holistic services for survivors of sexual assault, family violence and intimate partner violence in both urban and rural settings in parts of Ontario. Each clinic has 1-2 positions, including lawyers and social workers, who will work within the community legal clinic milieu to provide unique services with the support of the partner clinics.

This project is truly a collaborative effort with JFCY as the central coordinating contact for the overall project. To support this role there is a Project Coordinator—Miriam Roger, embedded at JFCY—tasked with administering and managing the collaborative grant, and leading project matters that touch on the collective efforts including connecting with relevant provincial stakeholders, and organizing the project's Community of Practice and Steering Committee.

PROGRAMS AT JFCY

YOUR WAY FORWARD (YWF)

The nine partner clinics are:

- Legal Assistance Windsor (LAW)**-based in Windsor, serving Windsor & Essex County
- Elgin Oxford Legal Clinic (EOLC)**-based in St. Thomas, serving Elgin & Oxford Counties
- Community Legal Assistance Sarnia (CLAS)**-based in Sarnia, serving Sarnia & Lambton County
- Durham Community Legal Clinic (DCLC)**-based in Oshawa, serving Durham County
- Peterborough Community Legal Centre (PCLC)**-based in Peterborough, serving Peterborough County
- Northumberland Community Legal Centre (NCLC)**-based in Cobourg, serving Northumberland County
- Community Legal & Advocacy Centre (CALC)**-based in Belleville, serving Hastings, Prince Edward, Southern Lennox & Addington Counties
- Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO)**-provincial mandate, serving tenants across Ontario
- Justice for Children and Youth (JFCY)**-provincial mandate, serving children and youth across Ontario

While serving clients who have experienced GBV is not new for legal clinics, these dedicated resources have provided much-needed additional staff support and leveraged new energy and expertise. For most of the partner clinics, this project will bring expanded, wraparound services to survivors in their communities. The first step being a community needs analysis to ensure that clinics' service delivery is designed to best address the gaps observed on the ground in the local community. The individual clinics will deliver services that make sense in their context, filling gaps and improving access to justice in tailored ways.

As part of our collaboration, we have established a thriving Community of Practice, where frontline project staff congregate every other week for knowledge sharing, research, learning and training, and practice innovation, with a focus on an intersectional understanding of violence and ensuring a consistent trauma-informed approach to services. There are plans to engage in systemic activism, complex case support as well as consider legal reform initiatives.

Evaluators have been retained from the GBV sector—Western University's Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children (CREVAWC)—who will track the project throughout its course with ongoing, meaningful, proactive and reactive feedback. And we are liaising with other stakeholders and organizations in the sector to ensure our project creates meaningful services and complements the committed work already happening on the ground.

PROGRAMS AT JFCY

CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY (CASA) CASA

The clinic's CASA Program provides a range of services to young people brought to Canada as children but living here without immigration status. Services include outreach in classrooms and youth serving organizations, summary legal advice, connection to ongoing legal representation (either at JFCY or externally), systems navigation, and assistance with immigration application fees and associated expenses.

Young people without immigration status often face significant uncertainty and insecurity, and a wide array of compounding and intersecting legal issues. Many young people without status arrived in Canada when they were very young, and consequently have little connection to their country of origin or knowledge of their immigration history. Many are unaware of their lack of status or its consequences, until they are late teenagers or high school graduates. Complex and overlapping issues of marginalization, including lack of financial resources, difficulties accessing healthcare, housing, and employment, social isolation, and fear of detention or deportation often prevent CASA's clients from accessing advice and help. Despite Ontario's Education Act enabling access to grade and high school regardless of status, students often face barriers registering, and are generally unable to access postsecondary education because of the significant barriers there. CASA works to provide these young people the information and supports required to regularize their immigration status and to live secure, chosen futures.

CASA's classroom workshops provide curriculum linked opportunities for all students to learn about migration and ally-ship, while also providing embedded information for students without status. CASA intake numbers have been high since the program's launch in 2020. And we anticipate increased service demands moving forward.

