

February 27, 2026

The Honourable Doug Downey
Attorney General of Ontario
McMurtry-Scott Building
720 Bay Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

Dear Minister Downey:

Re: Annual Report to the Attorney General

Pursuant to section 14(7) of the *Justices of the Peace Act*, I am pleased to provide my annual report respecting the educational programs for justices of the peace at the Ontario Court of Justice for the 2025 calendar year.

The Ontario Court of Justice strives to develop and maintain professional competence and social awareness, and encourage personal growth, through its Education Plan for all justices of the peace. Our Continuing Education Plan can be viewed at [Education Plan - Justices of the Peace](#).

Justices of the peace attend annual programs created by the Ontario Court of Justice. In addition to comprehensive education with respect to procedural and substantive law, our programs continue to include sessions that educate justices of the peace on cultural competence, awareness of unconscious bias, intimate partner violence, coercive control, anti-Black and Indigenous discrimination and racism and the experience of vulnerable populations that are overrepresented in the criminal justice system.

In 2025, the Ontario Court of Justice delivered extensive initial education to all newly appointed justices of the peace through a combination of intensive in-person programs, virtual sessions and significant self-study. In 2025, nine (9) courses were designated for newly appointed justices of the peace, pursuant to section 14(6) of the *Justices of the Peace Act*: Foundations, Intake, Search Warrants, Case Management and Common Hearings, Bail I, Bail II, *Provincial Offences Act I*, *Provincial Offences Act II* and *Provincial Offences Act III*. These programs, together with other educational programs such as an Indigenous seminar for Indigenous justices of the peace and a French language seminar for bilingual justices of the peace, are detailed in the attached appendix.

To complement this judicial education, two events were held to commemorate Black History Month in February 2025. The Ontario Court of Justice, together with the Superior Court of Justice and Ontario Court of Appeal, hosted a moderated discussion in February 2025 between Associate Chief Justice Aston Hall and Professor Natasha Henry-Dixon, an expert in African

Canadian history at York University, highlighting the experiences of Black residents and leaders of the Black community in Toronto's historic St. John's Ward neighbourhood. In addition, our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee organized a panel presentation for approximately 200 upper year students of three Scarborough-area Catholic high schools on February 24, 2025, exposing the students to numerous career opportunities in the justice sector.

To observe Indigenous History Month in June 2025, together with our Indigenous Initiatives Advisory Committee, we produced a videotaped, candid conversation between Justice Jodi-Lynn Waddilove and Acting Senior Indigenous Justice of the Peace Louise Logue. For the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we gathered numerous resources to permit a wide variety of self-directed learning opportunities on a diverse number of topics. We also created experiential learning opportunities by curating a list of regional community events honouring September 30, 2025, to deepen our understanding of the residential school legacy and the ways in which it continues to affect Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

Additionally, over the summer and fall of 2025, the Equity and Diversity Committee held six luncheons with equity-deserving associations of legal professionals to hear about their experiences in the Ontario Court of Justice and generate ideas about how the Court could better reflect the diversity of Ontario's population, as well as ensure it is an accessible, inclusive space for all justice system participants. These luncheons started thoughtful and valuable conversations, which will continue into 2026.

I am very proud of our efforts to provide our justices of the peace with access to robust initial and continuing education this past year, and I look forward to another successful year in 2026.

Yours truly,

JEANINE E. LeROY

Associate Chief Justice - Coordinator of Justices of the Peace

Juge en chef adjointe et coordinatrice des juges de paix

Ontario Court of Justice / Cour de justice de l'Ontario

APPENDIX

2025 CALENDAR OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

DATE	PROGRAM NAME	APPROXIMATE NO. OF ATTENDEES
<p>January 20 – 24, 2025</p> <p>And half day session January 27, 2025 via Zoom</p>	<p>Initial Education: Provincial Offences Act (POA) Trials II ▲ (*Designated programming for new justices of the peace appointed in 2024.)</p> <p>This program is designed to build on earlier courses and to prepare justices of the peace to hear and manage POA trials, with focus on evidence tendered at trial and Charter issues.</p> <p>Sessions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>An Introduction to Evidence</i> • <i>Admissibility of Evidence</i> • <i>Oral Evidence: Examination of Witnesses Rules</i> • <i>Evidence Procedure – the Voir Dire</i> • <i>Certificate Evidence under s. 48.1 POA</i> • <i>Judicial Notice and Agreed Statements of Facts</i> • <i>Hearsay: What is it and What are the Exceptions to Admitting it?</i> • <i>Expert Opinion Evidence</i> • <i>Charter Litigation: Procedural Issues</i> • <i>Active Adjudication – using your Case Management Power</i> • <i>Self-Represented and Under-Represented Defendants in POA Court</i> • <i>11(b) Charter Delay Applications – The Right to a Trial within a Reasonable Time</i> • <i>Documentary Evidence</i> • <i>Managing Presentation of Exhibits</i> 	44
<p>January 30 – 31, 2025</p>	<p>Pre-Retirement Seminar</p> <p>Sessions included:</p>	40

