

## Ontario Justice Education Network / Réseau Ontarien D'Éducation Juridique

### 2011 Annual Report

#### Strategic Priorities: Checking In

In 2009 OJEN adopted a seven year Strategic Plan setting out priorities and some of the activities to achieve them. Here is some highlights of the past year's activities in each of these priority areas, as we reach the mid-way point on the strategic plan.



#### Promote Civic Engagement

Active Citizens, OJEN's social justice workshop, was expanded this year to provide students in grades 10, 11 and 12 as well as youth in non-academic settings, with skills to lead innovative social justice projects in their communities. New program templates offer sessions of varying lengths, from 3 hour conference to an intensive 10 week project.



#### Address Emerging Needs

Projects for newcomers to Canada were expanded to include new types of community and school based models. A mock bail hearing program for English as a Second Language learners introduces newcomers to the principles of a fair and transparent justice system. Career modeling projects allow youth who have immigrated to Canada see themselves pursuing any of the careers in the justice system.

### Breaking down the numbers for 2011

- ~ 200,000 youth impacted by an OJEN project or resource
- ~ 73,000 Ontario youth visited courthouses
- ~ 2200 youth participated in mock trial tournaments
- ~ 916 grade 5 students complete the four-day civil mock trial project
- ~ 2500 students attended law symposia
- ~ 200 schools matched with lawyers through Adopt-a-School
- ~ 600 students participated in a Charter Challenge mock appeal
- ~ 225 Newcomer youth complete a talking law or mock bail project
- ~ 333 Aboriginal youth in northern Ontario take part in Active Citizens, mock trials or career modeling
- ~ 1000 new classroom resources distributed
- ~ 565 youth living in high-risk communities complete an 6 week justice education project
- ~ 300 teachers took part in OJEN's Institutes for Teachers
- ~ 220 students in Windsor and Kingston participate through new post-secondary outreach projects
- ~ 740 grade 5 students registered for the OJEN Poster Challenge
- ~ 110 faculty representatives, community leaders and teachers at the Justice Education Symposium
- ~ 146 Francophone youth prepare to argue French language mock trials
- ~ 113 girls involved in career modeling program
- ~ 250 youth workers and student success teachers attended capacity building workshops
- ~ 100 parents and youth attended crisis response sessions
- ~ presentations at 14 educational conferences
- ~ Established 20 new relationships with community organizations
- ~ An average of 4500 hits on the OJEN website each day
- ~ 24,000 pro bono hours from lawyers and law students



## Build on Strengths

OJEN made significant submissions made to the Ministry of Education as part of its regular review of the Canada and World Studies Curriculum. In addition to attending the input session, OJEN prepared submissions regarding the Kindergarten through to Grade 12 curriculum in relation to the integration of legal concepts, introduction to the courts, and the development of skills for dealing with conflict, integrating feedback from classroom teachers, judges and lawyers.



## Involve Youth Strategically

Throughout the year OJEN welcomed the involvement of youth in many areas of its operations, providing meaningful paid and volunteer experience. Three students were hired through Service Canada employment grants to complete projects in Thunder Bay, Kingston and Sudbury. Ten students took internship positions in the provincial office and five youth participated in volunteer roles. In addition, 40 law students from Osgoode Public Interest Requirement program began or completed their required public interest hours by developing curriculum resources and Pro Bono Students Canada placements were involved in OJEN on the Air radio project and the Kingston and Windsor post-secondary programs.



## Strive for Diversity

Three projects were piloted in special education classes with adaptations to meet the needs of students with learning disabilities or behavioral issues. Existing OJEN classroom materials, mock hearings and courthouse visits have been modified, in consultation with special education teachers, to provide a dynamic justice education opportunity for students in these specialized classes or schools.



