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What is access to justice?

- Access to justice is a fundamental principle of our justice system, and yet every day many are faced with barriers to getting the help they need. Vulnerable and marginalized populations face additional barriers to accessing justice based on factors like gender, race, culture, age, language, literacy, disability, income support, and geographical location.
- Access to justice means that people have access to the information, resources and services necessary to effectively resolve their legal issues.

What is Access to Justice Week?

- The sixth annual Access to Justice Week in Ontario 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 critical access to justice issues from different perspectives.
- Access to Justice Week is recognized across Canada with programming supported by CREATE Justice at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law, the Law Society of Saskatchewan, the Canadian Bar Association – Alberta Branch, the University of Alberta Faculty of Law, the Law Society of Ontario, and the Access to Justice and Law Reform Institute of Nova Scotia.
- Access to Justice Week 2021 features a series of awareness-building virtual programming, centered around the themes of community building and inclusive justice, as well as public-facing legal seminars designed to help break down every day barriers faced by those accessing the justice system.

Role of the Law Society of Ontario

- The Law Society has a mandate to maintain and advance the cause of justice and to facilitate access to justice for the people of Ontario. Supporting TAG – The Action Group on Access to Justice and Access to Justice Week in Ontario are central to fulfilling that mandate.

Role of TAG – The Action Group on Access to Justice

- The Action Group on Access to Justice (TAG) was established by the Law Society of Ontario in 2015 to facilitate better coordination and collaboration across the justice sector. With support from the Law Society of Ontario and the Law Foundation of Ontario, TAG works with a range of justice stakeholders to develop meaningful, public-centred solutions that advance systemic change.

The Law Society regulates [lawyers and paralegals](#) in Ontario in the public interest. The Law Society has a mandate to protect the public interest, to maintain and to advance the cause of justice and the rule of law, to facilitate access to justice for the people of Ontario and to act in a timely, open and efficient manner.

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