This year, the Law Foundation of Ontario Catalyst Grant supported CASA's growing service capacity. CASA Education & Outreach Manager Gnanushan Krishnapillai and CASA Project Assistant Dennique Lavia, joined our team, and CASA Director Sarah Pole was able to move to a full time position.

CASA also continued to benefit from pro bono support from Blake Cassels and Graydon LLP, and received immeasurable fundraising and friend raising assistance from "Friends of CASA", a volunteer group led by Bonnie Goldberg and Adam Abramson.

We are very excited to launch a unique systemic change project. The Ontario Trillium Foundation's Youth Opportunities Fund has provided us with a Systems Innovation Grant. JFCY's CASA program, in partnership with the Black Creek Youth Initiative and the S4 Collective has begun the project development phase of our "Equitable Education Access for Students with No or Precarious Immigration Status" Project.

We are also working with the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) and Dr. Arlo Kempf, on a SSHRC funded research project on how lack of status impacts students' school experiences, school relationships, and future planning.

PROGRAMS AT JFCY

STREET YOUTH LEGAL SERVICES (SYLS)



Our SYLS program provides legal services directly to young people experiencing homelessness in Ontario. SYLS services include legal advice and representation, legal education workshops for young people and adults who support them, community development and engagement, and engagement with youth in law reform activities and policy work.

Legal issues are often a root cause of youth homelessness. Conversely, homelessness leads to legal issues. For example, imagine the impact if a young person:

- **Knew they had a right to apply for child support from their parents? Or had legal assistance to appeal a denial of social assistance?**
- **Understood their rights as an employee to safety and dignity in the workplace?**
- **Knew their rights as a tenant and were able to access support to assert them effectively?**
- **Had help to appeal their expulsion from school or assistance to get the classroom support they need?**
- **Were connected to legal resources to help them obtain secure / permanent immigration status or to get comprehensive advice and assistance on criminal matters?**

By providing legal assistance in these areas, and promoting knowledge of and access to legal resources, the SYLS program aims to prevent the circumstances that can lead to homelessness and bridge the access to justice gap for youth experiencing homelessness. It promotes a rights-centered and rights-respecting approach to homelessness prevention by promoting young people's knowledge of their rights and their capacity to advocate and assert those rights and entitlements.

JFCY has been working with youth serving agencies who focus on youth homelessness and housing instability in the GTA for over 20 years. Partner agencies include YSM - Evergreen, Native Child Resource Centre, Y-House, Covenant House, Central Toronto Youth Services, Eva's Place, Friends of Ruby and many more.

This year we have re-commenced our in-person weekly drop-ins at youth serving agencies across Toronto and our in-person legal education workshops. We have strengthened our relationships with many of our partners, including commencing a drop-in and additional workshops at Covenant House.

The SYLS program is also engaged in community development and law reform activities, the past year's activities include:

- **Presentation at the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness conference**
- **Being on the Advisory Committees for: Covenant House on Sex Trafficking; Homelessness Connect Toronto; and for the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness.**
- **Being on the Board of Directors for A Way Home Toronto.**
- **Providing training and support for the Trans ID clinic.**

As in other specific contexts the COVID-19 global pandemic has had a significant impact on the circumstances of young people experiencing homelessness. For instance, the shift of emergency shelter space to hotels. Some of these changes may have had positive impacts that we do not want to lose, other changes have had dire impacts that still need to be remedied. The SYLS program activities ensure that we have a vantage point from which to understand these impacts, and ensure that we are able to advocate for individuals and systemically address issues as they evolve.

PROGRAMS AT JFCY

EDUCATION ADVOCATE - AT THE TORONTO NORTHWEST JUSTICE CENTRE

The role of the Education Advocate fills a gap at the intersection of the education and the youth criminal justice systems. As the first of its kind, this non-traditional, multidisciplinary role supports young people who are involved in the youth criminal justice system to navigate the education system in order to improve their educational and justice outcomes. The Education Advocate assists young people and their families with a range of issues including (re)engagement, attending school, accessing special education supports, appealing disciplinary measures and facilitating alternative educational opportunities. The role minimizes the impact of young people's justice involvement on their education and helps to uphold their Youth Criminal Justice Act privacy protections.