## Raise OJEN's Community Profile

A new award was created in January in honour of two of OJEN's founding Board members, Justice Fran Kiteley and Allan Hux. The Hux-Kiteley Exemplary Justice Educator Award was presented to Pat Noble, a prominent educator in the Peel District School Board. This brings to three, the number of awards OJEN presents annually in recognition of leadership in justice education. Justice Patricia Hennessy, a judge in Sudbury, was the recipient of the OJEN Chief Justices' Award. Don Morris, a classroom teacher in Ottawa, received the Lennox Award, endowed by the Ontario Conference of Judges in honour of former Chief Justice Brian Lennox' leadership, to an individual in the East Region.



## Enhance OJEN's Administrative Capacity

OJEN converted to a content management system in the fall of 2010. Throughout 2011 this has been implemented and expanded to allow for online registrations, Regional Committee support, project monitoring, online volunteer sign-up, tracking of participation, and more responsive website and email communications. An online Board of Directors' forum has increased access to materials as well as other program information for all board members.

### *Keeping the Lights On*

OJEN is grateful for the sustaining support of the Law Foundation of Ontario, which continues to provide core funding, supporting projects and administration. In 2011 the Department of Justice Canada funded training sessions for youth workers through the Justice Partnership and Innovation Program. The Ontario Trillium Foundation continues to support OJEN's programming in the Northwest and Northeast Ontario. Service Canada grants provided funding for three summer student positions.

The Law Society of Upper Canada provides significant support of OJEN through its donation of office space, computer and telephone equipment and support, facilities and administrative support. The Ministry of the Attorney General houses the Thunder Bay OJEN office. OJEN's two Francophone outreach positions are shared in an innovative partnership with the Association of French Jurists of Ontario (AJEFO) and work out of the AJEFO office in Ottawa. Summer students were housed at the Sudbury courthouse and at Queens University as part of its post-secondary outreach initiative.

Other in-kind support is provided by Network partners, including use of facilities, and courthouses, Osgoode Hall, translation of resources, distribution of educational resources and other in-kind contributions as required.

## *Co-Chairs of the OJEN Board of Directors*

Three years ago when its Board of Directors approved a seven year plan for OJEN's growth, it seemed we were charging this small organizations with a daunting challenge. The plan was extremely ambitious with far reaching goals and significant outcomes. How could we ever accomplish such an enormous undertaking? However, as each year goes by, OJEN's achievements build. What initially appeared like a far off dream has rapidly become a reality.

What we have come to understand, through our first year as Co-Chairs on the Board of Directors, is that OJEN is truly, a multi-faceted network of individuals, organizations and agencies contributing in their own unique ways to what might best be described as an extraordinary collective creation. Funders, volunteers, educators, community partners, staff and participants from all parts of the province, give OJEN form, bring it to life and make it fly.



In the past year, OJEN has made tremendous strides in each of the seven identified areas of priorities: Promoting Civic Engagement, Addressing Emerging Needs, Building on Strengths, Involving Youth Strategically, Striving for Diversity, Raising OJEN's Community Profile and Enhancing OJEN's Administrative Capacity.

While we are proud of the work OJEN has done this year, we recognize that there is much yet to do. As we prepare to celebrate our tenth anniversary in 2012, we are more confident than ever that our model of justice education will allow us to achieve our goals with the great support we continue to receive. We welcome everyone to contribute in whatever way they can to the OJEN phenomenon!

Justice Gloria Epstein  
Court of Appeal for Ontario

Rob Mewhinney  
Ontario history and Social Studies' Teachers' Association

### *Spotlight on Justice Education for Aboriginal Youth*

2011 was a busy year around the province. OJEN's office in Thunder Bay, established 3 years ago with a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, has grown dramatically in the past several months. Programming here is primarily focused on Aboriginal youth. Housed in the courthouse, the OJEN Project Manager benefits from the hospitality and camaraderie for the Ministry of the Attorney General employees. OJEN's success in establishing partnerships within the community has resulted in the delivery of several innovative programs:

- A partnership with SEVEN Youth Media led to an OJEN on Air radio project with youth in remote communities collaborating to research and produces a radio segment about child custody issues.
- An Active Citizens project introduced a group of Aboriginal girls in secure custody to avenues of advocacy for social justice. Working with award-winning Aboriginal film maker, Michelle Fontaine, they created a documentary sharing their experiences and opinions about alcohol and substance abuse within their communities.
- Students attending Dennis Franklyn Cromarty high school have receiving curriculum linked Active Citizens and mock trial programs.
- A renewed partnership with Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services has facilitated youth and youth leader capacity building through joint training sessions. Aboriginal youth both in their home communities, and billeted in Thunder Bay, are participating in justice education programs and benefiting from increased access to justice sector professionals.

