

Annual Report 2021-2022

level
changing lives through law



Table of Contents

4	Letter from the ED
6	Mission & Vision
8	Values
9	Strategic Plan
10	Staff
11	Programs
12	Youth Programs
21	Law Student Programs
31	Lawyer Programs
38	Level Portraits
42	Interview with Jewel Amoah
45	Financial Summary
46	Supporters



Caption: Cultural Humility and Empathy Training being delivered to Law in Action Within Schools

Photo by Shelan Markus



Letter from the Executive Director



Shefan Markus
Executive Director

On behalf of the team at Level, I would like to personally thank you for your support of Level's programs, especially during the continued pandemic challenges this year. Your support helps us deliver specialized justice education programming, training and mentorship for social justice leaders, and professional development opportunities for the socially conscious lawyers of tomorrow.

This year Level's Indigenous Youth Outreach Program reached 650+ students in 24 locations across Canada. We were lucky to have outstanding volunteers join the program including Justice Jodie-Lynn Waddilove, Justice André Chamberlain, and Justice Murray Pelletier. Level also started to develop a new youth program: the Black Youth Justice program. Stay tuned for more details on this developing program!

We reach 2,000+ law students through Level's Campus Chapter Program and we started to develop a new Social Justice Fellowship Program to replace the Chapter Program. We also paired 29 law student mentees, representing 13 law schools across the country, with 12 legal mentors. These programs offer the opportunity to gain valuable skills in the legal profession and positively shape the justice sector.

Thanks to the generous support of Justice Canada, Level and Legal Aid Nunavut partnered in April to deliver a week-long training event for Inuit court workers stationed across Nunavut. Level trained participants to deliver three 1.5-hour workshops on access to justice for Inuit youth in their home communities.

Level hosted a three-part Cultural Humility and Empathy Training series developed in partnership with Future Ancestors Services over the course of the 2021-2022 year. Each event in this series focused on a different time period – the past, present and future. Lastly, Level hosted two Facing Resistance Speakers Series to confront challenging justice topics and questions, but also learn how we can collectively create a justice system that is responsive, balanced and fair. The two event topics focused on: (1) How to transform the justice system and create social change and (2) Mobilizing Grassroots access to justice initiatives. Thank you to all of our supporters who joined these two successful events!

Letter from the Executive Director

Of course, all of this would not be possible without the generous support of our funders, including:

CN
Law Foundation of Ontario
Peter Gilgan Foundation
Department of Canadian Heritage
Elliott Family Foundation
Law Foundation of British Columbia
Connected North - TakingITGlobal
Law Foundation of Saskatchewan
Ottawa Community Foundation
Judge Linda Geisbrecht Foundation
Justice Canada
Babin Bessner Spry LLP
Enbridge
Lerners LLP
OKT LLP
Singleton Urquhart Reynolds Vogel LLP
Stockwoods LLP
Thornton Grout Finnigan LLP
Krista Hill and Linda Plumpton
Blakes LLP
Goodmans LLP
McCarthy Tétrault LLP
and our individual donors.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to create a justice system that serves and reflects every member of our communities.

Sincerely,



Shelan Markus



Shelan Markus
Executive Director

Our Mission & Vision

Who?

Level is a Canadian charitable organization.

How?

Programs focused on innovative justice education, mentorship, and training.

What?

We level the barriers to justice by disrupting prejudice, building empathy and advancing human rights.

Why?

We want to see a world where every person can exercise their fundamental human rights.

Level has supported critical human rights work for over 15 years

ANNUALLY, WE ENGAGE...

650+

Indigenous youth in justice education and mentorship

600+

Legal professionals mentoring Indigenous youth and law students

2,000+

Law students and professionals to champion social justice issues



Our Values

Integrity

**WE BELIEVE IN
TRANSPARENCY AND
ACCOUNTABILITY**

We are accountable to the communities we aim to serve and are committed to following best practices for charitable organizations

Dignity

**INCLUSION IS ONLY
POSSIBLE WITH RESPECT
AND HUMILITY**

We listen to, respect and empower our communities, building confidence and curiosity for the benefit of all.

Diversity

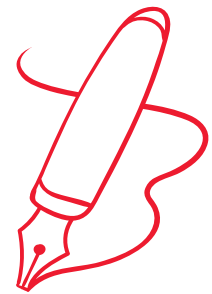
**FAIRNESS REQUIRES THE
INPUT OF MANY**

We build bridges by connecting a wide range of people and cultures to make a tangible difference.

Our Strategic Plan

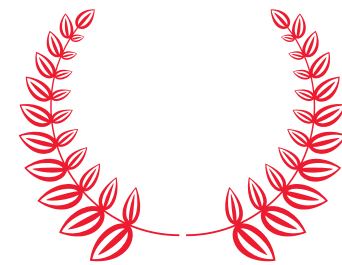
In 2017, our Board of Directors and Executive launched a new Strategic Plan which will guide Level's programs and activities over the next five years. Staying true to our roots, Level will continue to place emphasis on young people and raising up the next generation of leaders to ensure long lasting, systemic change.

[READ MORE ABOUT OUR STRATEGIC PLAN AND THEORY OF CHANGE.](#)



YOUTH EXPERIENCING INTERSECTIONAL BARRIERS TO JUSTICE

Level will prioritize engagement with Indigenous youth, as well as other youth communities that are disproportionately affected by Canada's access to justice crisis.



POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS

Level's second Priority Target Group is college, university and law students in Canada in any field of study who have an interest in advancing Level's mission.



LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

Finally, Level will engage with justice sector professionals or "responders" and any other members of the legal profession committed to advancing Level's mission.

Our Team



Shelan Markus
Executive Director



Caitlin MacDonald
Senior Program Manager



Fatima Ahmed
Social Justice
Program Manager



Misko Kicknosway
Program Facilitator



Paul Porter
Program Facilitator



Desneige Frandsen
Program Facilitator



Thomas Milne
Program Facilitator



Samantha Craig-Cumow
Program Facilitator



Rory Erickson
Program Facilitator



Anita Stewart
Program Facilitator



Tyson Acoose
Program Facilitator



Madison Frehlick
Program Facilitator



Brooke VanderKoi
Program Facilitator



Kennedy Pinette
Program Facilitator



Robert Bassett
Program Facilitator



Gavin Wilkes
Program Facilitator

Our Board



Jennifer Guerard
Board Chair



Susan Spence
Secretary



Richard Zeni
Treasurer



Adrian Di Giovanni
Vice-Chair



Jewel Amoah
Director



Fallon Melander
Director



Brittany Twiss
Director



Heather McKay
Director



Tanya Mushynski
Director

Our Programs

We advance our mission through three main program areas:

Youth

Indigenous Youth
Outreach Program

*Black Youth
Justice Program

Law Students

*Social Justice
Fellowship Program

Blazing Trails
Mentorship Program

Lawyers

Facing Resistance
Speaker Series

Cultural Humility and
Empathy Training



Youth Outreach Programs

Indigenous Youth *Outreach Program*

Launched in 2012, Level's Indigenous Youth Outreach Program ("IYOP") is an innovative justice education and mentorship program for First Nations, Métis and Inuit youth aged 11-18 that achieves the following:

- **Engages** First Nations, Métis and Inuit youth in fun and collaborative justice - based activities
- **Empowers** youth to reach their full potential
- **Builds** the confidence, critical thinking and leadership skills of youth
- **Promotes** relationship development between youth and justice sector volunteers through storytelling and a two - way knowledge exchange
- **Celebrates** Indigenous customs, practices and beliefs
- **Advances** reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities

Throughout the program, students work with justice sector volunteers and participate in experiential learning opportunities like mock trials, sentencing circles, and field trips that expose them to the justice system in a positive and culturally -empowering way. With its focus on building relationships, the program provides the youth participants with a positive experience with the justice system during a critical time of their development.

IYOP is rooted in building trust, acknowledging colonial legacies, honouring Indigenous practices and customs, and promoting a two -way knowledge exchange between volunteers and Indigenous youth.



Indigenous Youth Outreach Program

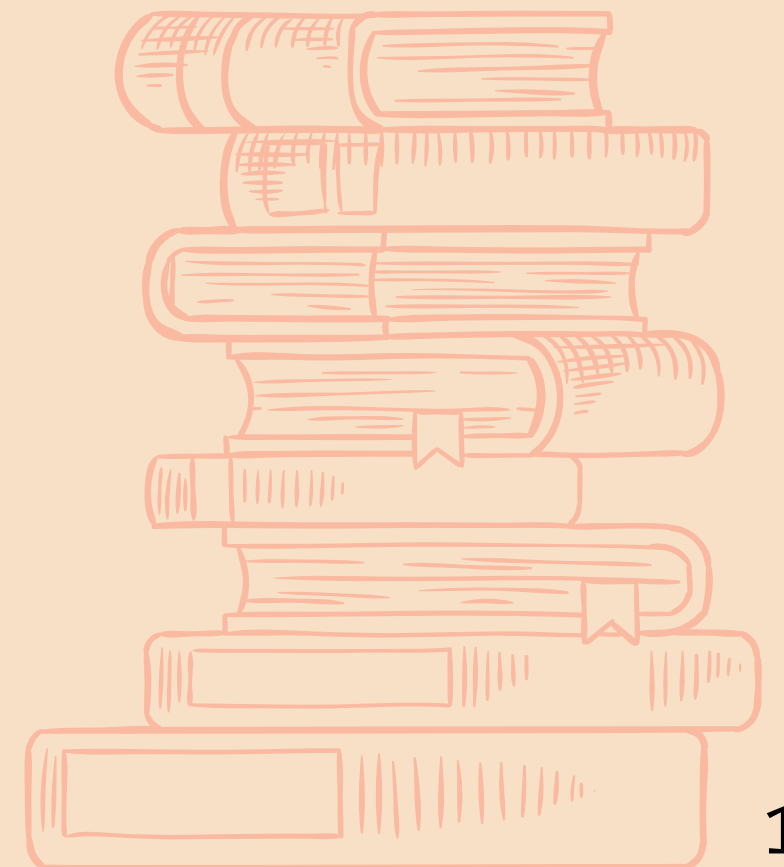
Online

In response to COVID-19, in March 2020, Level developed a self-paced online curriculum called IYOP Online for students and teachers to replace Level's in-classroom activities. IYOP Online can also be paired with in-classroom programming and mentorship for students. The beauty of IYOP Online is it has allowed Level to reach students we never could before. IYOP Online is completely virtual and can be accessed any place, any time, for free!

IYOP Online is an interactive online curriculum that includes text and video lessons and accompanying quizzes to test students' knowledge. The resource is made up of a series of lectures that teach students about the law.

