

A2J

Access to Justice Week

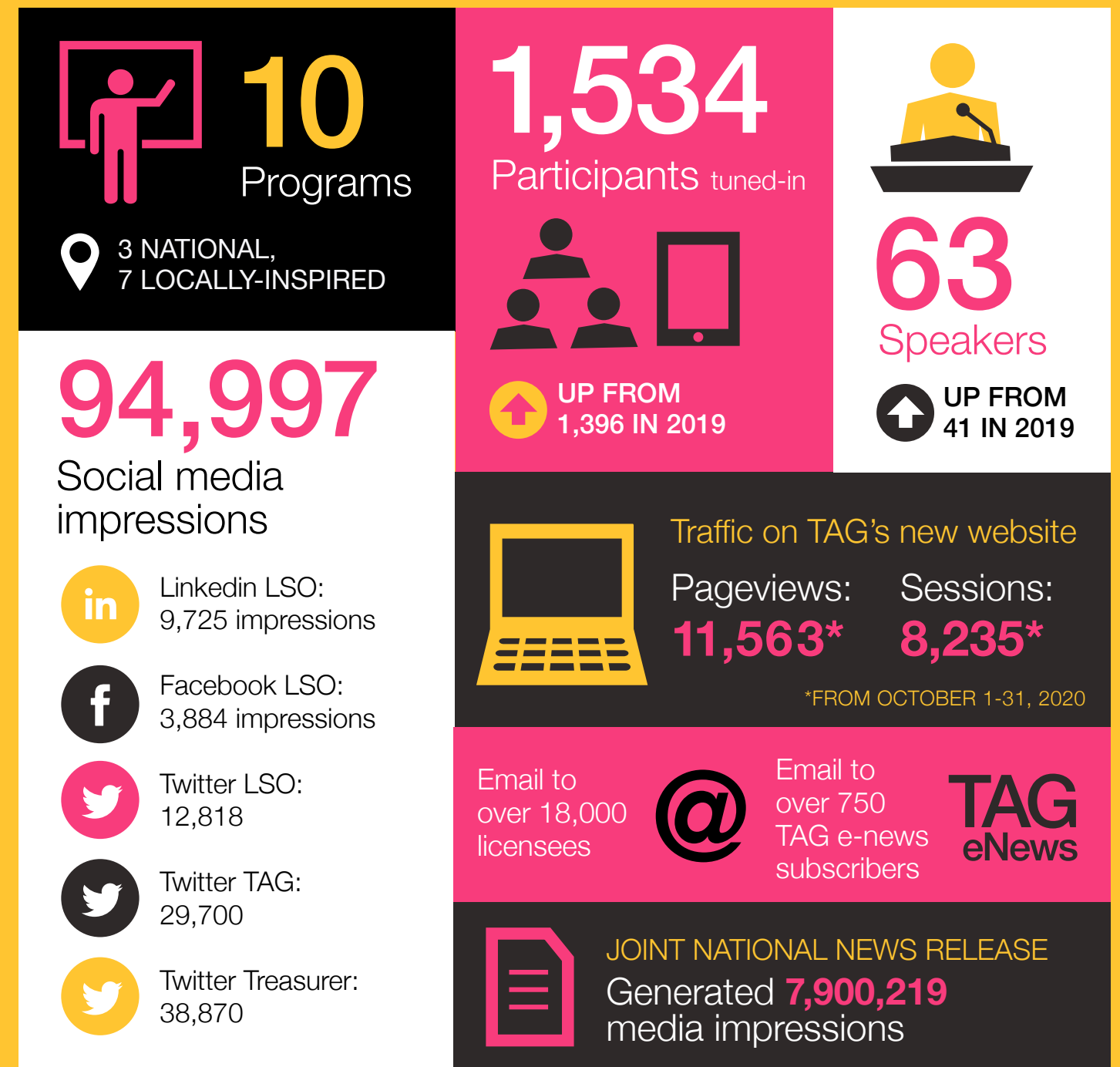
OCTOBER 26 TO 30, 2020

Committing to an Inclusive Justice System

Today & Post-Pandemic

Ontario hosted its fifth Access to Justice Week from October 26 to 30, 2020. A series of awareness-building programs, held virtually, focused on the impacts of COVID-19 on legal professions, the justice sector, public legal education, mental health, as well as Indigenous and language rights. In coordination with the Law Society of Ontario, three programs were organized in partnership with access to justice coordinators in Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan, in addition to local programming.

Access to Justice Week 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 this critical issue from different perspectives with the additional lens of the impacts of the pandemic.



Program overview

Keynote and fireside chat with Tanya Talaga

OCTOBER 26

Kicking off the Week with welcoming remarks from Law Society Treasurer Teresa Donnelly, and a keynote address, Anishinaabe author and storyteller Tanya Talaga spoke of systemic discrimination against Indigenous peoples in Canada. Her powerful address was followed by a fireside chat with Law Society of Ontario Bencher Dianne Corbiere. This live webcast welcomed 109 viewers.

