

Justice Canada

Aboriginal Courtwork Program	2
The Aboriginal Justice Strategy	5
Access to Justice in Both Official Languages Support Fund	6
Child-Centred Family Justice Fund	9
Drug Treatment Court Funding Program	12
Family Violence Initiative	14
Funding Youth Justice	15
Justice Partnership and Innovation Program Canada's Action Plan Against Racism	17
Legal Studies for Aboriginal People Program	19
Public Legal Education and Information (PLEI)	22
Victims Fund	26

Aboriginal Courtwork Program

<http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/pb-dgp/arr-ente/acp-apa.html>

Program Objectives

The Aboriginal Courtworker Program facilitates and enhances access to justice by assisting Aboriginal people involved in the criminal justice system obtain fair, just, equitable and culturally sensitive treatment.

These overall objectives of the Aboriginal Courtwork Program are achieved by:

- Providing Aboriginal persons charged with an offence with timely and accurate information at the earliest possible stage of the criminal justice process. This includes referring Aboriginal accused to appropriate legal resources as well as to appropriate social, education, employment, health, Aboriginal community and other resources to help ensure that underlying problems which contribute to their charges are addressed; and
- Aboriginal Courtworkers actively serving as a “bridge” between criminal justice officials and Aboriginal people and communities, by providing information and promoting communications and understanding between the two entities.

What Courtworkers Do

Courtworkers are involved with a broad range of activities that support the Program's objectives. The Program has been evolving as Courtworkers are challenged to expand the boundaries of their traditional court-based roles. Besides providing in-court information, advice, and community referrals to Aboriginal persons in conflict with the law, Courtworkers are increasingly involved in helping promote and facilitate alternative justice models, cooperating with community councils, and coordinating client participation in diversion programs.

How the Program Works

The Aboriginal Courtwork Program is accessible to all Aboriginal people regardless of status or residency. Furthermore, the Program is national in scope. Currently, the Aboriginal Courtwork Program is operating in every jurisdiction except New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

In most jurisdictions, Aboriginal Courtworker services are delivered by Aboriginal delivery agencies under contract to the provincial or territorial government. In Manitoba, and the Northwest Territories Courtworkers are actual employees of the provincial/territorial government. In Nunavut, Courtworker services are provided through Legal Services Clinics.

Funding

The Program provides federal funding to the provincial and territorial governments through a contribution agreement.

History

In the early 1960s, Native Friendship Centers in various parts of the country began to help the growing numbers of Aboriginal people appearing before the criminal courts. Volunteers helped Aboriginal accused obtain legal representation and access health and social services. They also comforted Aboriginal accused and guided them through a system that was very foreign to them.

In the late 1960s, the federal government recognized the value of these services. Federal financial support began in 1969, and by 1972, the Department of Justice was authorized to fund pilot projects supporting guidance and information to Aboriginal people involved in the criminal justice system. With approval from the Treasury Board in 1978, the pilot concept was expanded and became the Native Courtworker Program (now known as the Aboriginal Courtwork Program). In 1987, the mandate of the program was revised to include services to Aboriginal youth, following the adoption of the Young Offenders Act.

Research undertaken over the past two decades has consistently found that core Courtworker services are effective and valued not only by clients, but also by Aboriginal community representatives and criminal justice personnel.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Can Courtworkers give legal advice?

No. Courtworkers cannot give legal advice to clients because they do not have training to do so. Their role involves providing information and guidance to Aboriginal persons charged with an offence. For example, Courtworkers can explain to the accused person the nature of the charge against him or her and the way the criminal justice systems works. Courtworkers can also help clients by directing them to various counselling services available, such as programs involving Aboriginal elders or alcohol and drug abuse counselling.

2. How can I become a Courtworker?

The federal government does not hire Courtworkers. If you are interested in becoming a Courtworker, you should apply directly to your provincial or territorial delivery agency. Contact the Programs Branch for the list of Courtworker delivery agencies across Canada.

3. Do I need paralegal training to become a Courtworker?

No. Courtworkers come into the job with diverse qualifications and backgrounds. Some Courtworkers have paralegal training, but many do not. In addition, delivery agencies provide training to all Courtworkers, both new and experienced, to keep their knowledge and skills up to date.

4. **In what language do Courtworkers serve their clients?**
Courtworkers across Canada serve their clients in English or in French. A large number of Courtworkers also understand and can serve their clients in the Aboriginal language of the local community.
5. **Can a Courtworker help me hire a lawyer?**
Yes. One of the functions of a Courtworker is to help Aboriginal accused consider whether they need a lawyer and to assist that person in obtaining one.
6. **Who do I have to contact to get a Courtworker in my community?**
Contact the Programs Branch for the list of Courtworker delivery agencies across Canada.

