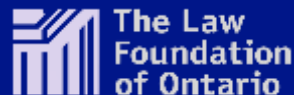


Supporting Black and racialized families

An approach to navigating the Youth Justice System

February 25, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

With Adebisi Adegemi and Roxanne Brown



Presented by:



POINTS TO CONSIDER DURING THE WEBINAR



Simultaneous translation

- French translation is in progress.



Communication

- Please write your questions in the Q&A box (the icon is at the bottom of your screen).



Speakers

- Are visible during the whole presentation and for questions/answers.



Recording

- The recording of this webinar is shared after the event. Links are sent to participants.

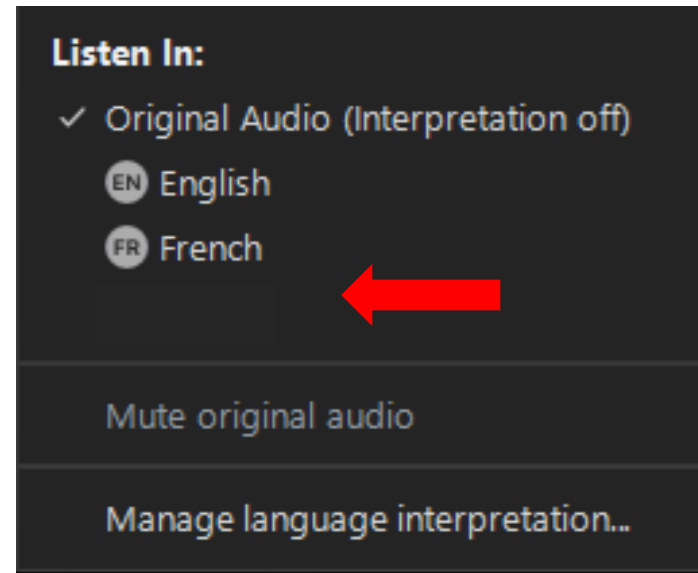
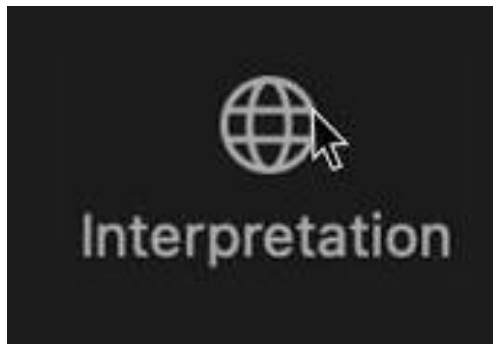


Evaluation

- This webinar has a survey that will be sent by email.

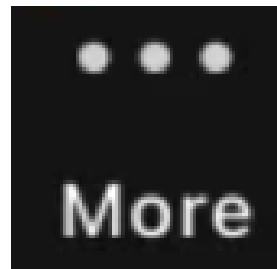


- To listen to the webinar in French, click the interpretation button at the bottom of your screen and select your language.
- Pour écouter ce webinaire en français, veuillez cliquer sur le bouton "interprétation" au bas de votre écran et choisir votre langue.



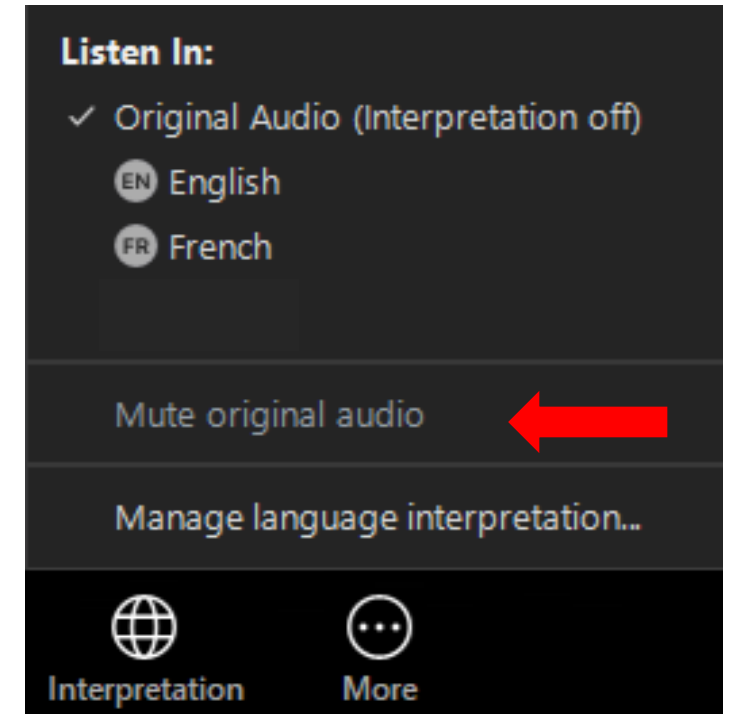
If you cannot find the Interpretation button, click on the More button with three dots at the bottom of your screen:

Si vous ne voyez pas l'icône d'interprétation au bas de votre écran, veuillez cliquer sur les 3 points (...) toujours au bas de votre écran:



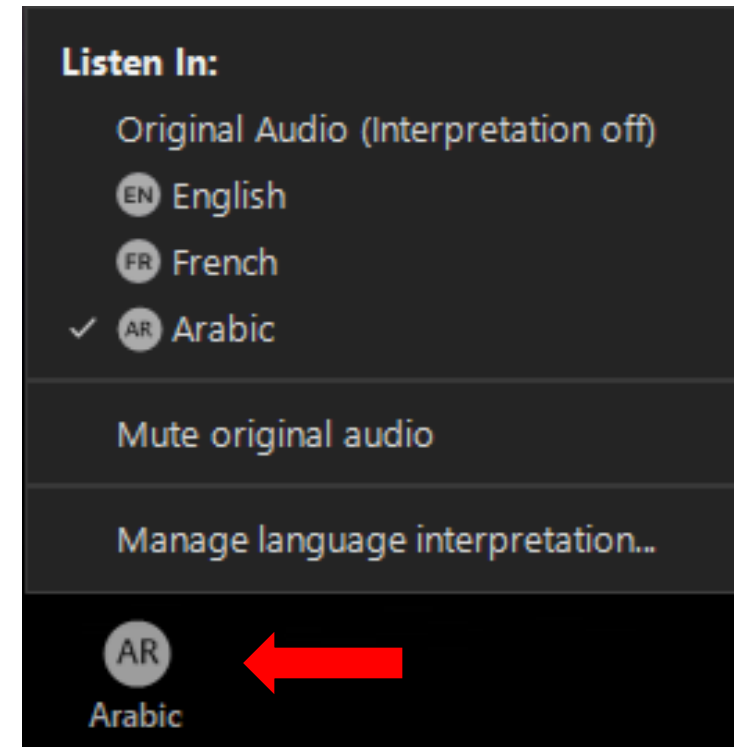
The interpreter's audio will automatically play at 100% volume. You can also choose whether or not you want to mute the audio from the original speaker.

Le son de l'interprète va automatiquement jouer à un volume de 100%. Vous pourriez aussi choisir si vous voulez mettre en sourdine le son de l'intervenant(e) principal(e).



If you select one of the available languages, the Interpretation icon will be replaced by an icon that represents that language.

Si vous sélectionnez une des langues disponibles, l'icône de l'interprétation sera aussi remplacée par une autre icône qui représente cette langue.



What you can expect today

- 90 minutes in total (presentation with Q+A opportunities).
- This webinar contains legal information, not legal advice.
- The information is current as of today's date, February 25, 2025.
- A link to the recording and slides will be sent out afterward.

Presenter Introduction

Adebisi Adeyemi holds a master's degree in counseling and currently works as a case manager at Durham Family and Cultural Centre, specializing in supporting Black and racialized youth involved in the justice system.

With a strong foundation in mental health and counseling, Adebisi is dedicated to helping youth and their families navigate complex systems with empathy, providing guidance and connecting them to vital resources.

Adebisi works to empower individuals, ensuring they have the tools and support needed to overcome challenges and build a brighter, more hopeful future.



Presenter Introduction

Roxanne Brown accomplished a bachelor's degree in Applied Human Science, Human Relations at Concordia University. She has acquired 14 years' experience supporting the community's youth in various life transitions.

Roxanne has devoted to 9 years assisting Inuit youth in a detention center and group home setting, advocating for them during their reintegration process.

This was an integral part of her strength, capacity, and expansion work with different cultures and traditions. The cultivation and organizing of a successful life skills program through Service Canada adds to her many undertakings in the community.