Watch the archived recording:

<https://iso.freestonelms.com/viewer/wEJrVbzp84Q4e2zdxX5FCmLTE2TBkPVAxdZXYjLz5LDZjoGcc>

Legal Coaching & Unbundling

OCTOBER 26

This program featured a discussion of a potentially cost-effective and efficient alternative for people looking for legal help. Panelists included John-Paul Boyd QC (accredited family law arbitrator and family law mediator), Lisa Eisen (founder, Family Law: A La Carte) and Sonali Sharma (founder, Athena Law). This live webcast welcomed 150 viewers.

Watch the archived recording:

<https://vimeo.com/474741823/350237dbca>

The Invisible Crisis: Coping & Caring for Mental Health, Today & Post-Pandemic

OCTOBER 27

Developed in partnership with FOLA, Treasurer Donnelly led a discussion about reducing the stigma associated with mental health, increased pressures in mental health, wellness and addictions as a result of the pandemic, suicide prevention. The panelists were Janet Ozembloski (VP, Legal Counsel at Medcan), Alysia Davies (Staff clinician, Homewood health) and Beth Beattie (Senior counsel, MAG). This live webcast welcomed 122 viewers.

Watch the archived recording:

<https://youtu.be/TkQK6WmLCN8>

A Conversation about Access to Justice & Systemic Racism

OCTOBER 27

The University of Alberta Faculty of Law hosted a panel discussion featuring Trevor Farrow (professor, Osgoode Hall Law School) and Joshua Sealy Harrington (lawyer, Power Law and doctoral candidate, Columbia Law School), facilitated by University of Alberta Faculty of Law Dean Barbara Billingsley. This live webcast welcomed 296 viewers.

Watch the archived recording:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zwxPK0Oaf1Q&feature=emb_logo

Exploring Community Justice Help to Advance Community-based Access to Justice

OCTOBER 28

A presentation of Community Legal Education Ontario's (CLEO) recent report. Authors Julie Mathews (Executive Director, CLEO) and David Wiseman (professor, University of Ottawa) presented a report overview, then invited attendees to consider the framework's application in 11 breakout rooms, divided by jurisdiction. This live webcast welcomed 208 viewers.

Watch the archived recording:

<https://youtu.be/FncdQdeXKcY>

Family Justice System: Access to Justice and the Changing Landscape

OCTOBER 28

While access to justice remains a pressing issue for family law disputes, much has changed in the legal landscape over the last few years, including several projects that were developed in response to COVID. Join our discussion about a number of these projects and the impact that they have already had on access to family law services. This live webcast welcomed 166 viewers.

Watch the archived recording:

<https://youtu.be/fV4kwplAXYc>

Program overview (cont'd)

Formation en langage clair

OCTOBER 28

L'Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario (AJEFO) offered an hour-long plain language training workshop in French. Through practical exercises, educators Mathilde Hountchegnon (Manager, CliquezJustice.ca) and Sylvie Léger (Manager, Jurisource.ca) shared tools to help viewers write clearly and simply in French. This workshop hosted 70 participants.

Law and Community in 2020:

Updates and action for community workers

OCTOBER 29

This conference was presented by Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO) and the Ontario Justice Education Network (OJEN). This conference was designed

for community workers in Ontario whose clients have been affected by COVID-19 and other changes in 2020. Topics included changes to income security programs, worker safety during COVID-19, housing and evictions in Ontario and more. This conference welcomed 218 viewers.

Watch the archived recording:

<https://lso.freestonelms.com/viewer/wEJrVbzbp84Q4e2zdxX5FCmLTEC5JQbMRK5T7J4XYh7fK2i6Vz>

The Future of Bail Reform

OCTOBER 30

At this online event, the Law & Design CoLab launched their beta website Unlock Bail Reform and then hosted a discussion among leading advocates on the future of bail reform in Ontario, featuring Boris Bytensky (Partner at Bytensky Shikhman), Abby Deshman, (Director of

the Criminal Justice Program, Canadian Civil Liberties Association), Jacqueline Tasca (Director of Partnerships, John Howard Society of Ontario). This live program welcomed 125 viewers.

A2J Plenary

OCTOBER 30

This invitation-only event featured summaries from the Week's programs, discussions led by the National Action Committee and explored strategies to improve access to justice in Ontario. The Right Hon. Beverley McLachlin, who convened the Action Committee, discussed Canada's Justice Development Goals with over 50 notable justice stakeholders in attendance.



Commitments

- > Encourage members to read the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action and to make a personal commitment to putting one of the Calls to Action into effect in their own life.
- > Promote resources available to both the public and licensees
- > Convene TAG reference group and Research CoP
- > Facilitate roundtables with key stakeholders (SRLs, intermediaries)
- > Develop and table TAG's 2021 workplan
- > Play a leadership role in understanding the legal market
- > Promote information sharing, reduce duplication and increase collaboration