Lecture topics include:

- The Justice System and Indigenous People
- Canadian Criminal Justice System
- Restorative Justice



Caption: Students at Wandering Spirit during their Mock Trial activity.

Photo by Shelan Markus





What Participants Have to Say *About the Program*

"Through this program I learned that we can always be role models for the future generations." **2021/2022 student participant**

"Getting to visit and spend time at an Indigenous elementary school with Indigenous students and to learn a bit about their lives and interests was a novel and valuable experience. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to participate." **2021/2022 Volunteer**

"Thank you for the opportunity again to be part of this program. I hear students referring back to the knowledge or using the vocabulary they've gain in the program." **2021/2022 Supervising Teacher**

"I really got to see some of the youth in my community start to understand not only the concepts but also the practical realities of those concepts. I also saw students comes out of their shells and engaged fully with the Mock Trial. It was inspiring to see some of the most shy students really embrace their roles!" **2021/2022 Facilitator**

Program Highlights

650+

YOUTH ENGAGED

In justice education and mentorship activities across Canada

24

PROGRAM DELIVERY LOCATIONS

increasing our outreach and impact each year

49%

INCREASE IN STUDENTS

knowledge of access to justice and the different jobs people can have in the justice system

2020/21 Program Locations



ALBERTA

- Jasper Place School in Edmonton
- Erminiskin Reserve

ONTARIO

- Wandering Spirit First Nations School in Toronto
- Robert Hopkins Public School in Ottawa
- Mnjikaning Kendaaswin Elementary School in Chippewas of Rama First Nation
- Antler River Elementary School in Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
- Georgian Bay District Secondary School in Midland
- Fort Frances
- Sioux Lookout

MANITOBA

- William Whyte School in Winnipeg

SASKATCHEWAN

- Westmount Community School in Saskatoon
- Kakisiwew School in Ochapowace First Nation
- Pelican Narrows

BRITISH COLUMBIA

- ɣpeý Elementary School in Vancouver
- K'ak'ot'lats'i School in Quatsino First Nation

YUKON

- Haines Junction
- Whitehorse
- Faro

NUNAVUT

- Igloolik
- Arviat
- Taloyoak
- Pond Inlet

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

- Fort Providence
- Inuvik

New Black Youth *Justice Program*

In light of the success of the Indigenous Youth Outreach Program, Level has been focusing on developing a Black Youth Justice Program. The goal of the Black Youth Justice Program (BYJP) is to increase the underrepresentation of Black youth in legal careers and decrease the overrepresentation of Black youth in the Canadian prison system.

The BYJ Program offers culturally relevant justice education that increases students' knowledge of the justice system, builds positive relations between Black youth and the legal sector, imparts important leadership skills, as well as enhances accessibility to the Canadian justice system and sparks interest in legal careers.

The BYJ Program aims to:

- **Engage** Black youth in exciting and collaborative justice-based activities
- **Create** meaningful relationships between Black youth and the Canadian justice system
- **Inspire** Black youth to explore legal sector careers and enhance diversity in law Increase a sense of belonging and support in the justice sector
- **Build** the confidence, critical thinking, and leadership skills of Black youth
- **Motivate** Black students to pursue positive attitudes toward school and reach their full potential
- **Connect** Black youth to the wider legal community



New Black Youth Justice Program

The Program:

- Focuses on culturally-sensitive programming for Black youth aged 11-18 years in Canada
- Runs 12 to 14 one-hour justice education sessions, delivered in both urban and rural schools or youth centres across Canada
- Provides justice-based activities which include mock trials and negotiations, field trips, as well as youth circles in an effort to increase students' knowledge and understanding of the Canadian justice system and reimagine a new justice that serves the diverse needs of Canadians
- Develops free public legal education resources for Black community leaders and educators such as digital curriculums, youth justice toolkits, and online educational articles and videos about legal concepts relevant to Black youth
- Includes mentorship by lawyers, law students, and judges
- Enhances students' leadership, critical thinking skills, socialization, and cultural pride
- Delivered by Black program facilitators who work or study within the legal field via in person or online channels

In the past year, Level staff have been conducting an environmental scan, conducting community expert interviews, surveying Black youth, and developing the curriculum for the BYJP. The new Black Youth Justice Program pilot will launch in October of 2022.



Law Student Programs

Campus Chapter Program

Since 2005 Level's Campus Chapter Program has motivated tomorrow's lawyers, leaders and change-makers to champion social justice causes and make positive contributions to their communities. Focused on an annual theme, students across the country organize community events, host conferences and fundraisers and empower their peers. Social consciousness is at the heart of Level's chapter program. Students are encouraged to think critically and assess how their unique set of skills can be used to better the world around them.

This year, students from our Campus Chapters raised awareness about a range of social justice topics including environmental justice, Indigenous law and sexual violence. They encouraged their peers to use their budding legal skills to make positive impacts in their communities. With 8 chapters activating over 60 students as leaders and change-makers, and a national impact on over 500 students and legal professionals, Level's Campus Chapter program is creating the next generation of empathetic and engaged leaders.



