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October 29, 2015

Update Report  
TAG – The Action Group on Access to Justice

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## **RECENT ACTIVITIES**

### **Reference Group**

The tenth meeting of the Reference Group was held on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was an opportunity to review TAG's first activity report to the Law Foundation of Ontario. This report was filed in August and approval for 2016 funds was granted in September. Other cluster and communications activities were also discussed.

### **Innovation in Access to Justice Conference**

TAG was pleased to participate in the recent Innovation in Access to Justice held in Montreal from October 1-2. TAG and Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO) gave a joint presentation about Steps to Justice (formerly Shared Steps), an innovative digital family law resource that brings together the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, the Ontario Court of Justice, Social Justice Tribunals of Ontario, the Ontario Bar Association, Legal Aid Ontario, The Law Society of Upper Canada and a number of community legal clinics and as well as growing list of community groups. The initiative was well received for bringing together many institutional collaborators. The conference was a great opportunity to learn about the access to justice initiatives in progress across Canada.

### **Newsletter**

TAG has a monthly newsletter. To join the mailing list please visit [http://eepurl.com/bzh\\_cX](http://eepurl.com/bzh_cX).

## **CLUSTERS**

### **Public Legal Education & Information (PLEI)**

On October 5 members of the PLEI Cluster, which includes representatives from Social Justice Tribunals, the Law Foundation of Ontario, Pro Bono Ontario and other organizations, held their first meeting. Community Legal Education Ontario's Mapping Public Legal Information in Ontario report, which will be released in 2016, will inform activities within this cluster. The key aims are to enhance the impact of existing PLEI resources and find ways to reduce duplication. If you would like to join this cluster email us at [tag@theactiongroup.ca](mailto:tag@theactiongroup.ca).

## Opening Minds to Mental Health

Panellists for the November 20 Opening Minds to Mental Health conference are now confirmed:

### Panel 1

#### Responding to Users' Mental Health Challenges: Ensuring Access to Justice

Justice Edward Kelly (Ontario Court of Justice)

Dr. Graham Glancy (University of Toronto)

Steve Lurie (Canadian Mental Health Association, Toronto Branch)

Anita Szigeti (Anita Szigeti Advocates)

*Moderator: David Wright (Law Society Tribunal)*

### Panel 2

#### Maintaining Mental Health for Justice System Professionals

Dr. Deborah Goodman (Children's Aid Society of Toronto)

Michael Maclean (Court Services, Ministry of the Attorney General)

Nadia Liva (Nadia Liva, Barrister and Solicitor)

Orlando da Silva (Ministry of the Attorney General)

Jay Sengupta (Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario)

*Moderator: Lucy McSweeney (Office of the Children's Lawyer)*

This event is co-organized with the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice. The focus is on exploring issues of access and ethics with emphasis on how justice system professionals can respond to the mental health challenges of justice system users and establish self-care habits in ethically challenging and emotionally demanding work environments. Dr. David Goldbloom from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health will be the keynote speaker. This event is open to all justice system professionals and there is no cost to attend. Register online at [www.openingmindstomentalhealth.eventbrite.com](http://www.openingmindstomentalhealth.eventbrite.com).

## Inclusive Technology

A new cluster is in development that will address access to justice and the digital divide. Cluster members are currently researching use of technology in other sectors. A symposium that identifies solutions and develops technology use principles for Ontario is being considered for late winter/early spring. To get involved with this cluster please email [tag@theactiongroup.ca](mailto:tag@theactiongroup.ca).

## Rural and Remote Libraries

The October 29 day of discussion with librarians and legal professionals from rural and remote communities is fully subscribed. Speakers include Chris Bentley (Executive Director of Ryerson University's Legal Innovation Zone and Law Practice Program) and Janet Freeman (Community Outreach Librarian at Courthouse Libraries BC). A facilitated session will engage representatives from public libraries, courthouse libraries, law associations and legal clinics to develop innovative solutions to rural and remote access to justice challenges. This event is co-organized with the Community Advocacy & Legal Centre, Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO), the Boldness Project: Rural and Remote Access to Justice.