Roxanne shares her love and compassion to all communities she engages with, while offering individuals an opportunity to grow, heal and learn.



Land Acknowledge- ment

- We wish to acknowledge the land on which Durham family and cultural center operates in Ajax and our responsibility through our work to steward it well. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional territory of the Huron Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississauga. It is also the home of people of African descent. These communities are reflections of the generations' present and past and represent the ancestral history of those brought to this city and country involuntarily as a result of the transatlantic slave trade.
- Today, this meeting place is still home to many first nations, métis, and Inuit peoples from across turtle island, and the proud people of Africa and its vast diaspora. As first nations and people of African descent continue to show solidarity in the pursuit of equity and justice, we acknowledge the many intersectional experiences of our shared communities within ajax, and we honor their legacies through our work and remain grateful for the opportunity to work on this land.

ABOUT DFCC



DURHAM FAMILY & CULTURAL CENTRE

Programming that empowers lives.



Durham
Family & Cultural
Centre

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Ministry of
Children, Community &
Social Services



Empowering Lives.
Building Community



Restore, Reclaim & Rebuild



SUPPORTING BLACK AND RACIALIZED
FAMILIES AND THEIR YOUTH NAVIGATE
THE YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEM.

 roxanne.b@durhamfcc.com

 905-818-2422



ALL ABOUT THE R3 PROGRAM



R3 Services



Counselling

Working with families' emotional and psychological needs by assisting in identifying and addressing their challenges.



Referrals

With careful consideration of each family's additional needs, we will guide them to programs and services designed for their specific situation.



Info Sessions & Workshops

Opportunities to be informed in a safe space by guests who are experts on topics concerning the Youth Justice System.



Events & Activities

Created to assist parents in learning new parenting skills and developing new awareness and perceptions of themselves & their children.



www.durhamfcc.org/rrr



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905-818-2422



9-487 Westney Rd. S. Ajax



ABOUT THE PROGRAM: RE-INVENT

To RE-INVENT means to CHANGE something so much that it appears entirely new. Becoming a better version of YOU!



ENGAGE IN A 4-WEEK
WORKSHOP



RECEIVE PERSONALIZED
COUNSELLING.



RECEIVE SUPPORT ON
SOME LEGAL NEEDS.



RECEIVE A STIPEND AT
THE END

Definitions in the Context of the Justice System.

The term “racialized” refers to individuals or groups who are categorized and treated as distinct based on their race, ethnicity, or cultural identity.

Systemic discrimination means that these groups do not only face individual acts of prejudice but are subject to a larger set of structures and institutions that disadvantage them over time.

Racialized Groups in the Justice System:

Black people are often racialized because of their skin color and historical associations with slavery, colonialism, and forced migration.

Indigenous people are racialized due to the history of colonialism, forced assimilation, and systemic erasure of their cultures and rights.

People of color, which includes a range of ethnicities and cultures, also experience racialization, where their identities and experiences are often viewed through a lens of difference and marginalization.

Common Issues in the Youth Justice System for Black and Racialized Youth

Over-policing, racial profiling, and discriminatory treatment.



Lack of culturally relevant supports and understanding.



Bias in legal proceedings and sentencing.

Statistics

Canada: According to the 2019 "Police-reported Crime in Canada" report from Statistics Canada, **Black youth are overrepresented in arrests.** Although Black people make up approximately 3% of the population, they account for around **10-15% of youth arrests.**

A 2017 report from the **Office of the Correctional Investigator of Canada** indicated that Black and Indigenous youth are more likely to face harsher sentences and less likely to receive rehabilitation-focused interventions compared to white youth.

Research suggests that **Black and Indigenous youth in Canada** are more likely to feel misunderstood and unsupported by the justice system. In many cases, young people of color report that justice professionals fail to take into account cultural factors and lived experiences.

Case Scenarios: Common Mistakes and How to Handle Them

Case Scenario 1: Over-policing and Racial Profiling

Situation: A Black youth is stopped by police while walking in their neighborhood and treated more harshly than their peers, despite no clear reason for suspicion.

- **Mistake:** Assuming the youth is “trouble” because of their race or appearance.
- **How to handle it:** Recognize the potential racial profiling involved and validate the youth's experience. Encourage families to report such incidents to advocacy groups and offer legal resources to address the injustice.