Contact Information

Programs Branch
Department of Justice Canada
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
CANADA
K1A 0H8

Telephone: (613) 957-3180
Fax: (613) 941-5446
E-mail: pb-dgp@justice.gc.ca

The Aboriginal Justice Strategy

<http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/ajs-sja/>

The Aboriginal Justice Strategy (AJS) enables Aboriginal communities to have increased involvement in the local administration of justice and, as such, provides timely and effective alternatives to mainstream justice processes in appropriate circumstances. AJS programs are also aimed at reducing the rates of victimization, crime and incarceration among Aboriginal people in communities operating AJS programs, and helping the mainstream justice system become more responsive and sensitive to the needs and culture of Aboriginal communities.

Objectives:

- To contribute to decreasing rates of crime and victimization in Aboriginal communities operating AJS programs;
- To assist Aboriginal communities to take greater responsibility for the local administration of justice;
- To assist Aboriginal communities to provide better and more timely information about community justice programs funded by the AJS;
- To reflect and include relevant Aboriginal cultural values in Canadian justice administration.

Key Activities:

The AJS supports four types of alternative justice activities and programs at the community and regional level, cost-shared with the provincial and territorial governments:

- Diversion or alternative measures;
- Community sentencing circles and peacemaking;
- Mediation and arbitration in family and civil cases; and
- Court/community Justice Program

AJS programs supported to date have been managed by First Nations and Tribal Councils, community groups, urban Aboriginal coalitions, Inuit hamlets, Métis Organizations, and other non-profit organizations.

Access to Justice in Both Official Languages Support Fund

<http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/pb-dgp/prog/olsf-fajlo.html>

In June 2008, the Government launched the *Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality 2008-2013: Acting for the Future*. The Department of Justice supports the Roadmap through the Initiative in Support of Access to Justice in Both Official Languages. This Initiative includes consulting mechanism, a Justice Training Component to encourage young bilingual Canadians to pursue law related careers in justice that can be practiced in the other official language and a grants and contributions programme called the Access to Justice in Both Official Languages Support Fund (the Support Fund).

Objectives

In order to attain the objectives of the Initiative, the Department will invest resources into the Support Fund. All projects and activities must respond to one of the following objectives:

- Increase the capacity of the justice system and its stakeholders to offer justice services in both official languages.
- Increase awareness in the legal community and official language minority and majority communities concerning their rights and issues related to access to justice in both official languages.

Activities/Projects

Projects of interest include those that:

- Promote awareness, information and education about language rights and issues related to access to justice in both official languages;
- Develop linguistic and legal tools;
- Disseminate linguistic and legal tools;
- Undertake research to the benefit of official language minority communities;
- Provide justice services to official language minority communities as pilot projects;
- Promote activities related to the Justice Training Component:
 - Provide professional development focusing on legal terminology for bilingual justice professionals
 - Contribute to the development of a curriculum for bilingual students interested in pursuing a career in the field of justice
 - Elaborate a recruitment strategy and the promotion of justice-related careers
 - Develop linguistic training tools.

Who is eligible?

- Non-profit organizations;
- Provincial, territorial, regional and municipal governments, including associated Crown corporations.
- Canadian institutions/boards of education, including Centres for jurilinguistics.

Points to Consider

The Department will only consider providing funding for activities related to public legal education and information and/or awareness when the recipient has confirmed funding (financial and/or in-kind) from other sources and will take this amount into consideration when determining the contribution amount.

The Department will only consider providing funding for activities having an impact on provincial/territorial administration of justice when the recipient has confirmed funding (financial and/or in-kind) from provincial/territorial government and will take this amount into consideration when determining the contribution amount.

Project funding can be, and often is, accessed in conjunction with other program funding. Applications will be reviewed carefully to determine linkages to other initiatives/programs so that funding can be shared when appropriate.

As funds are limited, it is not possible to fund all projects that meet the eligibility criteria. Projects that demonstrate that they can best meet the information needs of the Department will be given priority consideration.

How to Apply

To submit a request for funding, we suggest that you complete the Application/Proposal Form: [HTML/ Application/Proposal Form in Adobe PDF Format](#) (106 kb, [PDF Help](#))

An MSWord version of the application is available upon request to pb-dgp@justice.gc.ca.

This form, once completed, contains all the necessary information to allow us to fully assess the merits of the proposal.

We suggest that you refer to the guide entitled "[How to Apply for Funding - A Guide to Preparing a Proposal](#)" before completing your application. The guide provides detailed information on all the items that you are required to address in the application form.

Official Languages

In support of Section 41 of the *Official Languages Act* the Department is committed to facilitate the participation of official language minority communities and their organizations in the development and assessment of the Department's policies, programs and services having significant impact on the development of the communities; and to take measures to ensure that the Department of Justice's programs and services reach official language minority communities. In the context of project funding, these measures include:

- Outreach to official language minority communities to enhance their understanding of the Department of Justice funding programs
- Encouraging contacts between organizations that are receiving financial assistance and official language minority organizations/groups to ensure that the needs of these communities are taken into consideration in relation to the proposed projects to be considered for Department of Justice Canada funding.

