



May 26, 2016

**Update Report  
TAG – The Action Group on Access to Justice**

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**Indigenous Children and Youth Cluster**

TAG has convened a cluster that examines the over-representation of Indigenous children and youth in care in Ontario through the lens of reconciliation and access to justice for First Nations, Métis Nation and Inuit Peoples. An engagement session was held on May 6 in Toronto. The session was conducted with Indigenous community leaders, organizations and agencies responsible for Indigenous children and youth. Keynote presentations were made by:

**Cindy Blackstock**

Executive Director, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada  
Associate Professor, University of Alberta and Director of FNCARES

**Hon. Justice Gethin B. Edwards**

Ontario Court of Justice

**Dr. Barbara Fallon**

Factor Inwentash Faculty of Social Work  
University of Toronto

**Marian Jacko**

Counsel, Indigenous Issues  
Motherisk Commission

The remainder of the program focused on defining issues and identifying culturally appropriate solutions that relate to pre-care, in-care and post-care circumstances. This was the second engagement session for this cluster. The first session, held on March 4 in Toronto was for youth participants that had experience of being in care. Outcomes and recommendations from these sessions are currently being compiled for a summer release. Related implementation plans are anticipated for the fall, likely to coincide with Access to Justice Week. Details about this cluster can be found on the [TAG website](#).

**Architects of Justice**

This summer TAG will launch its Architects of Justice public engagement initiative. The first event in this program will take place from May 28-29<sup>th</sup> as part of Doors Open at Osgoode Hall. We have organized a hands on design thinking initiative for participants and will also feature a presentation about the New Toronto Courthouse. Join us in Lower Barristers' Lounge and find details on the [TAG website](#).

### **History Repeating? Forensic Evidence, Motherisk and Miscarriages of Justice**

TAG has partnered with AIDWYC on a CPD session that will outline the role that flawed forensic pathology and other forensic evidence has played in miscarriages of justice in Canada. The free program will be held on June 6, 2016 in the Donald Lamont Learning Centre from 2pm to 5pm. Attend in person or by webcast. To register visit the [TAG website](#).

The following speakers have been confirmed:

**Philip M. Epstein**  
Senior Partner, Epstein Cole LLP

**Brian H. Greenspan**  
Partner, Greenspan, Humphrey, Lavine

**Dr. Dirk Huyer**  
Chief Coroner for Ontario

**Hon. Justice Susan Lang**  
Court of Appeal for Ontario

**James Lockyer**  
Partner, Lockyer Campbell Posner

**Rachel Mendleson**  
Reporter, Toronto Star

### **Access to Justice Week**

TAG is organizing Access to Justice Week from October 17 to 21 in conjunction with the annual Public Legal Education Association of Canada meeting. Access to Justice Week will engage a range of access to justice stakeholders including the general public and trusted intermediaries. Details will be posted over the coming months on the [TAG website](#).