2021/22 Program Locations

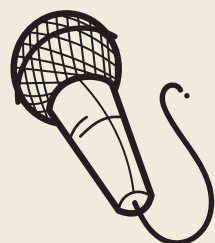


Our Chapters

University of Victoria
University of Saskatchewan
University of Manitoba
Lincoln Alexander School of Law
Western University
Queen's University
Ottawa University
Université de Montreal

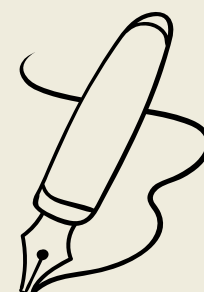
Campus Chapters

Student Initiatives



PANEL EVENTS

Student leaders engaged law students, legal professionals and community members through panel events on several themes. Topics included: Indigenizing the Legal System and Sexual Violence.



SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

Level's Campus chapter at the University of Ottawa developed and led several Environmental Justice lessons for students at schools in Ottawa providing information on environmental injustice and justice in the classroom.



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Campus chapters engaged students at their universities on discussions around several social justice themes and how to re-imagine the legal system in Canada.

Impact Highlights

8

CAMPUS CHAPTERS

At Law Schools across Canada

60

STUDENT LEADERS

Engaged through the Campus Chapter Program

1,300+

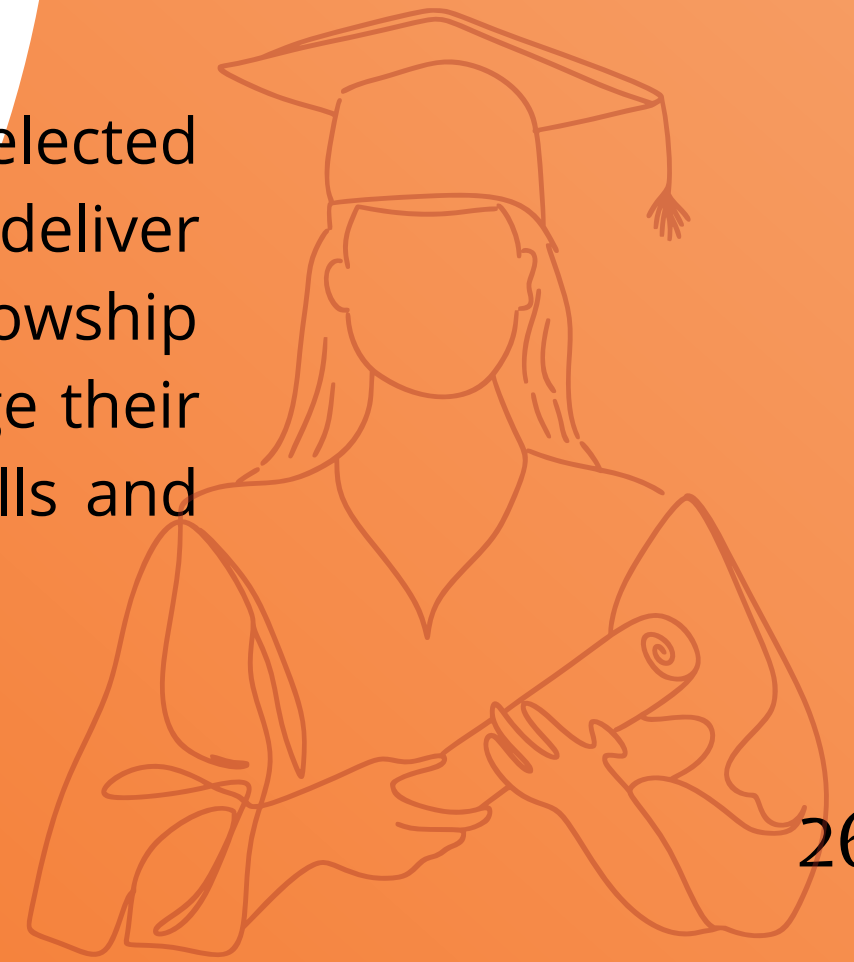
STUDENTS

Engaged through Campus Chapter activities and events

New Social Justice Fellowship Program

Level is preparing to transition its Chapter Program into the new Social Justice Fellowship Program (SJFP). Level's new Social Justice Fellowship program will empower law students and equip them with the skills to become social justice advocates. As part of the program, fellows will receive a stipend and funding to participate in the program. They will also participate in advocacy and leadership workshops, receive certification for Empathy Training, as well as receive opportunities to be mentored by Level's vast network of legal professionals.

Fellows will be expected to research and pick a social justice theme, promote the selected theme by organizing an event of their own devising on campus, as well as to deliver Empathy Training within their communities. By engaging in the Social Justice Fellowship program, fellows will have the opportunity to learn about social justice issues, engage their campuses, perform outreach to the broader community, refine their leadership skills and become better advocates for social justice.



New Social Justice Fellowship Program

Through this program, Level aims to create a steady stream of dedicated social justice advocates entering the legal field.

How does Level accomplish this?

- We provide information and training for Fellows to become advocates for social justice issues throughout their legal careers
- We empower Fellows to orchestrate projects that benefit their specific areas of interest, talents, passions and potential futures.
- We advance reconciliation by having Fellows lead empathy-building workshops to promote cultural competency in the legal profession.
- We facilitate the participation of Fellows in their broader community in order to raise awareness of pressing social justice issues.

The new SJFP pilot will launch in September of 2022.



Caption: Indigenous Youth
Outreach Program at Rama
Secondary School

Photo by Shelan Markus



Blazing Trails

Mentorship Program

Since 2004, Level has worked closely with law students across the country on advancing various human rights issues. Through this work, we have gathered 15 years of feedback, and one of the common themes that stood out was the feeling of disempowerment among students seeking to pursue alternative legal careers. Specifically, students communicated that law school had the effect of obscuring their career goals, and pushing them towards more traditional streams of law that they were not passionate about.