These are among many new and exciting initiatives underway in this region of Ontario. Throughout the entire province an upsurge of interest from local OJEN committees and volunteers from every area of the justice community increased the amount of justice education activity that was delivered and brought over 85,000 youth into contact with some kind of OJEN programming last year alone.

# Who is OJEN?

## Board of Directors (as of the Annual General meeting, November 2011)

Justice Gloria Epstein, (co-chair) appointee of the Chief Justice of Ontario  
Rob Mewhinney, (co-chair) appointee of the Ontario History and Social Students Teachers' Association  
Pat Hatt, (treasurer) appointee of Community Legal Education Ontario  
Angelo Bolotta, appointee of OJEN  
Sherry Cameron-Stobie, appointee of Legal Aid Ontario  
Jenn Dang, appointee of OJEN  
Constance Backhouse, appointee of the Law Society of Upper Canada  
Anthony Hutchinson, appointee of OJEN  
Justice Nancy Kastner, appointee of the Ontario Court of Justice  
Justice Ann Molloy, appointee of the Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice  
Jeff Kugler, appointee of OJEN (on leave)  
Meredith Brown, appointee of the Deputy Attorney General of Ontario  
Janet Minor, appointee of the Law Foundation of Ontario  
Ginette Plourde, appointee of the Deputy Minister of Education

## The Network

The Network is made up of 24 provincial organizations in either the law or education sector that have made a formal commitment to collaborate in the delivering of justice education through OJEN.

The Chief Justice of Ontario  
The Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice  
The Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice  
The Deputy Attorney General of Ontario  
The Deputy Minister of Education  
The Chair of the Law Foundation of Ontario  
The Treasurer of the Law Society of Upper Canada  
The Federal Minister of Justice as represented by the Director of Innovations, Analysis and Integration Directorate  
The President of the Advocates' Society  
The President of the County and District Law Presidents' Association  
The President of the Ontario Bar Association  
The Chair of Legal Aid Ontario  
The President of the Ontario History and Social Science Teachers' Association  
The Executive Director of Community Legal Education Ontario  
The Executive Director of the Association of Community Legal Clinics of Ontario  
The Ombudsman of Ontario  
The Education Director of the Canadian Civil Liberties Education Trust  
The Institute for Catholic Education  
The Ontario Principals' Council  
The ESL/ELD Resource Group of Ontario  
Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres  
The Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants  
Ontario Council of Law Deans  
L'Association des juristes d'expression française de l'Ontario  
The Ontario Business Educators' Association

OJEN projects are delivered by over 1200 active volunteers from all aspects of the justice and education sector. Judges, Justices of the Peace, lawyers, law students, court staff, paralegals, educators and pre-service teachers contribute to OJEN projects introducing legal concepts and legal professionals to Ontario's young people. In 2011 these volunteers provided over 24,000 hours of pro bono time to the community through OJEN's projects.

## OJEN Staff

Sarah McCoubrey - Executive Director

### Administrative Team

Renae Bruce - Office Manager  
Nadine Demoe - Communications and Grants Manager

### Programs Department

Jessica Reekie - Director of Programs  
Enisone Kadiri - Programming for youth in Toronto's high-risk communities  
Stephanie Nilausen - Elementary school programming  
Asha DaCosta - Newcomer programming  
Bryn Bamber - Aboriginal programming  
Sylvia Seo - YCJA focused programs (on maternity leave)  
Francois Ouimet - Francophone program support