Sustainable Development

We encourage you to submit your application electronically. If you submit your application on paper, please consider printing on both sides of the paper. These actions will minimize environmental impacts.

Send the application form by:

1. mail to:
Programs Branch
Department of Justice Canada
284 Wellington Street, 6th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8
2. fax at 613 941-2269; or
3. e-mail at pb-dgp@justice.gc.ca

Contact Information

Programs Branch
Department of Justice Canada
284 Wellington Street, 6th floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8

Telephone: 613 957-4452
Fax: 613 941-2269
E-mail: pb-dgp@justice.gc.ca

Child-Centred Family Justice Fund

<http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/pb-dgp/fs-fi/child-enfan.html>

Introduction

The federal Child-centred Family Justice Strategy has been given a five-year mandate, scheduled to end in March 2008. The overall objective of the Strategy is three-fold: in cases of separation or divorce, (i) to promote decisions tailored to the individual needs of the children; (ii) to promote a family justice system that facilitates the timely resolution of family law matters; and, (iii) to increase compliance with parenting arrangements and child support obligations. To achieve this, the Department of Justice established the Child-centred Family Justice Fund.

One component of the Fund, entitled the Public Legal Education and Information (PLEI) and Professional Training component, supports public legal education and information and professional training projects in order that participants in the family justice system (families, judiciary, bar, court staff, enforcement staff, mediators, and others) are well informed about family justice reforms. The specific objective of the PLEI and Professional Training component is to enhance the knowledge of Canadians, including the legal community, about family law reforms concerning parenting arrangements, child support guidelines, and support enforcement measures.

A. **Public Legal Education and Information (PLEI) - Funding Priorities**

One aim of the Department's Child-centred Family Justice Fund is to promote access to the justice system by facilitating community public legal education and information efforts to revise, develop, disseminate and deliver information on parenting arrangements, child support and support enforcement issues. This information should meet community and client needs for a wide variety of target groups including parents from identified hard-to-reach groups who are separating and divorcing, Aboriginal parents, official language minority communities, the youth population, and other separating and divorcing parents among the general public.

The Department has established the following priorities for the PLEI - Project component of the Child-centred Family Justice Fund:

1. to develop PLEI activities promoting parental responsibilities;
2. to develop information that meets the needs of unrepresented litigants;
3. to develop information that meets the needs of official language minority communities;
4. to develop PLEI activities that meet the needs of identified hard-to-reach groups of parents who are separating and divorcing;

5. to develop information that meets the needs of young people who may become parents;
6. to continue to inform and educate other parents among the general public who are separating and divorcing; and,
7. to continue to inform professionals and other intermediaries whose clients include separating and divorcing parents.

Examples of PLEI Activities that could be Eligible for Funding

8. Information sessions on parental roles and responsibilities
9. Research activities
10. Development of plain language materials on the family justice system (process, legislation)
11. Development of workbooks and/or self-help kits for parents and/or un-represented litigants;
12. Training sessions for intermediaries;
13. Development of materials on the family justice system, including services available in the minority language community
14. Revisions to existing print material for parents (e.g., how to obtain variations, going to court)
15. Development of new materials and approaches to educate youth

B. *Professional Training - Funding Priorities*

The main objective of the Professional Training component of the Child-centred Family Justice Fund is to assist with the implementation of family law reforms related to parenting arrangements, child support and support enforcement measures. Professionals directly involved in family law, with divorcing and separating parents, or with the court system, need information on federal and provincial/territorial family law, child support and court reforms. In order to inform the legal profession, the judiciary, mediators and other professionals and intermediaries, departmental officials have given training sessions and have participated in workshops organized by professional organizations, societies and associations. In addition, the Family, Children and Youth Section has provided funding to these organizations to develop child support materials, workshops and training sessions.

A main priority for professional training is to support continuing education efforts for professionals and intermediaries on parenting arrangements, child support, and support enforcement measures. Therefore, the

following areas will be targeted with respect to professional training and education:

1. development of continuing education programs on child-centred family justice issues;
2. assisting professionals, intermediaries and service providers to keep up to date on these issues; and,
3. continuing to inform new professionals, intermediaries and service providers on child-centred family law reforms.

For further information, you can:

- 1) Phone the program manager at (613) 957-0642
- 2) Fax us at (613) 952-9600
- 3) Or write to us at:

Department of Justice Canada
Program Development Unit
Family, Children and Youth Section
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H8

Drug Treatment Court Funding Program

<http://justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/pb-dgp/prog/dtc-ttt/index.html>

Introduction

The Programs Branch of the Department of Justice, in partnership with the Drug Strategy and Controlled Substances Programme at the Department of Health, is responsible for the overall management of the Drug Treatment Court (DTC) Funding Program.