In 2017, to help address this concern, Level launched Blazing Trails, a unique program designed to connect law students with “trailblazers” - daring professionals who carved out their own path and redefined what it means to be successful in the legal profession. In the 2021/22 Academic year, Level’s Blazing Trails program partnered 29 law students representing 13 law schools across the country, with 12 legal mentors. Mentorship cohorts were provided with a toolkit to facilitate discussion, and worked through four 1-hour sessions designed to provide law students with the support and answers they needed to navigate the early stages of their legal career.



Impact Highlights

29

MENTEES

Recruited from Law Schools across
Canada

12

MENTORS

Who have Blazed their own trails
and defined their own metrics of
success

13

LAW SCHOOLS

Represented as part of our
mentorship program



Lawyer Programs

Nunavut Court Worker Project

Thanks to the generous support of Justice Canada, **Level** and **Legal Aid Nunavut** partnered in April to deliver a week-long training event for Inuit court workers stationed across Nunavut. Level trained participants with the tools to deliver three 1.5-hour workshops in their home communities.

- Workshop 1: Access to Justice
- Workshop 2: Inuit Law and Colonial Law
- Workshop 3: Decolonizing the Legal System

Following the training:

- 61.2% of the court workers reported that they would feel comfortable delivering this program in their community.
- 77.2% of court workers reported greater knowledge of the legal system and how it operates in Nunavut.

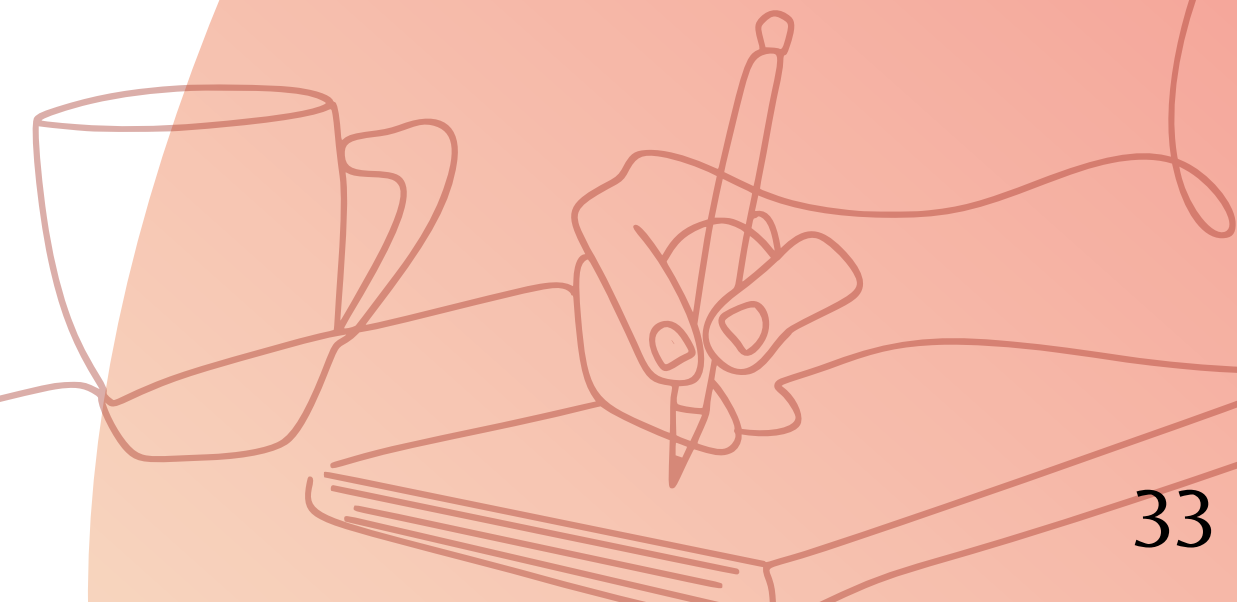


We hope to expand this training to the Yukon in 2022/23.

Cultural Humility & Empathy Training

Our specialized cultural humility training involves working with justice sector responders to increase their knowledge on the histories and lived realities of Indigenous communities. “Cultural humility” is a step beyond mere competency and involves critical self-reflection to understand how personal and systemic biases impact the way we interact with the individuals and communities we aim to serve. Level’s training sessions provide participants with some of the tools needed to approach their work with empathy and understanding. Level has been facilitating cultural humility training sessions with justice responders since 2012.

These sessions highlight the histories and lived realities of Indigenous peoples in Canada and encourage attendees to approach their work with Indigenous communities from a place of allyship. Sessions are led by Indigenous elders and knowledge keepers, who provide a cultural teaching, often focused on humility and finding balance using traditional practices, followed by panel discussions featuring Indigenous leaders from various backgrounds, including lawyers, social workers, teachers, and police officers, who share tips and best practices for working with Indigenous communities and youth. Our training sessions provide attendees with insights and challenges for shifting from a passive form of reconciliation to a more active one, encouraging attendees to embrace cultural humility rather than mere cultural competence.