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Psychology of Retirement: What is Retirement, The Importance of Work, Preparing for Change, Identity, Your Social Network</i> • <i>Everything You Need to Know About the Per Diem Program for Justices of the Peace</i> • <i>Pensions for Justices of the Peace</i> • <i>Benefits for Retired Justices of the Peace</i> • <i>Financial Planning: Income Sources at Retirement, Estate Planning</i> 	
February 24 – 28, 2025	<p>Initial Education: POA Trials III ▲ (*Designated programming for new justices of the peace appointed in 2024.)</p> <p>This final program of justice of the peace initial education for the 2024 judicial appointments focuses on pulling all of the previous programs together, as well as developing and refining the skills of managing the courtroom and delivering an oral judgment.</p> <p>Sessions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Putting the Issue in Issue-Driven Structures</i> • <i>Planning Ahead and Making Good Use of the Hearing Itself to Prepare for the Oral Judgment</i> • <i>Objections 101: Common Objections – What They Are and How to Handle Them Procedurally</i> • <i>Introduction: HTA Quick Reference Guides</i> • <i>Polling Questions & Discussion Session: Highway Traffic Offences</i> • <i>“Writing” Your Oral Judgment</i> • <i>Communication in the Courtroom</i> • <i>Mock POA Trials</i> • <i>Confessions Rule</i> • <i>Statutory Compulsion</i> • <i>You are Presiding: Putting it all Together</i> 	48

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March 27 & 28, 2025	Mentoring Seminar ★ Sessions included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Judicial Mentoring in the Ontario Court of Justice: Enhancing the Administration of Justice</i> • <i>Promoting an Inclusive Workplace</i> • <i>Being a mentor: Best Practices</i> • <i>Ethics and other Challenging Issues and Questions for Mentors and Mentees</i> • <i>Building Strong Mentoring Relationships</i> • <i>Relationship between Mentor & Mentee</i> 	50
April 9 – 11, 2025 & April 30 – May 2, 2025	Spring Conference I & II ★ Sessions included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bail in Ontario: A Conversation with Chief Justice Sharon Nicklas and Justice Gary Trotter</i> • <i>Transforming Criminal Case Management Courts: Case Management Court Protocols</i> • <i>CJRE Recent Developments – Part 1 (POA focus), Part 2 (Criminal focus)</i> • <i>Navigating Charter Applications</i> • <i>Developing an Issue-driven Decision</i> • <i>Delivery and discussion of an oral judgment on a Charter application</i> • <i>Perspectives from the Provincial Offences Appeal Bench</i> • <i>Re-examining Justice: Indigenous Peoples, the Legal System, and the Path to Reconciliation</i> 	151 158
May 26 – 30, 2025	Initial Education: Module 1: Foundations Course ▲ (*Designated programming for new justices of the peace appointed in 2025.) The first program of justice of the peace initial education for the 2025 judicial appointments	41

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	<p>introduces new justices of the peace to the legal framework for their role.</p> <p>Sessions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Judicial Independence, Judicial Discretion & Judicial Ethics: An Introduction</i> • <i>Legal Framework for the Justice of the Peace Role</i> • <i>Foundations Module</i> • <i>Courtroom Essentials</i> • <i>Effective Communication in the Courtroom</i> • <i>Fireside Chat: The Judicial Role</i> 	
June 4 – 6, 2025	<p>Indigenous Justice of the Peace Seminar ★ (*For Indigenous Justices of the Peace)</p> <p>Sessions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Why Everything You Think You Know About Us is Wrong: Understanding the Métis Nation</i> • <i>Overview of Métis Rights Recognition: Powley s.35, Daniels who is Métis 91(24), and Beyond</i> • <i>Métis Way of Life: Trapping</i> • <i>Applying Gladue Factors in a Métis Context</i> 	33
June 18 – 20, 2025	<p>Justice of the Peace French Language Seminar Colloque des juges de paix d’expression français ★</p> <p>Sessions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Panel interactif : application de l’article 530 à la lumière de R. c. Dartiguenave, 2024 ONCA – Discussions et pratiques</i> • <i>Un aperçu des vols de véhicules – enquête policière</i> • <i>Panel sur les audiences de mise en liberté sous caution – Défis et conseils pratiques</i> • <i>Les droits linguistiques – Survol des droits linguistiques en Ontario</i> 	45

