



An Association of *Barristers • Solicitors • Mediators*

Youth Leaders in Law Access to Justice Competition 2022

In connection with the Youth Leaders in Law Conference, Calgary Family Law Associates (CFLA) is sponsoring a competition for high school students to submit a piece of personal work on the topic discussed below. Monetary prizes will be awarded at the Conference for the top entries as follows: 1st prize - \$300, 2nd prize - \$150, and 3rd prize - \$50. There will be a 3rd prize awarded from each of Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver and Toronto/Ottawa.

Submissions may be made by any high school student in Calgary in their choice of media: essay, poem, story, script, art, video. Written entries must be 5 pages or less. Video entries must be 5 minutes or less.

Submissions will be judged anonymously by CFLA lawyers. Winning entries may be posted online.

Please submit all entries to Calgary Family Law Associates, c/o Rani Wong, at #450, 340 12 Avenue SW., Calgary, AB T2R 1L5 or to rani.assistant@cfla.law. The Entry Submission Form must accompany all entries and students' names should not appear on the work itself, only on the Entry Submission Form. All submissions must be received on or before **4:00 pm on Thursday, February 24, 2022**.

Topic: How can restorative justice improve the criminal justice system and access to justice and/or benefit Canadian society as a whole?

One definition of Restorative Justice defines it as providing an opportunity for those directly affected by a crime -- a victim, offender and community -- to identify and address their needs in the aftermath of a crime and seek a resolution that promotes restoration, reparation, reintegration and prevents future harm. <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/rq/rco/2018/june07.html>

In Canada, the federal Parliament is responsible for the enactment of criminal law, while the provinces and territories are responsible for the administration of justice. This means that federal, provincial and territorial governments work closely together on matters relating to criminal justice, including restorative justice. In December 2018, Federal Provincial Territorial Ministers Responsible for Justice and Public Safety approved a minimum target of a 5% increase in restorative justice referrals and processes for victims and offenders. <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/rj-jr/lp.html>

The *Criminal Code* and the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* enable restorative justice processes to occur within the criminal justice system.

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Internationally, the Department of Justice, in collaboration with Global Affairs Canada, has coordinated the adoption of key resolutions on restorative justice at the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in 1999, 2002, 2016 and 2018.

The Department of Justice lists 448 restorative justice programs across Canada. The Calgary Indigenous Court, Tsuu T'ina First Nation Court in Alberta, Cree Court in Saskatchewan, First Nations/Indigenous Courts in British Columbia and Gladue/Indigenous Courts in Ontario are examples of restorative justice in practice.

Competition entries can focus on broad restorative justice principles and/or a specific restorative justice program or court.

Calgary Family Law Associates