DTCs represent a concerted effort to break the cycle of drug use and criminal recidivism. They focus on facilitating treatment for drug-involved offenders who meet specified criteria and provide an alternative to incarceration by offering an opportunity to complete a drug treatment program. These special courts take a comprehensive approach intended to reduce the number of crimes committed to support drug dependence through judicial supervision, comprehensive substance abuse treatment, random and frequent drug testing, incentives and sanctions, clinical case management, and social services support. They are aimed at reducing the harm people cause to themselves and to others through their drug use, as well as reducing the risk that these individuals will continue to use drugs and thereby come into conflict with the law.

There are now 6 DTCs operating in Canada: Edmonton (December 2005) Winnipeg (January 2006), Ottawa (March 2006) and Regina (October 2006). Existing DTCs continue to operate in Toronto (December 1998) and Vancouver (December 2001). All of these programs, as a condition of their funding, are responsible for developing site-specific results-based evaluation/accountability frameworks, as well contributing to the national evaluation/accountability framework.

The **objectives** of the DTC Funding Program are as follows:

- To promote and strengthen the use of alternatives to incarceration with a particular focus on Aboriginal men and women and street prostitutes;
- To build knowledge and awareness among criminal justice, health and social service practitioners, and the general public about drug treatment courts; and
- To collect information and data on the effectiveness of DTCs in order to promote best practices and the continuing refinement of approaches.

For further information, please contact:

Margaret Trottier

Senior Analyst

Drug Treatment Court Funding Program

Programs Branch, Department of Justice Canada

284 Wellington Street
Ottawa , Ontario K1A 0H8
Or electronically to : margaret.trottier@justice.gc.ca
Or by phone at: (613) 946-6634
Or by fax to: (613) 941-5446

Family Violence Initiative

<http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/fv-vf/index.html>

An ongoing federal commitment to a long-term societal problem with a multitude of social, justice, and health dimensions. The long-term goal of the FVI is to prevent and reduce the occurrence of family violence in Canada. Twelve federal departments, agencies and Crown corporations take part in this Initiative. The Department of Justice is a key participant in the federal Family Violence Initiative.

Who is eligible?

To be considered for project funding, applicants must submit a proposal. Project proposals must be consistent with the FVI objective and meet one or more of the following Fund objectives:

- To enhance knowledge, promote development, and inform Canadians and the legal community about family violence issues;
- To promote access to justice, equality and human rights in Canada;
- To promote the development and implementation of legislative and socio-legal reforms;
- To support the development, testing and implementation of innovative program options, new and multi-disciplinary approaches and models in regard to community involvement and protection from family violence.

Note: As funds are limited, it is not possible to fund all projects that meet the eligibility criteria. Projects that demonstrate that they can best meet the information needs of the Department will be given priority consideration.

Contact Information:

Family Violence Initiative
Department of Justice Canada
Programs Branch

284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
CANADA
K1A 0H8

Telephone: (613) 952-5616
Fax: (613) 941-2269
E-mail: fv-vf@justice.gc.ca

Funding Youth Justice

<http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/yj-jj/fund-fond/fund-fond.html>

The Youth Justice Renewal Initiative calls for a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach to youth justice. The objectives of the Initiative are to:

- Enable greater citizen/community participation in the youth justice system;
- Increase public confidence in the youth justice system;
- Improve public protection by reducing youth crime;
- Increase the use of measures outside the formal court process;
- Reduce the over reliance on custody;
- Increase the emphasis on rehabilitation and reintegration of young offenders; and
- Target measures for violent offenders.

The Youth Justice Renewal Fund targets projects that contribute to the achievement of the broad goals of the Youth Justice Renewal Initiative, as set out above.

Through the Youth Justice Renewal Fund:

- Provincial and territorial ministries responsible for youth justice may apply for Grants and Contributions to assist them and their partners in assuming effective roles in the continuing implementation of the Youth Criminal Justice Act that are in keeping with the underlying principles of the Youth Justice Renewal Initiative.
- In support of the Youth Justice Renewal Initiative, NGOs and aboriginal organizations who are active/interested in youth justice issues may apply for grants and contributions to:
 - a. Test innovative features of the Youth Criminal Justice Act. Of particular interest have been projects on extrajudicial measures, youth justice committees, pre-trial detention, new sentencing options, custody and reintegration;
 - b. Broaden the range and nature of community groups involved in the renewal of youth justice in Canada (e.g., education sector, arts and recreation; child advocates; mental health professionals; those in the helping professions) and;
 - c. Inform Canadians about the Youth Justice Renewal Initiative and the Youth Criminal Justice Act in order to contribute to increased public understanding, participation, confidence and trust in the justice system;
- Aboriginal Communities may also apply for grants and contributions to develop their capacity to participate in and/or deliver community-based youth justice options contained the Youth Criminal Justice Act. These options include extrajudicial measures and sanctions, alternatives to pre-

trial detention, community reintegration and the development and implementation of community-based sentences.