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Présider une audience de mise en liberté sous caution avec une personne non représentée : conseils et stratégies – Scénarios</i> • <i>Reconnaître les biais et préjugés inconscients : vers une prise de décision impartiale</i> • <i>Les infractions provinciales – Les articles 12 et 13 de la Loi sur le cannabis : comprendre, interpréter et appliquer</i> • <i>Infractions provinciales mineures : défis et pratiques</i> • <i>Mise à jour de la jurisprudence</i> • <i>Infractions provinciales : les dénonciations privées – Scénarios</i> 	
<p>July 7 – 11, 2025 & July 14 -15 (Supplementary Day via Zoom)</p>	<p>Initial Education: Module 2: Intake Part 1 ▲ (*Designated programming for new justices of the peace appointed in 2025.)</p> <p>This program introduces new justices of the peace to the workings of Intake Court as it pertains to Criminal Code, Provincial Offences Act, Child, Youth and Family Services Act, and Mental Health Act matters.</p> <p>Sessions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Overview of the criminal process & the Justice of the Peace role</i> • <i>Intake Court – what is it and best practices</i> • <i>Navigating through Martin’s Criminal Code</i> • <i>Receiving an Information</i> • <i>Compelling Attendance: Considering Process</i> • <i>Form 2 – Mental Health Orders</i> • <i>CYFSA Warrants</i> • <i>Judicial Interim Release – Intake Court Functions</i> • <i>How to Read a Case and Principle of Stare Decisis</i> 	<p>47</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Peace Bonds: The Intake phase – Receiving an information and Issuing Process</i> • <i>Weapons Warrants – the Intake function</i> • <i>Introduction to POA: Evolution & Overview</i> • <i>Release of Vehicles detained under the HTA (“Car Bail”)</i> • <i>Extension of Time to Pay</i> • <i>Reopenings, section 11</i> • <i>Early Resolution Regimes under Part I</i> • <i>Default conviction under Part I: Complete & Regular/Free from Defects</i> • <i>Electronic Documents & eSignatures – the Law</i> • <i>Subpoenas</i> • <i>Reports to Justice, Detention Orders and Seized Property Management Act Orders</i> • <i>Feeney Warrants – Arrest in a Dwelling</i> • <i>Private Informants: Receiving an Information</i> • <i>Guilty Pleas & Joint Submissions: The Basics</i> • <i>Proceedings under Part X – DOLA – Intake Process and the Hearing</i> 	
July 28 – Aug 1, 2025	<p>Initial Education: Module 2: Search Warrants Part 2 ▲ (*Designated programming for new justices of the peace appointed in 2025.)</p> <p>This program introduces the basics of procedural and substantive law in relation to search warrants, production orders and other investigative warrants.</p> <p>Sessions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>General Overview of Search Warrants</i> • <i>s. 487 Criminal Code Search Warrant Exercises</i> • <i>The Information to Obtain (the ITO)</i> • <i>Warrants Under the Controlled Drug and Substances Act (CDSA)</i> • <i>Law Offices, Media, Psychiatric Records</i> • <i>Electronic Devices and Search Warrants</i> 	48





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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sealing Orders</i> • <i>Telewarrants</i> • <i>Drafting Reasons for Refusal and Applications after Warrant Refused</i> • <i>Production Orders, Tracking Warrants, etc.</i> • <i>Search Warrants under Provincial Legislation</i> • <i>The Use of Confidential Informers in ITOs and Affidavits</i> 	
September 15 – 19, 2025	<p>Initial Education: Module 3: Case Management and Common Hearings ▲ ★ (*Designated programming for new justices of the peace appointed in 2025.)</p> <p>This program introduces basic principles of case management to justices of the peace, including the role of the justice of the peace in ensuring parties have matters proceed fairly and expeditiously through the Court.</p> <p>Sessions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Introduction to Criminal Case Management Court</i> • <i>Introduction to s. 11(b) of the Charter & R v. Jordan</i> • <i>Common challenges that can lead to delay</i> • <i>Scenario: Strategies to counter challenges leading to adjournments</i> • <i>Jordan-Compliant Scheduling</i> • <i>Criminal Procedures & Terminology</i> • <i>The Nuts and Bolts of Criminal Case Management Court</i> • <i>Allegations of Bias and Applications for Recusal</i> • <i>Open Court Principle & Publication Bans</i> • <i>Hybrid and Virtual Case Management Court – Zoom, Protocols and Best Practices</i> 	50