The inaugural year of our Education Advocate at the Toronto Northwest Justice Centre was robust. Since the creation of the role in June 2021, the Education Advocate has provided advice and representation to over 90 young people on 115 issues across 5 regions and 9 school boards. Additionally, some of the public legal education and outreach efforts of the role over the past year include:

Provincial Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee (HSJCC) Community Justice:

Transforming Practices in a New World Virtual Conference

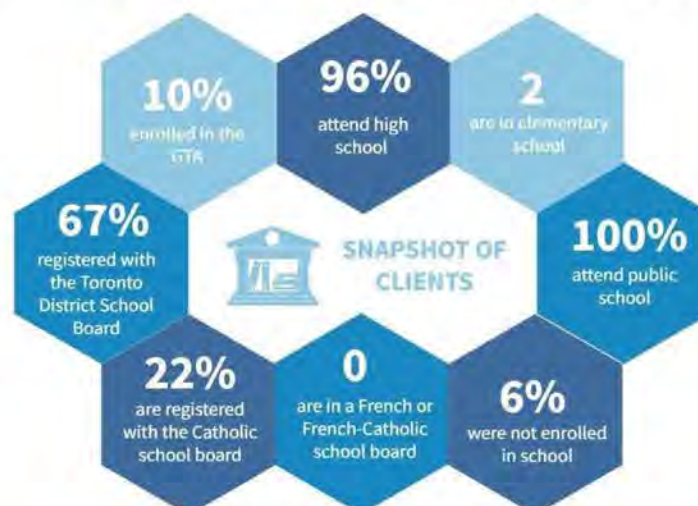
Canadian Association for the Practical Study of Law in Education (CAPSLE): Innovation in Education – Capital Ideas

Ontario Bar Association (OBA): Spotlight on Anti-Black and Anti-Indigenous Racism in the Education System

Black Legal Action Centre: Links to Justice: JFCY's Education Advocate at the TNW Justice Centre

Looking to the next stage of development for the Education Advocate we have begun to leverage and expand upon JFCY's existing community and school partnerships, and to establish new connections.

Beyond the role of the Education Advocate, JFCY staff lawyers were also engaged to support young people at the Toronto Northwest Justice Centre. They provided their hallmark child-centered legal services to Justice Centre participants in a myriad of areas including youth criminal justice, child welfare, privacy, employment, and immigration and refugee law. In these cases, the staff lawyers were instrumental to the resolution of the young person's criminal matters.



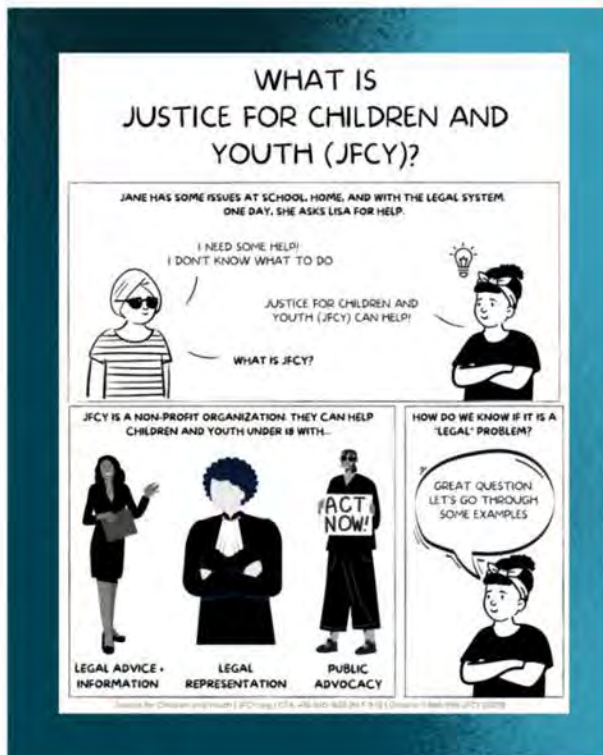
PUBLIC LEGAL Education

Our public legal education and information activities include a range of different approaches. We have a website that includes a comprehensive selection of materials and information; we have developed and maintain a range of print materials; we provide workshops to young people and adult supporters; and we provide training and professional development.