The funding allocated through the Youth Justice Fund flows from three streams: the Youth Justice Main Fund, the Youth Justice Anti-Drug Component and the Guns, Gangs and Drugs Priority. Details on funding criteria for each stream are outlined below for your information:

- Youth Justice Main Fund (PDF Version, 27, KB)
- Youth Justice Anti-Drug Component (PDF Version, 29, KB)
- Guns, Gangs and Drugs Priority (PDF Version, 29, KB)

For Further Information, Contact:

Youth Justice Policy
Department of Justice Canada
180 Elgin Street, 7th floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8
Fax: (613) 954-3275
E-Mail: Youth-Jeunes@justice.gc.ca

Justice Partnership and Innovation Program Canada's Action Plan Against Racism

<http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/pb-dgp/prog/jpif-fjpi.html>

Introduction

Canada's Action Plan Against Racism is a government wide effort to combat racism. Its long-term goal is to contribute to the elimination of racism and strengthen social cohesion through specific anti-racism measures. The Department of Canadian Heritage has overall responsibility for its coordination. Additional information can be found at:

http://www.canadianheritage.gc.ca/progs/multi/plan_action_plan/index_e.cfm

As one of the federal partners to *Canada's Action Plan Against Racism*, the Department of Justice Canada proposes to concentrate its efforts on specific initiatives that are relevant to sustaining the principle of equality before the law. Funding is available through the Justice Partnership and Innovation Fund for projects that explore:

- race based issues in the justice system¹, including addressing the overrepresentation of certain racialized groups in the justice system both as victims and perpetrators, by undertaking research and consultations, and by developing projects that would test approaches or models of intervention or that develop and deliver public legal education and information activities.
- what role the Department of Justice Canada may have in working with others to combat hate motivated crimes including investigating the problem of the borderless communication of hate propaganda through the Internet.

Points to Consider

Project funding can be, and often is, accessed in conjunction with other program funding. Applications will be reviewed carefully to determine linkages to other initiatives/programs so that funding can be shared when appropriate.

As funds are limited, it is not possible to fund all projects that meet the eligibility criteria. Projects that demonstrate that they can best meet the information needs of the Department will be given priority consideration.

Funding activities related to this component are funded through the Department's Justice Partnership and Innovation Program . All potential projects must meet both the objectives of the Program as well as the objectives outlined above.

How to Apply

To submit a request for funding, we suggest that you complete the Application/Proposal Form:HTML/ Application/Proposal Form in Adobe PDF Format (106 kb, PDF Help)

An MSWord version of the application is available upon request to pb-dgp@justice.gc.ca.

This form, once completed, contains all the necessary information to allow us to fully assess the merits of the proposal.

We suggest that you refer to the guide entitled "How to Apply for Funding - A Guide to Preparing a Proposal" before completing your application. The guide provides detailed information on all the items that you are required to address in the application form.

Sustainable Development

We encourage you to submit your application electronically. If you submit your application on paper, please consider printing on both sides of the paper. These actions will minimize environmental impacts.

Send the application form by:

1. mail to:
Programs Branch
Department of Justice Canada
284 Wellington Street, 6th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H8
2. fax at 613 941-2269; or
3. e-mail at pb-dgp@justice.gc.ca

Contact

For additional information on the Department's role in the Action Plan, please contact:

Marilou Reeve
Justice Coordinator for Canada's Action Plan Against Racism
Department of Justice Canada
180 Elgin Street, Room 734
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8
Tel: 613 954-3423
Fax: 613 954-3275

Legal Studies for Aboriginal People Program

<http://justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/pb-dgp/prog/lsap-aeda.html>

Overview

The Legal Studies for Aboriginal People (LSAP) Program is a bursary program designed to financially assist Canadian Métis and Non-Status Indian students who wish to pursue their studies in law in a Canadian institution.

Objectives

To promote equitable representation of Aboriginal people in the legal profession by providing financial assistance to those enrolled in a pre-law program or a law program in Canada.

Activities

Financial assistance is provided to eligible students to offset some of the costs of attending a Canadian Law School in order to obtain a law degree (LLB) over a regular period of three years. Financial assistance may also be provided to eligible students who have received a conditional acceptance and are enrolled in a pre-law program.

Who is eligible?

To be considered for a bursary under the LSAP Program, an applicant must:

- Be **Métis** or **Non-Status Indian** of Canadian citizenship, living in Canada, who has applied to a Canadian law school;
- Attest to **Métis** or **Non-Status** Indian ancestry by signing the declaration in the application form;
- Demonstrate financial need by providing financial information on income or other assistance received and expenses as required in the application form; and,
- Demonstrate that they possess the ability to succeed in law school by providing the necessary documentation as identified in the application.

Demonstrate that they possess the ability to succeed in law school by providing the necessary documentation as identified in the application

How to Apply

Please note that the forms should not be downloaded in the HTML format.