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>How to Accommodate and Support the Participation of People with Mental Health Conditions</i> • <i>MH Fitness Assessments</i> • <i>Managing the Courtroom while ensuring Inclusion and Accessibility</i> • <i>The Pre-Enquête Hearing</i> • <i>The Peace Bond Hearing</i> • <i>Weapons Warrants – the disposition hearing</i> 	
<p>October 22 – 24, 2025</p> <p>&</p> <p>November 19 – 21, 2025</p>	<p>Justice of the Peace Fall Conference I & II   </p> <p>Sessions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jordan Compliance in Criminal and POA Courts</i> • <i>Bail Q and A – Legal and Procedural Questions and Issues</i> • <i>Understanding Coercive Control in Intimate Partner Relationships: Technology-Facilitated Violence and Economic Abuse</i> • <i>Anti-Black Racism and the Over-representation of Black people in the Justice System</i> • <i>Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Courtroom: Tools, Techniques, and Cautions for Justices of the Peace</i> • <i>Expeditious Bail – How the Law Promotes Quick Bail Hearings</i> • <i>CJRE Recent Developments (POA and Criminal)</i> 	<p>169</p> <p>182</p>
<p>October 27 – 31, 2025</p>	<p>Initial Education: Module 4: Bail 1 </p> <p>(*Designated programming for new justices of the peace appointed in 2025.)</p> <p>This program introduces the general principles of bail, including the standards and onuses of proof and legislative and common law practices.</p> <p>Sessions included:</p>	<p>51</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Leading the Change in Bail and Introduction to Bail Directives and Resources</i> • <i>Bail: Standard and Onus of Proof</i> • <i>Bringing the Accused to Court</i> • <i>Remands</i> • <i>Grounds for Detention</i> • <i>Types of Release Orders – The Ladder Principle</i> • <i>Conditions of Release</i> • <i>Sureties and Bail</i> • <i>Revocation of Previous Releases – Section 524</i> • <i>Evidence at Bail Hearings</i> • <i>Interpreters, Accreditation and French Language Rights</i> • <i>Certificate of Default</i> 	
November 3 – 7, 2025	<p>Initial Education: Bail II ▲ ● ■ ★ (*Designated programming for new justices of the peace appointed in 2025.)</p> <p>This program expands upon the general principles and focuses on specific issues that arise in bail court.</p> <p>Sessions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>s.493.2(b) – Accused who are Vulnerable and Overrepresented – the Law and the Practice</i> • <i>Youth Criminal Justice Act and Bail</i> • <i>s.493.2(a) – Gladue principles in bail court</i> • <i>Managing the Bail Hearing with a Self-Represented Accused</i> • <i>Intimate Partner and Domestic Violence (IPDV) Bail Hearings</i> • <i>Oral Decision-Making, Part I, Part II</i> • <i>Managing the Bail Hearing</i> 	52

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December 8 – 12, 2025 and December 16, 2025 via Zoom	<p>Initial Education: Module 5: POA Trials, Part I ▲ (*Designated programming for new justices of the peace appointed in 2025.)</p> <p>This program examines procedural and substantive legal issues that arise in POA trials.</p> <p>Sessions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reflecting on your Observations in POA Court</i> • <i>Establishing, Retaining and Regaining Jurisdiction</i> • <i>Defendant or Prosecutor Fail to Appear – Representation</i> • <i>Adjournments</i> • <i>Disclosure – Foundational Principles</i> • <i>Essential Elements of an Offence</i> • <i>Motion for Non-Suit or Directed Verdict</i> • <i>Classification of Offences</i> • <i>Defenses to Regulatory Offences</i> • <i>Presiding in POA Case Management Court & Judicial Pre-Trials</i> • <i>Credibility, R v. W.D. and Reasonable Doubt</i> • <i>Amendments</i> • <i>Motions to Quash</i> • <i>Stages of a Trial</i> • <i>Certificate Evidence under s.48.1 POA</i> • <i>Functus Officio</i> • <i>Included Offences</i> 	49

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