Additionally, we participate in unique events to increase awareness, knowledge, expertise, and engagement around legal issues as they pertain to children and young people and impact child and youth rights. This year, we have appreciated the return to in-person connections with schools, shelters and community organizations. Listed below are some highlights from this past year:

PRINT MATERIALS

A focus this year was on creating PLE content in a comic book format and a new poster for the clinic.



The development of these new publications were led by students at JFCY. Along with all our other materials, these are available on our website, free to print and distribute.

PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION

WEBSITE

We concluded our **Enhancing Access to Special Education (EASE)** project (which included province-wide consultations and the development of PLE materials for students, parents, guardians, and adult supporters, on special education in Ontario) with the launch of six videos on Special Education topics.



We have also started the process of doing a full scale renewal of our website. We will maintain the full range of information, but will update the technology, some function, and some user experience aspects. We look forward to this launch in 2023.

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING — In the last year we provided over 50 **WORKSHOPS TO STUDENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

We are taking advantage of the benefits of being able to provide workshops both virtually and in-person. We also presented to adults who work with young people or who are interested in the legal and human rights of children, including post-secondary students and front-line professionals in many sectors across the province (e.g. child welfare, housing, guidance, and youth-in-transition workers).

PUBLIC LEGAL EDUCATION

CPD FOR LAWYERS AND LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

We continue to attend and present at professional development programs for lawyers and other professionals. We connect with community partners, including academics to present at unique events and programs. This year included presentations at programs hosted by the:

- **Canadian Association for the Practical Study of Law in Education**
- **National Conference on Ending Homelessness (CAEH)**
- **Black Legal Action Centre's Links to Justice project**
- **Children's Rights Academic Network (CRAN)**
- **Organization of Counsel for Children's Aid Societies (OCCAS)**
- **Springboard**
- **Provincial Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee (HSJCC)**
- **Rights for Children and Youth Partnership (RCYP)**
- **Peer Knowledge Exchange hosted by the Office of the Children's Lawyer**
- **International Summer Course on the Rights of Children in Moncton, NB**
- **Your Way Home project partners**
- **Public Legal Education Association of Canada conference with the Ontario Justice Education Network for TAG's Access to Justice week**
- **National Judicial Institute's first conference on Children's Rights**
- **Law Society of Ontario**
- **Ontario Bar Association**
- **Canadian Bar Association**
- **Osgoode Professional Development**



LAW & POLICY Reform

JFCY is actively interested in law, policy and practices that impact our clients and that engage child and youth rights. We monitor proposed changes to laws and practices that impact those rights. We engage in this work by integrating our knowledge and understanding of the lived experiences of our clients into legal and policy analysis. Our policy and position papers can be found on our website. Law and policy reform activities over the last year include the following:

- Participating in the Pediatric Child and Youth Death Review Committee (PDRC) of Ontario's Office of the Chief Coroner, which is part of the collaborative transformation efforts to change the former PDRC processes.
- JFCY lawyers worked with an external colleague, Terence Hamilton a child rights expert at UNICEF Canada, and in collaboration with the Yukon Child & Youth Advocate Office to write a thorough Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) of Yukon's overhaul of their Child and Family Services Act.
- Consultation with a member of the Senate of Canada regarding Bill S-251: An Act to repeal section 43 of the Criminal Code (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's call to action number 6). Currently in the second reading stage at the Senate.
- Consultation with Members of Parliament regarding Private Member's Bill C-210: An Act to amend the Canada Elections Act (voting age). This Bill was defeated at the second reading stage.
- Working with the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers (CARL), the Refugee Law Office (RLO), and others on joint submissions to the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) regarding the IRB's "Chairperson Guideline 3: Child Refugee Claimants: Procedural and Evidentiary Issues" as part of the IRB's consultation process.