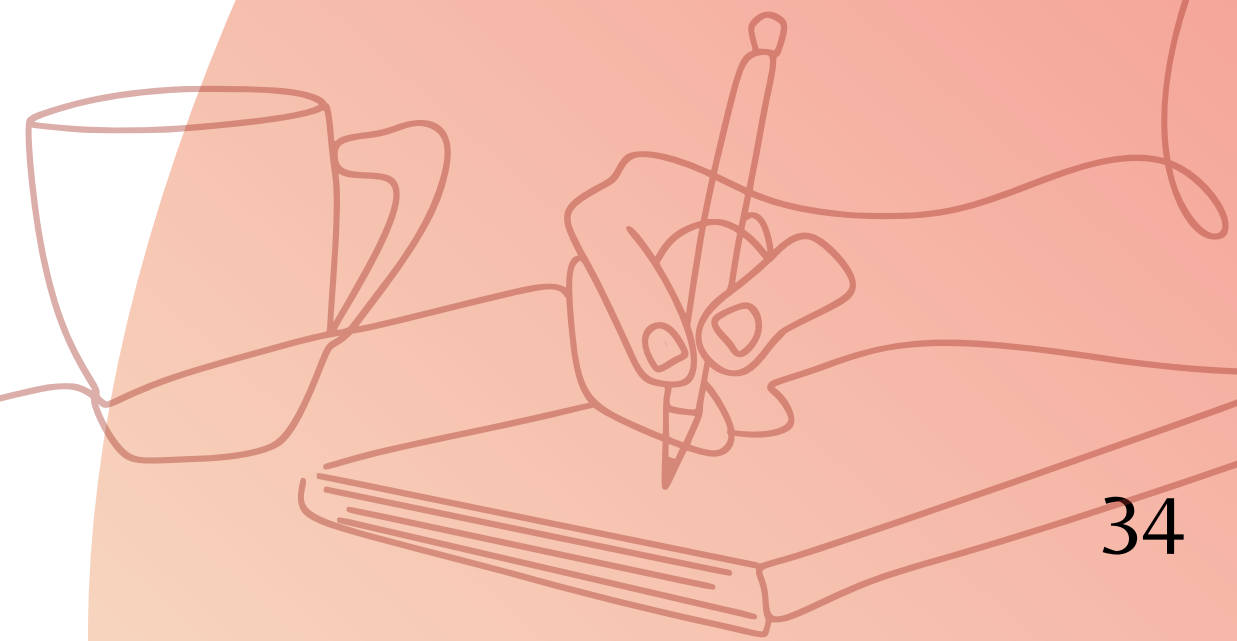
2021-2022 Cultural Humility Events

MOVING FROM PASSIVE TO ACTIVE RECONCILIATION

Level hosted a three-part Cultural Humility and Empathy Training series developed in partnership with Future Ancestors Services over the course of the 2021-2022 year. Each event in this series focused on a different time period – the past, present and future. Future Ancestors calls this a Braiding Time series and we were thrilled to be able to run these sessions with law students, legal professionals and the general public.

Throughout the events, we were joined by the following speakers: Métis Senator Constance Simmonds, Elder Verna McGregor, Assistant Professor Naomi Mi'gmaq, Knowledge Keeper Kim Wheatley, and Indigenous Researcher Samantha Matters to discuss Indigenous legal systems.

We believe that in order to combat discrimination and create an equitable justice system, we must invest in the capacity to elevate empathy, increase inter-cultural awareness and embrace humility in the justice sector



Lunch and Learn with CN

On April 5th, 2022, Level hosted a Lunch & Learn session with Canadian National Railway (“CN”) to celebrate the partnership between the two organizations. Thank you to **Olivier Chouc, Vanessa James, Tyler Banick** and the entire Indigenous Employee Resource Group at CN for inviting Level to present and for their commitment to their support diverse Indigenous culture and level the barriers to justice for Indigenous peoples in Canada. The virtual event discussed Level’s unique work and shared its Cultural Humility and Empathy Training with CN employee attendees. The Lunch & Learn session featured a diverse array of speakers that addressed solidarity with Indigenous peoples and the importance of justice education as a tool for reconciliation.

CN Lunch and Learn

Gain a better understanding of the lived realities of Indigenous peoples and learn tools to approach work from a place of empathy and understanding.

Kim Wheatly
Anishinaabe Cultural Consultant

Samantha Matters
Indigenous Researcher

Shelan Markus
Level, Executive Director

Olivier Chouc
CN Vice-President, Law

level
changing lives through law

CN

VIRTUAL ZOOM SESSION LINK: bit.ly/cn2022april

APRIL 5, 2022 @ 1:00 - 2:00PM (EST)

Caption: Level staff working at
Level offices 2022

Photo by Shelan Markus



Facing Resistance

Speaker Series

Level's Facing Resistance Speaker Series offers a diverse virtual platform to not only confront challenging topics and questions, but also learn how we can collectively create a justice system that is responsive, balanced and fair. This year, we hosted two virtual Facing Resistance Speaker Series events:

HOW TO TRANSFORM THE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND CREATE SOCIAL CHANGE - NOVEMBER 23, 2021

Our first event brought together -- youth, legal professionals and law students to share in a candid discussion on the topic of how lawyers can transform the justice system in a positive way that will create lasting change. Level was joined by Ojibway Anishinaabe Ancestral Knowledge Keeper and Traditional Grandmother Kim Wheatley who provided a traditional opening. Patricia Barkaskas and Graham Hudson led a discussion about social change in the justice system. Level Executive Director, Shelan Markus, then moderated a panel discussion on the event topic. Following the panel discussion, Catherine McKenna shared her insights on the Canadian legal system.