### Strategic Initiatives Department

Mara Clarke - Director of Strategic Initiatives (on maternity leave)  
Anna Solomon - Post-Secondary outreach facilitator (on maternity leave)  
Matthew Edwards - Project Leader  
Maureen Ra - contract - Post-Secondary Outreach

### Educator Support Department

Andrea Sobko - Director of Educator Support  
Christine Poirier - Francophone curriculum support  
Nat Paul - Project Leader



## Where is OJEN?

Provincial Office -  
Osgoode Hall  
130 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N6  
Phone: 416 947-5273

Ottawa Office  
201-214 Montreal Road  
Ottawa, ON,

Thunder Bay Office  
Ontario Courthouse  
1805 East Arthur Street, First Floor  
Thunder Bay, ON,

## What People are Saying about OJEN

"It was the best experience of the fifth grade!"  
Grade 5 student about the Elementary Civil Mock Trial Program

"My favourite part of this program was getting to know law professionals and finding out that it is possible to act with ethics. It was a very positive experience for me because I come from a country where there is widespread corruption in the judicial system."  
Participant from Newcomer Mock Bail Program

"Didn't know that a Crown's job is to poke holes in the defense's evidence. I always thought it was the Crown's job to put people in jail. A Crown helps people too."  
Participant in At-Risk Youth Program

"The dedication that OJEN has to its youth audience is outstanding and I am glad to be a part of it."  
Justice Volunteer

"This is always one of my best PD conferences. The material you provide is engaging and relevant especially for the classroom."  
Classroom Teacher



## OJEN's Audited Financial Statement

Prepared by:

*Cowperthwaite Mehta*

Chartered Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants  
September 20, 2011, Toronto Ontario

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT MARCH 31, 2011		
	2011	2010
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets	\$ nil	\$ 452,950
Cash	87,350	3,629
Amounts receivable		25,860
	<b>\$ 87,350</b>	<b>\$ 482,439</b>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities		
Bank indebtedness (outstanding cheques)	\$ 17,700	\$ nil
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	19,487	39,452
Deferred revenue (see below)	17,350	385,600
	<b>54,537</b>	<b>425,052</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		
Unrestricted	32,813	57,387
	<b>\$ 87,350</b>	<b>\$ 482,439</b>

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2011

	2011	2010
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Grants (see below)	\$ 1,017,322	\$ 915,280
Program cost reimbursement	24,247	34,005
Registration fees	4,233	3,330
Donations	2,266	2,471
	<b>1,048,068</b>	<b>955,086</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Personnel	875,646	656,576
Programming	88,905	83,025
Publication and production	67,769	93,890
Organizational development	13,647	12,614
Meetings, and regional development	12,228	21,728
Office and general	7,322	30,061
Corporate	7,125	7,612
	<b>1,072,642</b>	<b>905,506</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR</b>		
	(24,574)	49,580
Net assets, beginning of year	57,387	7,807
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 32,813</b>	<b>\$ 57,387</b>

	2011	2010
<b>DEFERRED REVENUE</b>		
Deferred revenue is as follows:		
The Law Foundation of Ontario	\$ nil	\$ 352,100
The Ontario Trillium Foundation	17,350	33,500
Deferred revenue, end of year	<b>\$ 17,350</b>	<b>\$ 385,600</b>
Continuity of deferred revenue for the year is as follows:		
Deferred revenue, beginning of year	\$ 385,600	\$ nil
Add cash received from grants in year	649,072	1,300,880
Less grants recognized in year (note 6)	(1,017,322)	(915,280)
Deferred revenue, end of year	<b>\$ 17,350</b>	<b>\$ 385,600</b>
<b>GRANTS</b>		
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
The Law Foundation of Ontario	\$ 829,292	\$ 750,182
Department of Justice Canada	102,380	131,598
The Ontario Trillium Foundation	85,650	33,500
	<b>\$ 1,017,322</b>	<b>\$ 915,280</b>

## INCOME TAX STATUS

The organization is exempt from income tax in Canada as a registered charitable organization under the Income Tax Act (Canada).