RESEARCH WITH Universities

As child rights experts who work directly with young people, JFCY has opportunities to work with academics and researchers on issues related to children's rights in a variety of areas, and in the exploration of intersectional issues. Research projects we were involved with this year include:

INVESTIGATING EXPERIENCE OF YOUNG PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Professor Dr. Daniella Bendo, King's University, and Professor Dr. Christine Goodwin-De Faria, Trent University are investigating the lived experience of young people with intellectual disabilities in the criminal justice system, and the extent to which their rights are appropriately protected and advanced. They received an initial grant from King's University UWO, and have made an application for a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Partnership Grant. The first stage of the research results will report on the extent to which justice system professionals (defence lawyers, crown attorneys, probation officers, etc.) are aware of intellectual disabilities, and the extent to which they are able to address those concerns as part of the underlying issues that bring young people into contact with the youth criminal justice system.

SYSTEMIC RACISM, IMMIGRATION & CHILD WELFARE

"Border(ing) Practices: Systemic Racism, Immigration & Child Welfare" is a collaborative research project led by researchers at the University of Toronto and the University of Victoria working in partnership with child welfare, immigration, and gender-based violence service providers and advocates within Ontario and British Columbia. Professors Dr. Rupaleem Bhuyan and Dr. Mandeep Kaur Muncina are the Principal Investigators, and Professors Dr. Bryn King and Dr. Rhonda Hackett are Co-Investigators. JFCY is on the Research Advisory Committee and other sub-committees.

IMPACT OF IMMIGRATION STATUS ON STUDENTS

JFCY, and CASA in particular, is working with Professor Dr. Arlo Kempf at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) on a SSHRC funded research project on how the lack of immigration status impacts students' school experiences, school relationships, and future planning.

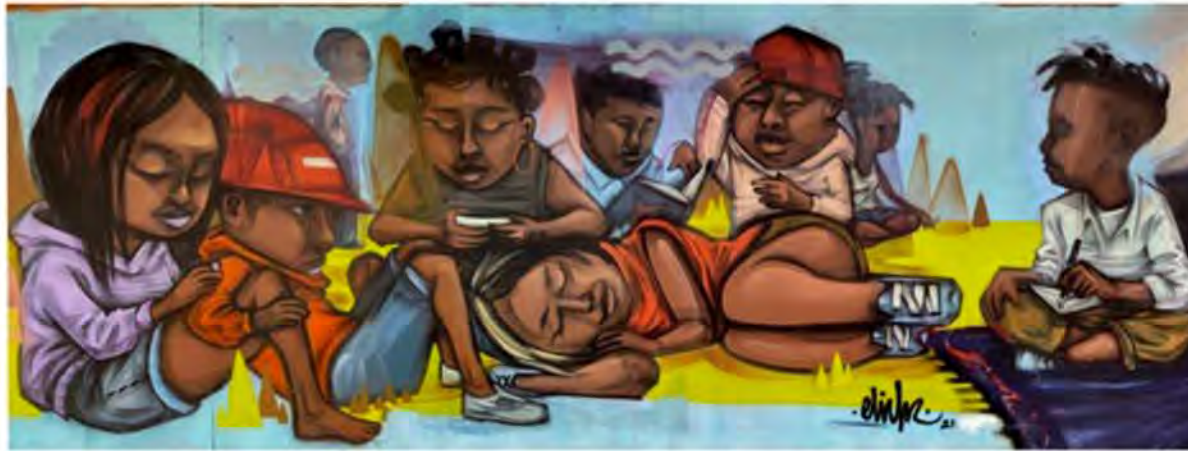
YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE POLICE

Research with Professor Dr. Carla Cesaroni, and her colleagues at Ontario Tech University who are investigating the experience of young people in their interactions with the police, in and outside of the criminal justice context.