For better results, please use the pdf format. Once completed, the forms cannot be saved.

Pre-Law Program with Credit (May-July)

You must complete the application form ([HTML / PDF Version](#), 35 kb, [PDF Help](#)) and submit it along with all the required documentation by **May 15** or by the latest date that the student is accepted in the program. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

- The application form completed in its entirety and signed
- A copy of the official letter of offer to the pre-law program.
- A copy of the conditional letter of offer (if available) to the law program

You will need to apply separately for the law program (September-April).

Law Program (September – April)

You must complete the application form ([HTML/ PDF Version](#), 59 kb, [PDF Help](#)) and submit it along with all the required documentation by **June 15**. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

APPLICATION DOCUMENTATION

- The application form completed in its entirety and signed;
- A copy of an official letter of offer to a law program;
- Two appraisals (see forms) from individuals who are associated with the last academic or training institution in which you were enrolled or, if you did not attend an educational institution in the previous three years, then from someone who knows your work or studies. Provide a copy of the attached appraisal form ([HTML / PDF Version](#), 27 kb, [PDF Help](#)) to both of your appraisers who are to complete and submit them to the Department of Justice by the deadline. **Please note, it is your responsibility to ensure that the appraisers submit the forms to the Department before the June 15 deadline;**
- Official transcripts for all post-secondary studies (no copies will be accepted);
- An essay. **It is important to note that each element required in the essay will be considered.**
 - First year law school applicants are required to submit an essay (approximately 750 words in length) describing your reasons for pursuing legal studies, your career goals, significant accomplishments, extra-curricular/work activities and special challenges.

- Second and third year law school applicants are required to submit a short essay (approximately 750 words in length) describing your experiences in the previous academic year, including challenges faced, special accomplishments, extracurricular activities or other experiences, as well as career goals.

Contact Information

Administrator

The Legal Studies for Aboriginal People Program

Department of Justice Canada

Programs Branch

284 Wellington Street, 6th Floor

Ottawa, Ontario

Canada

K1A 0H8

Telephone: 1-888-606-5111 (Local calls: 613-941-0388)

E-mail: lsap09-aeda09@justice.gc.ca

Public Legal Education and Information (PLEI)

<http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/pb-dgp/prog/plei-pvij.html>

What is Public Legal Education and Information?

Public Legal Education and Information (PLEI) is defined as "an activity that seeks in a systematic way to provide people with the opportunity to obtain information about the law and the justice system in a form that is timely and appropriate to their needs, but does not include advocacy or representation on behalf of individuals, nor the provision of legal advice" (Department of Justice Access to Justice Agreement 2007-2009).

PLEI improves access to justice by giving the public the information that is needed to understand the law, how to deal with the legal issues that affect their lives and how to use the opportunities and the protections offered by the legal system. PLEI has been an effective instrument of choice for meeting the Department's strategic policy objectives since the 1980s. Many areas within the Department currently undertake PLEI activities on an on-going basis to facilitate access to justice for Canadians.

Basically, PLEI represents the bridge between the justice system and Canadians. The Department of Justice adopted a new policy on public legal education and information (PLEI) (PDF Version, 9ko / Word Version, 26ko) in November 2009 to align its ongoing PLEI activities with its federal mandate and to guide the development of PLEI across the Department.

Why?

The Department is committed to continuing to play a leadership role to help ensure that Canadians have access to justice. The Department of Justice develops and delivers public legal education and information (PLEI) materials and activities to Canadians as part of its mission to support the Minister of Justice regarding federal mandates and responsibilities, and of the stewardship role it plays in collaboration with provinces and territories with respect to Canada's justice system. The Department recognizes the importance of supporting provincial and territorial governments' efforts on PLEI in view of their responsibilities for the administration of justice, and of working in collaboration with them on the development and delivery of PLEI.

This helps ensure that Canada is a just and law-abiding society with an accessible, efficient and fair system of justice. The Department uses many means to provide PLEI to Canadians.

There are many reasons why public legal information is important:

- People who come in contact with the system for whatever reason - as an offender, as a victim, as a witness - may not be aware of their obligations or where to get information about their situation.
- In our justice system, the public is expected to know the law.
- Knowledge about the law can help people better identify the kind of legal advice or assistance they may require. Public legal information is not intended to replace the services of a lawyer where it is required, but often it is helpful to have information about the law in question, in addition to seeking advice.
- Having access to information about the law and how to access legal and social resources in the community can be especially important to people who are vulnerable because of language barriers, economic reasons, reasons of discrimination, etc.

How?

Since the mid-1980s, the Department has understood that PLEI activities enhance access to justice by informing and educating people about Canada's law and justice system. The first federal PLEI programs, designed to increase public knowledge of important issues such as drinking and driving, the Divorce Act and child sexual abuse, were launched in 1985. At the same time, the Department also worked with provincial counterparts to establish a network of non-governmental PLEI organizations across Canada.

