



Justice Sector commits to Transforming the Family Justice System

January 25, 2021

VANCOUVER, BC – Access to Justice BC (A2JBC) today announces its intention to lead a cross-sectors Transform the Family Justice System (TFJS) Collaborative focused on achieving family well-being.

A2JBC has posted three new videos to support the Collaborative at acesstojusticebc.ca/family-justice-collaborative

1. **Why the family justice system needs to be transformed** - Chief Justice Robert Bauman, Chair of Access to Justice BC, speaks to Nancy Cameron Q.C.
2. **Indigenous Perspectives on a transformed family justice** - Ardith Walkem Q.C. (as she then was), Chantal Genier, Sandra Martin Harris, Jeremy Brooks and Dr. Sarah Morales share Indigenous perspectives.
3. **Why I support the Transform the Family Justice System collaborative** - Jennifer Muller, a self-represented litigant and counsellor, shares her own experiences and speaks to why she supports this transformative work. Ms. Muller is also a member of the Access to Justice BC Leadership Group and Steering Committee.

Jennifer Muller's story emphasizes why this initiative is so important. Justice sector leaders, including Chief Justice Bauman and Attorney General David Eby, support the initiative. The Notary Foundation of BC has provided seed funding.

Look for more content on A2JBC's webpage later this week at: acesstojusticebc.ca/family-justice-collaborative

Access to Justice BC is a network that includes government and non-government organizations. It is committed to improving access to justice in the civil and family justice system by being user-centred, collaborative, experimental and evidence-based.

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Quotes:

Jennifer Muller, self-represented litigant, counsellor and member of Access to Justice BC Leadership Group and Steering Committee

“As a counsellor in the education system and someone who has personally experienced the family justice system, I have observed its negative impact on children and families, including my own. Making the well-being of children the focus of the family justice system will be transformative. Based on my experience with Access to Justice BC, I am hopeful that all justice sectors organizations will align, and work with other sectors, to make this initiative a success.”

Robert Bauman, Chief Justice of British Columbia, Chair of Access to Justice BC

“As Chief Justice of British Columbia and Chair of Access to Justice BC, I proudly support this initiative. The justice system’s usual approach has focused on courts, lawyers and government agencies. The ‘Transform the Family Justice System’ Collaborative instead will place children, youth and families at the centre, and recognize that the justice sector is one of many serving BC families. I call upon all people and organizations working within and outside of the justice system to join us in taking this novel, evidence-based and progressive approach to transforming our province’s family justice system.”

David Eby, Attorney General

“I am very supportive of Access to Justice BC’s initiative. The focus on family well-being aligns with our government’s priority to serve families, and the ongoing and critical work of Ministry of Attorney General staff to reform the family justice system. As our government is an active participant in Access to Justice BC, I look forward to seeing how we can align our work with that of other agencies and authorities to ensure the success of this important initiative.”

Todd McKendrick, Executive Director, The Notary Foundation of BC

“Notaries serve families and many of the families they serve are experiencing family justice issues. Transforming the family justice system so that it supports family well-being is something all of us should commit to. The Notary Foundation is pleased to provide the seed funding for laying the foundations for a successful cross-sectors family justice collaborative.”