RESEARCH WITH UNIVERSITIES

BLACK YOUTH LEAVING CARE PROJECT

JFCY provided consultation on the Black Youth Leaving Care project, where Professor Dr. Lance McCready at OISE is the lead researcher for the Making Spaces Lab and an Associate Professor in the Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education. The Black Youth Leaving Care project is investigating the experiences of Black youth leaving the child welfare system who must then move to live independently.



CRITICAL LEGAL GEOGRAPHY STUDY

Working on a Critical Legal Geography study with Professor Dr. Alexandra Flynn and her colleagues at the University of British Columbia and University of Ottawa investigating the way in which property law impacts young people experiencing homelessness and the extent to which there are adequate legal protections for them

Community Involvement & Partnerships

JFCY is involved with a vast range of people, community, educational and professional organizations from many sectors. We consult, we engage on projects, we stay connected, we offer and seek out expertise, knowledge, and information, we collaborate and work together to offer services to young people, and more. We seek to learn from our partners and to contribute to the advancement of a child and youth rights respecting society. Some examples of that work over the past year:

- The Ontario Bar Association's section executives - Child and Youth Law section; Constitutional, Civil Liberties and Human Rights section; and Education Law section.
- The Canadian Bar Association's Child and Youth Law section
- Board member and treasurer for the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of the Children
- Board member of the Canadian Association for the Practical Study of Law in Education
- Board member of A Way Home Canada
- Advisory group member for the Centre for Refugee Children
- The Provincial Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee
- 311 Jarvis Youth Court Advisory Committee and the Community Youth Court Committees
- Toronto Northwest Justice Centre Advisory Committee
- The New Toronto Court House Youth Justice Advisory Committee
- Children's Rights Academic Network (CRAN)
- Unaccompanied and Separated Children Network
- Sex Trafficking Advisory Committee of Covenant House
- Homelessness Connect Toronto Advisory Committee
- Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Advisory
- Youth-Centered Racialized Justice Hub with Equitas
- Sanctuary Students Solidarity and Support Collective (S4 Collective)
- Black Creek Youth Initiative
- Toronto District School Board
- Covenant House
- Yonge Street Mission Evergreen
- Native Child Resource Centre
- Y-House
- Central Toronto Youth Services
- Eva's Place
- Friends of Ruby
- Trans ID Clinic
- SKETCH Working Arts

Media

IN THE MEDIA

JFCY receives requests for consultation and interviews regarding our cases, background information on the legal landscape for children and youth in Ontario and Canada, and commentary on issues that impact the rights of our clients.

A sample of when we have appeared in TV, radio and in print media this past year:

CBC Metro Morning regarding YCJA sentencing (April 2022)

The Toronto Star On School Board Trustee Policy. Excerpt from article below.:

Kandaharian was in Grade 12 at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School in Aurora last year when she launched a lawsuit against the YCDSB. The board had prevented her from running for student trustee, two years earlier, when she was in Grade 10, because she's Orthodox Christian – not Catholic.

She and the non-profit legal aid clinic Justice for Children and Youth argued the board's policy requiring students who run for the post to be Catholic was a violation of Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms. A recent ruling from Ontario's Superior Court of Justice agreed with them.

"The role of student trustee bears no relationship to any right or privilege held by Catholic separate schools at the time of Confederation and the prospect of students who are not Catholic representing a Catholic school as a student trustee would have no prejudicial affect on such a right or privilege even if it existed at that time," the decision reads.

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230,342
views

SOCIAL MEDIA



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followers



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3,353
views



Justice for
Children and
Youth
Facebook page
likes: 1,331



9,624
Blog
views



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509
followers

Students

Having students as part of the JFCY team makes it possible for us to meet the high standards we demand of ourselves and our work. Thank you to the students who were part of our office – we are grateful for you and appreciate you.