Case Scenarios: Common Mistakes and How to Handle Them

Case Scenario 2: Family Alienation from the Justice System

Situation: A Black family feels unheard or dismissed when they attend meetings or hearings related to their child's case.

- **Mistake:** Assuming the family is uninterested or disengaged.
- **How to handle it:** Approach the family with empathy, listen to their concerns, and take time to explain the justice process in clear, accessible language. Encourage open communication and make sure they know their voice is essential in decision-making.

Case Scenarios: Common Mistakes and How to Handle Them

Case Scenario 3: Lack of Access to Mental Health Support

Situation: A Black youth who has experienced trauma or hardship is not referred to appropriate mental health resources or is placed in a program that lacks cultural sensitivity.

- **Mistake:** Assuming that the youth doesn't need support or that mainstream programs will work without considering cultural relevance.
- **How to handle it:** Advocate for culturally competent mental health services and programs. Offer resources specifically designed for Black and racialized

Real Life Scenarios from R3

01

Scenario 1: Youth on
Conditions - JS

02

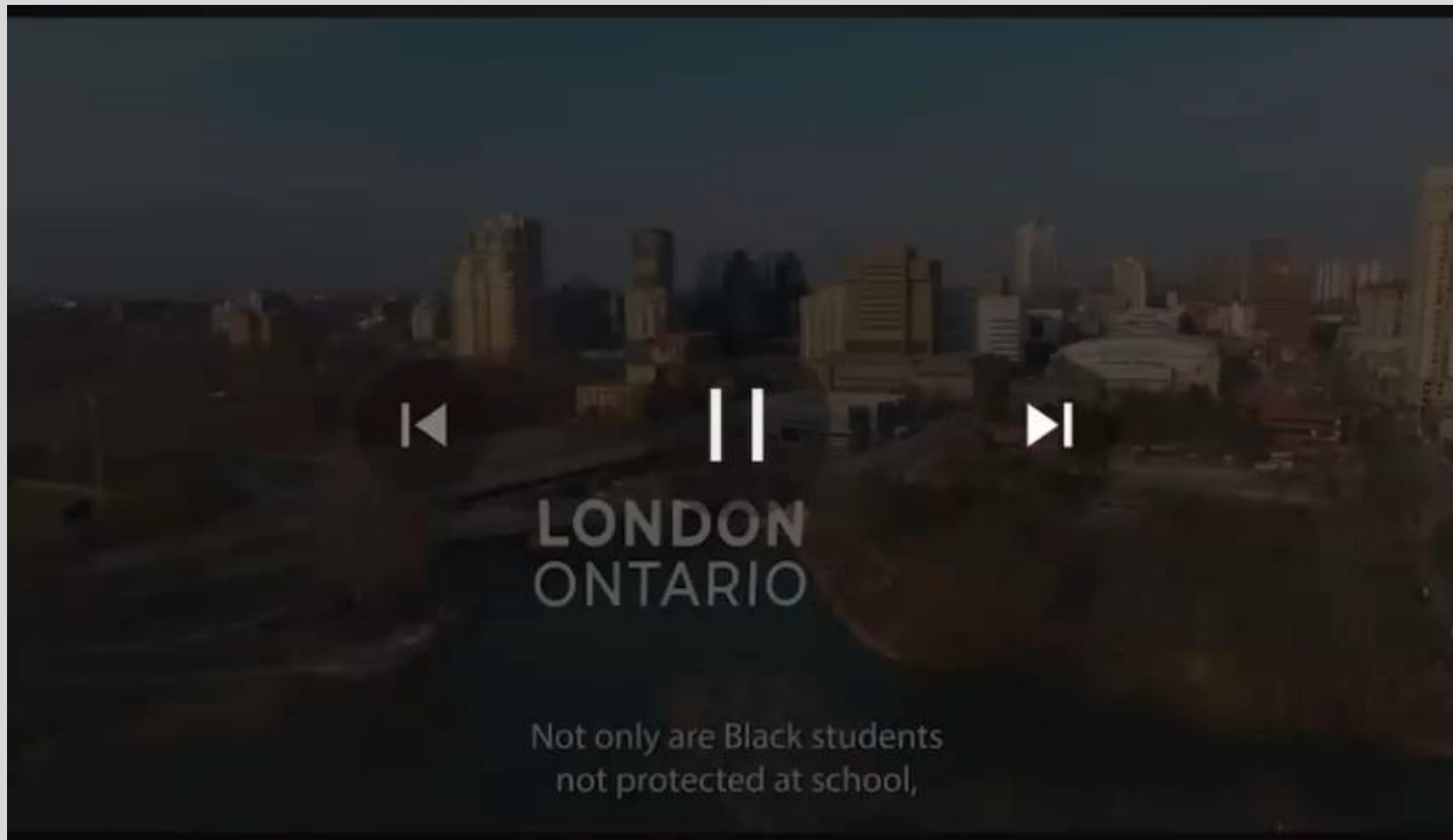
Scenario 2: Intake
Action Plan (Nothing
for them without
them), Wrong timing
- NM, JS