MOBILIZING GRASSROOTS ACCESS TO JUSTICE INITIATIVES - MAY 17, 2022

Our second event brought together -- youth, legal professionals and law students to share in a candid discussion on the topic of mobilizing grassroots access to justice initiatives. Ojibway Anishinaabe Grandmother and Knowledge Keeper, Kim Wheatley, initiated the event. Next, Shelan Markus, the Executive Director of Level, moderated the panel with Victoria Perrie, Cynthia Sammurtok, and Sarah McCoubrey. The Honorable Patricia Hennessy then delivered her keynote address on the obligation of legal professionals to push forth change within the Canadian justice system.



Level's Story

Level's story begins in the year 2005. Co-founded by Catherine McKenna and Yasmin Shaker, the two started Canadian Lawyers Abroad with a simple goal: to engage the Canadian legal community to positively change lives in Canada and abroad. In September of 2015, 'Level' was produced in the hopes of combating injustice, promoting equality in rights and opportunities, and changing lives through law.

The programs within Level provide innovative justice education, training, and mentorship. Level's vast network of people strive to disrupt prejudice, build empathy, and touch the lives of many.

Level's prosperous community of teachers, mentors, law students, advisors, directors staff provide critical services that advance Level's mission and goals. These non-profit leaders are the voice of the people Level serves. Let's explore the Level Portraits to discover some of their wonderful stories...

Level's New *Social Justice Program Manager*

Fatima is a Pakistani-Canadian immigrant, lawyer, and social justice advocate. She is passionate about promoting human rights, immigrant and refugee rights, as well as advocating for intersectional feminist approaches.

Fatima's passion for social justice has enabled her to work in different areas over the years, including human rights law, immigration and refugee law, as well as legal education. She aims to continue working collaboratively and respectfully with marginalized communities in order to promote equity and access to justice.

Fatima believes that social justice movements must be multifaceted, taking on various approaches to mount lasting change. Only through collaborative and consolidated efforts can true progress be achieved. Fatima appreciates Level's approach to social justice, incorporating justice education, training, mentorship, and discourse to achieve access to justice for all. She is proud to be joining a highly motivated and capable team to contribute to its invaluable ambition.

Fatima Ahmed



Level's New Program Consultant

Lydia Collins (she/her) is an Author, Educator, and Creator with over five years of workshop facilitation and curriculum development experience, specifically covering topics pertaining to sexual health and community health, challenging anti-Blackness, and working to equip Black communities in Canada with the adequate tools to make informed decisions regarding their health and wellness.

As an author, Lydia has published three chapbooks of poetry between 2019 - 2021, produced a collaborative video project, Joy Is Our Birthright, with Ottawa-based non-profit, UNILEARNAL, and most recently published her essay "Love Isn't A Zero-Sum Game" in The New York Times' modern love column.

Lydia continues to prioritize race and racism as key components for improving education and health for African, Caribbean and Black folks in Canada and around the world. Her unwavering love for storytelling and her community are what keep her committed to amplifying the most marginalized voices through her work.

Lydia Collins



Level's New Board Member

Jewel Amoah is a Canadian-Trinidadian human rights advocate, activist and academic. She is committed to research, advocacy and activism to inspire and produce systemic change, enhance access to justice and the full enjoyment of rights.

She is currently the Assistant Dean, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at the Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design at the University of Toronto. In that role Jewel works collaboratively with academic, administrative and student leaders to develop and implement initiatives aimed at advancing equity, diversity and inclusion within the learning and working environments across the Daniels Faculty

She has facilitated organizational change in various domestic and international public sector entities by raising awareness of harassment, discrimination, human rights and equity in teaching, learning and working environments. These environments have provided an opportunity to apply and expand her academic analysis of intersectionality and its impact on the attainment of equitable outcomes on the basis of race, gender identity, religion and disability, amongst other identity dimensions.

Jewel Amoah



Interview with Jewel Amoah



Board Member Spotlight

1. What is currently an important justice issue to you and why?

There are many current justice issues and these seems to fluctuate in important given the context of the day, but I think one issue of justice, or rather injustice that remains constant is a full understanding, leading to action, redress and reconciliation on land ownership, access, use, dispossession and displacement. On an initial level this is about Indigenous peoples are the historical stewards and occupants of the land we call Canada – and this will continue to be the case. But it is also about how the finite resource of land (and what exists above and beneath it) is allocated and accessed amongst individuals, communities and generations. Land use and ownership is intricately connected to climate justice and climate change responsiveness. So I wanted to highlight that considerations of land and people in a justice framework are also include environmental considerations.

The thread of injustice that runs through these considerations is that personal identity – in terms of Indigeneity, race, ethnicity, citizenship, culture, language gender identity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, religion, ability and age are often de facto indicators of access to justice – and this should change in favour of intentional and equitable considerations.