Today, in addition to its ongoing support to the PLEI network and the in-house development of materials about the justice system and our evolving laws, the Department continues to deliver a variety of PLEI-oriented projects. These include: the Laws Site, this booklet developed under the Supporting Families Fund, the directory of services provided by Victims Fund and the recently launched Elder Abuse Initiative.

In November 2009, the Department adopted a new Policy on Public Legal Education and Information (PLEI) (PDF Version, 9ko / Word Version, 26ko). The new policy is based on the Department's core mandate "to ensure that Canada's justice system is accessible, efficient and fair." It also includes five principles that broadly describe how to develop and deliver PLEI activities and materials in a way that meets the needs of Canadians. Developed by representatives of the more than 10 areas of the Department that undertake PLEI activities, the Policy is coordinated by the PLEI Coordination and Resource Unit established in Programs Branch.

What?

Today, PLEI is delivered through a variety of activities and in a wide range of locales. Projects and activities include:

- electronic access to legal information (e.g., Internet);
- print and audio-visual materials about specific legal issues, such as divorce, child support, family violence, issues relating to victims of crime, Aboriginal persons, young offenders, dispute resolution, etc.)
- conferences, seminars and workshops on specific legal topics;
- school-based law courses;
- interactive learning modules;
- popular theatre;
- law lines staffed by people who provide legal information;

Who?

The Department of Justice Canada provides annual funding in each province to one PLEI organization whose designation is recommended by the province. The funding is provided in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Justice Partnership and Innovation Program. In the Yukon, Northwest Territory and Nunavut, PLEI is funded through the Access to Justice Agreements between the respective territorial governments and the Department of Justice Canada.

In addition, the Department also provides project funding to non-governmental organizations to develop and deliver information activities and tools and that qualify for funding from the various funding programs of the Department associated with policy initiatives, namely: the Justice Partnership and Innovation Program, the Victims Fund, the Family Violence Initiative, the Youth Justice Fund, the Supporting Families Fund, the Aboriginal Justice Strategy Fund and the Access to Justice in Both Official Languages Support Fund.

At the federal level, PLEI activities are developed and provided by:

- the Department of Justice
- 13 core providers (one per province and territory)
- a wide variety of partnering or intermediary organizations supported by various funding programs of the Department to develop and provide PLEI activities and tools to communities

PLEI organizations that receive annual funding support from DOJ are:

- Public Legal Education Network of Alberta
- The People's Law School (British Columbia)
- Community Legal Association of Manitoba
- Public Legal Information Association of Newfoundland
- Public Legal Education and Information Service of New Brunswick
- Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia

- Community Legal Education Ontario
- Community Legal Information Association of PEI
- Éducaloi (Quebec)
- Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan
- Public Legal Education and Information in Nunavut: Telephone: 867-360-4601 Fax: 867-360-6112
- Legal Services Board of the Northwest Territories
- Yukon Public Legal Education Association

For information :

PLEI Coordination and Resource Unit
Programs Branch
Department of Justice
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa (Ontario)
K1A 0H8
E-mail: pb-dgp@justice.gc.ca

Victims Fund

<http://justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/pb-dgp/prog/vf-fv.html>

Overview

The Victims Fund, co-managed by the Policy Centre for Victims Issues and Programs Branch supports a wide range of projects and activities designed to improve the experience of victims in the criminal justice system.

For more information on the Policy Centre of Victims Issues as well as issues of importance to victims in the criminal justice system, please visit the web site of the Policy Centre for Victims Issues.

The Objectives of the Fund are:

- to promote access to justice and participation by victims in the justice system;
- to promote the development of law, policies and programs for victims;
- to encourage other levels of government to implement principles, guidelines and laws designed to address the needs of victims of crime and articulate the victim's role in the criminal justice system;
- to increase knowledge and awareness of the impact of victimization, the needs of victims of crime, available services, assistance and programs, and relevant legislation;

- to encourage governmental and non-governmental organizations to identify victim needs and gaps in services, and develop and deliver programs, services and assistance to victims;
- to promote capacity-building within non-governmental organizations; and
- to provide direct, limited, emergency financial assistance to:
 - individual victims of crime in exceptional circumstances for emergency situations of undue hardship where no other source of financial assistance is available
 - family members of victims of homicide who incur expenses to attend *Criminal Code* section 745.6 early parole eligibility hearings.
- to provide financial assistance to individual Canadian victims of a specified serious violent crime in a foreign jurisdiction for emergency situations of undue hardship where no other source of financial assistance is available (specified crimes are homicide, sexual assault, aggravated assault or assault with serious personal violence, including against a child)
<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/pcvi-cpcv/fun-fin2.html>.
- to provide financial assistance to individual victims of offenders under federal jurisdiction/supervision who incur expenses to attend National Parole Board hearings in respect of the offender. Information on Financial Assistance for Victims to Attend National Parole Board Hearings can also be obtain by calling 1-866-544-1007
<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/pcvi-cpcv/fun-fin2.html>
- to provide financial assistance to an individual support person to attend or support registered victims to attend National Parole Board hearings
<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/pcvi-cpcv/fun-fin2.html>.