THE STUDENTS WHO WERE PART OF THE JFCY TEAM FROM NOVEMBER 2021 THROUGH OCTOBER 2022 ARE:

BSW program at Toronto Metropolitan University: Britnica Amirthanathan (2021/2022); Joyce Fung (2022/2023); Maya Donald-Hamblin (2022/2023)

MSW program at Toronto Metropolitan University: Jennifer Bulthuis (summer 2022);

MSW program at the University of Toronto: Emily Sheppard (2021/2022); Hannah Brown (2022/2023)

McGill Faculty of Law: Nour Traore

Articling Student on secondment from Blakes: Jada Dunn (2022)

Law students funded by public interest grants: Arielle Neil (Osgoode Law School), Hayley Abma (Osgoode Law School), Lila Mansour (Lincoln Alexander School of Law), Shardaine Rowe Brown (Lincoln Alexander School of Law), Sydney Franzmann (Queen's Law)

Community research partnerships in ethics program students from Trinity College at the University of Toronto: Patrice Calancie (2021/2022)

Laidlaw Scholars Undergraduate Leadership and Research Programme: Nhu Huynh (University of Toronto, summer 2022)

Law students through Pro Bono Students Canada

Law in Action Within Schools (LAWS) – Kirsten Kelly (spring 2022); Hailey Rocha (summer 2022)

Volunteers

We are grateful to our dedicated Board Members who make our work possible by bringing a range of skills and commitment to the advancement of social justice and children's rights.

The Policy Advisory Panel members, composed of expert scholars and professionals from a range of disciplines most relevant to our work, who volunteer their time to share research, write or review materials, and provide expert advice to the lawyers at JFCY.

The Development and Fundraising Committee members who work to enhance the clinic's ability to raise funds in a variety of ways to support the organization's unfunded and underfunded work.

Joie Chow, a lawyer who dedicated her first month after being called to the Bar towards the legal work of the clinic.



Staff, Board members, and JFCY friends attend Toronto Waterfront Marathon—one of this year's fundraising events

SUPPORTERS & Donors

As a charitable foundation, and as an organization with a challenging mandate that struggles to meet the demand for our services with inadequate funding, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all our members, the individual donors, and granting foundations who support JFCY.

A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS FOR UNIQUE AND SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

Legal Aid Ontario – our core funder

Court Challenges Program / Programme de contestation judiciaire

City of Toronto's Investing in Neighbourhoods

Jonathan Kahn and Anne Irwin – for a significant personal donation through the United Way.

Bulmash-Siegel Foundation, Laurence and Judy Siegel – for their three-year matching donation for social support services.

Aubrey and Marla Dan Foundation – for their grant to our social support services.

Law Foundation of Ontario Responsive Grant – for funding our CASA program.

La Fondation Emmanuelle Gattuso – for funding our client's special and emergency needs, including CASA clients' immigration application fees and associated expenses.

Bonnie Goldberg and Friends of CASA – for generous donations and ongoing support to CASA; Bonnie Goldberg – for funding CASA's summer law student.

Ministry of the Attorney General for Ontario and the Toronto Northwest Justice Centre – for Education Advocate funding.

Department of Justice Canada – for the 'Your Way Forward' program supporting legal services offered at the clinic.

Ontario Trillium Foundation – for funding the Equitable Education Access Project.

We wish to thank the law firms of Torys, Blakes, Paliare Roland Rosenberg Rothstein, and Baker McKenzie for your ongoing support of JFCY.

A special note of thanks to the following lawyers and their team members who have provided exceptional litigation support to JFCY on test cases and in very unusual and difficult circumstances. Your generosity and dedication are deeply appreciated.

Linda Plumpton, Alexandra Shelley, Tosh Weyman at Torys LLP

Jonathan Silver, Henry Federer, William Mazurek, Anita Stoiber, Yael Bienenstock and Sheila Block at Torys LLP

Linda Rothstein and Charlotté Calon at Paliare Roland Rosenberg Rothstein LLP

Kaley Pulfer and Michael Barrick at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP

Laura Blumenfeld and Ayah Al-Sharari at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP



LEGAL AID ONTARIO
AIDE JURIDIQUE ONTARIO



Department of Justice
Canada

Ministère de la Justice
Canada



The Law
Foundation
of Ontario
Advancing access to justice



Ontario
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An agency of the Government of Ontario
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