03

Scenario 3: Family
and Services. Align in
Action Plan - MBJ

This film is funded by Canadian Heritage, Anti-Racism Action Program. The comments and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of Canadian Heritage and Black Legal Action Centre (BLAC).

RACISM AT SCHOOL



LONDON
ONTARIO

Not only are Black students
not protected at school,

How to Work with Black Families and Youth

- **Understanding Cultural Sensitivity:**
 - **Language:** Be mindful of language that may be perceived as judgmental or stigmatizing. Use respectful, neutral language.
 - **Intersectionality:** Recognize that individuals have multiple identities (e.g., Black, immigrant, etc.) that shape their experiences.
 - **Cultural and Religious Differences:** Acknowledge the diversity within Black communities (e.g., differences in cultural practices, religious beliefs, and family structures).

How to Work with Black Families and Youth

- **Building Trust:**
 - Emphasis on the importance of building trust, especially when families have faced systemic discrimination.
 - There is need for patience, understanding, and consistency in your approach.

Things to Pay Attention To When Working with Black Families and Youth

Acknowledge Historical Context:

- Recognize the historical trauma and systemic oppression faced by Black communities.

Respect Family Dynamics:

- Understand the role of family members, whether immediate family or extended family, in the support network.

Culturally Relevant Support:

- Consider access to culturally competent services that are tailored to Black and racialized youth and families.

Practical Approaches to Engaging with Black Families and Youth

Approach:

- Be non-judgmental and open to the family's perspectives.
- Take time to understand the family's unique needs and experiences.

Collaboration:

- Involve families in decision-making and empower them to be advocates for their children.
- Partner with community organizations that understand the specific needs of Black and racialized youth.

Resources for Support and Learning More

Durham Family and Cultural Center: R3, RE-INVENT Program.

Durham Community Action Group (DCAG): Advocates for Black children, youth, parents to achieve better outcomes. Our team assists the community to better understand and navigate key sectors

Ifarada: Supports Black, Indigenous, and people of color in the Durham Region

Black Legal Action Centre: Provides legal resources and support for Black communities.

Youth Justice Canada: A federal resource for supporting youth and their families through the justice system.

YouthRex: Make research evidence and evaluation practices accessible and relevant to Ontario's grassroots youth sector through knowledge exchange, capacity building and evaluation leadership.

Resources for Support and Learning More

YouthRex: Make research evidence and evaluation practices accessible and relevant to Ontario's grassroots youth sector through knowledge exchange, capacity building and evaluation leadership.

Northern Youth Services: Provides services to youth population.

Legal Aid Ontario - Youth Legal Issues: legalaid.on.ca/services/youth-legal-services/ and Community Legal Clinics.

Justice for Children and Youth: Legal services for young people under 18 and up to 25 for homeless or undocumented young people in Ontario.

Future North: Improves available resources and opportunities for youth 15 to 30 years old in the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin.

Q&A /
DISCUSSION





THANK YOU

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Thank you for your participation



Stay tuned!

To contact CLEO :
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cleo.on.ca



CLEO Connect

Training and tools for community workers

Stepstojustice.ca — Step-by-step information about legal problems.



Guided Pathways — Find and fill out legal forms and receive instructions for your next steps.



CLEOconnect.ca — Training and tools for community workers.



Live chat — Need legal assistance and information? Monday to Friday, 11:00 - 4:00 pm on stepstojustice.ca.



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