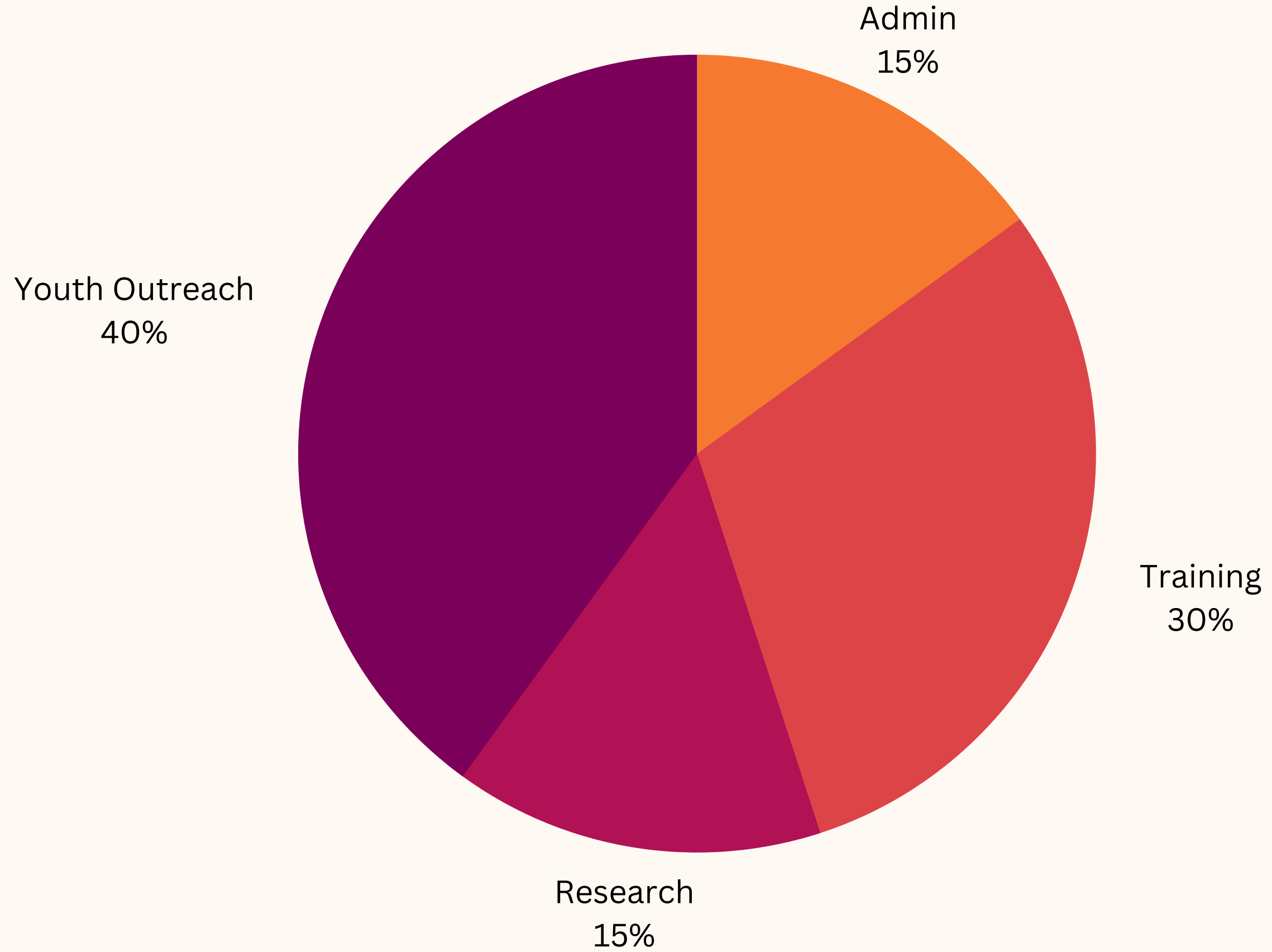
2. Why did you want to become a Level board member?

I wanted to become a Level board member because I wanted to participate in conversations and action to engage youth (and ultimately broader society) in identifying the need for societal change in order to support social justice, and what our individual roles and obligations can be in this regard. I wanted to be a Level board member because of the potential to engage strategically and collectively to disrupt systemic inequities and stimulate broader conversation and action to reimagine what a truly just Canadian society looks like for all.

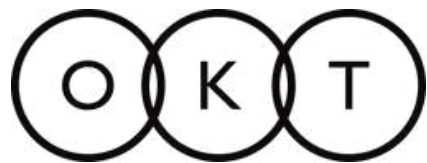
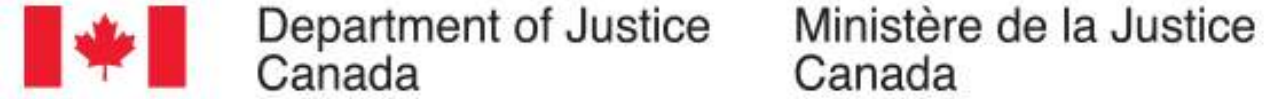
3. What do you want the future of justice to look like in Canada?

I would like to the future of justice to look and be more reflective of and responsive to the evolving needs of Canadians. At a broad level, the inclusion of Indigenous and racialized immigrant voices, perspectives and analysis on the Supreme Court in the examples of Justice O'Bonsawin and Justice Jamal will be invaluable in the guidance and development of this future. But also at the narrow, grassroots day to day level, where justice is initially denied or granted, there must also be a commitment to the realization of diverse representation and inclusive participation at all levels of Canadian life. Access to education, housing, healthcare and employment are broad human rights areas where these commitments can be first met. The justice system writ large is not the only arena for justice to be managed.

Financial Summary



Our Supporters





Thank you

To our sponsors and supporters, including the countless elders, experts, knowledge-keepers, teachers, judges, volunteers, mentors, advisors, research fellows, community leaders, champions and donors, thank you for your contributions. It is through your continued support, we are able to disrupt prejudice, build empathy and advance human rights.

level
changing lives through law

www.leveljustice.org

info@leveljustice.org