There are three components of the Victims Fund. These components directly support the objectives of the Victims of Crime Initiative:

1. Provincial and Territorial implementation:

This component of the Victims Fund is designed to encourage implementation of federal and provincial/territorial legislation for victims of crime including *Criminal Code* provisions, such as victim impact statements, testimonial aids. It also supports the adherence to the Canadian Statement of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime.

Only provinces and territories are eligible for funding under this component.

2. Projects and Activities Component:

This component makes funding available, through grants and contributions, to governmental and non-governmental organizations. Projects and activities eligible for funding include those that encourage the development of new approaches, promote access to justice for victims of crime, improve the capacity of victim service providers, foster the establishment of referral networks and/or increase awareness of services

available to victims of crime and their families.

The Project and Activities component also provides funding to support the organization of National Victims of Crime Awareness Week events
<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/pcvi-cpcv/fun-fin2.html>

3. Financial Assistance Component:

This component provides financial assistance to victims of crime in specific circumstances as outlined above. For more information on applying for financial assistance please access the funding site of the PCVI.

Please Note: The Victims Fund does not provide compensation to victims of crime. Some provinces and territories have programs to provide compensation. Links to provincial governments can be found at
<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/eng/pi/pcvi-cpcv/fun-fin.html>

Additional Funding Information

Activities

The types of projects that could receive funding include:

- projects to assist victims of crime;
- projects to increase awareness and access to services for victims, with a focus on those in northern and rural communities; and
- projects to enhance the capacity of victim service providers, and to set up and implement referral networks, public-education projects and training.

Who is eligible?

- not-for-profit agencies and organizations;
- individuals;
- educational institutions;
- bands and tribal councils;
- non-governmental organizations;
- provincial, territorial, municipal and regional governments;
- private-sector organizations sponsoring non-profit projects; and
- governmental and non-governmental international organizations of which Canada is a member.

Other Points to Consider

Project funding under the Projects and Activities Component can be, and often is, accessed in conjunction with other program funding. Applications will be

reviewed carefully to determine linkages to other initiatives/programs so that funding can be shared when appropriate. As well funds are limited; it is not possible to fund all projects that meet the eligibility criteria. Projects that demonstrate that they can best meet the information needs of the Department will be given priority consideration.

More funds are requested than there are funds available. A project has a greater chance of securing funding if there are other funding partners and there is demonstrated support from organizations in the community. Often, the Victims Fund cannot cover the full cost of a project and can only contribute toward the cost. The Victims Fund generally limits funding to a maximum of \$50,000, with most projects receiving between \$25,000 and \$50,000.

How to Apply

If you are applying for Emergency Financial Assistance for Canadians Victimized Abroad or Financial Assistance for Victims to Attend National Parole Board Hearings, please use the specific application form links found on the site of the Policy Centre for Victims Issues.

To submit a request for funding under the Victims Fund, we suggest that you complete the Application/Proposal Form: HTML/ Application/Proposal Form in Adobe PDF Format (106 kb, PDF Help) .

An MSWord version of the Application Form is available on request to pb-dgp@justice.gc.ca.

We suggest that you refer to the guide entitled "How to Apply for Funding - A Guide to Preparing a Proposal" before completing your application. The guide provides detailed information on all the items that you are required to address in the application form.

Official Languages

In support of Section 41 of the *Official Languages Act* the Department is committed to facilitate the participation of official language minority communities and their organizations in the development and assessment of the Department's policies, programs and services having significant impact on the development of the communities; and to take measures to ensure that the Department of Justice's programs and services reach official language minority communities. In the context of project funding, these measures include:

- Outreach to official language minority communities to enhance their understanding of the Department of Justice funding programs
- Encouraging contacts between organizations that are receiving financial assistance and official language minority organizations/groups to ensure

that the needs of these communities are taken into consideration in relation to the proposed projects to be considered for Department of Justice Canada funding.

Sustainable Development

We encourage you to submit your application electronically. If you submit your application on paper, please consider printing on both sides of the paper. These actions will minimize environmental impacts.

Send the application form by:

1. mail to:
Programs Branch
Department of Justice Canada
284 Wellington Street, 6th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H8
2. Telephone: 613-941-4193
fax at 613 941-2269
3. **Please provide an electronic version of the application form**
e-mail at pb-dgp@justice.gc.ca

Contact Information

For further information about the Victims Fund:

Programs Branch
Department of Justice Canada
284 Wellington Street, 6th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario
CANADA
K1A 0H8

Telephone: 613 957-9581
Fax: 613 941-2269
E-mail: pb-dgp@justice.gc.ca
Financial Assistance to attend NPB hearings: 1-866-544-1007