



March 21, 2025

The Honourable Catrina Braid
Ontario Superior Court of Justice
85 Frederick Street
Kitchener, ON N2H 0A7
Dear Justice Braid:

Dear Justice Braid:

I am pleased to see that OJEN's annual "Braiding Diversity into Justice" event is returning for its 7th year. As I am unable to attend, I would appreciate you sharing, on my behalf, this message with the participants of the event:

Dear Participants:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to "Braiding Diversity into Justice", an event first held on November 6, 2018, created by the Ontario Justice Education Network and its Kitchener-Waterloo Committee. Events are now held in many regions across Ontario, and in British Columbia. The original program was for high school aged participants and has since also been offered to undergraduate university students.

"Braiding Diversity into Justice" provides an opportunity for you, the participants, to connect with members of the legal profession and learn from law professionals within your own communities. I invite you to take advantage of the collective wealth of their experience and knowledge, be curious, and ask them questions. It is hoped that your participation in today's event will inspire you to pursue a career as a legal professional and see yourselves as a participant in our future justice system.

The Ontario Superior Court of Justice continues to recognize the diverse society we live in and emphasizes the paramount importance of promoting educational awareness, inclusivity, and diversity. This annual event provides an opportunity for all of you who

represent diverse perspectives to participate in and contribute to an equitable and modern justice system.

Access to justice means providing timely, effective, and meaningful justice services to every individual that the justice system serves, and it remains a top priority for the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. The Executive of the Court recognizes the importance of promoting awareness, inclusivity and diversity and prioritizes on-going education for the judiciary to better understand the public they serve. In recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2024, judges of our Court attended a valuable presentation by Justice Michelle O'Bonsawin, of the Supreme Court of Canada, who is a fluently bilingual Franco-Ontarian and an Abenaki member of the Odanak First Nation. Justice O'Bonsawin has many years of experience in Indigenous justice issues as a lawyer, educator, and a judge, and provided judiciary of our Court critical context and practical advice for addressing the residential school system's legacy in our day-to-day work.

As much as today's event is an opportunity for you to learn from the legal profession, the participating legal professionals are also here to learn from you. Continuing education can break down barriers and increase awareness and understanding in those who participate, and I am sure you will find this an enriching experience.

To the legal professionals participating in this event, I wish to thank you for offering your time, expertise, and contributions today. To the participants, may you discover new opportunities to learn and be inspired throughout the day. I wish everyone a wonderful day and a truly successful event.

Yours truly,



Geoffrey B. Morawetz
Chief Justice

GBM/mr