



## **SPRING UPDATE - 2014**

**CFCJ | FCJC**

Canadian Forum on Civil Justice | Forum canadien sur la justice civile



# The Cost of Justice

The Cost of Justice is a five-year study funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council that aims to define and address the social and economic costs of justice.

Examine the map to learn more about [OUR PROJECTS](#).

## Canada-wide

### EVERYDAY LEGAL PROBLEMS AND THE COST OF JUSTICE IN CANADA

This study surveys 3200 Canadians in order to better understand justiciable problems as they are experienced by everyday people. It is the first national legal needs survey to specifically ask participants about the costs of these problems on their economic and social well being. Preliminary data from this study will be available on our website by June 2014.

### ACTION COMMITTEE ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN CIVIL AND FAMILY MATTERS

The CFCJ supports the Action Committee in the execution and dissemination of research meant to improve access to justice for everyday Canadians. The CFCJ participated directly in the production of the Committee's final report "A Roadmap for Change", which highlights the importance of pursuing a strategic approach to reforms and coordinating efforts of all participants concerned with civil justice.

## Yukon

### FROM VALUES TO POLICY AND LEGISLATION: BREAKING TRAIL IN A HERITAGE SELF-GOVERNING CONTEXT

This workshop held in Whitehorse explored how community driven policy-making strategies can help address the unique needs of self-governing Aboriginal communities. Discussions focused on the successes and challenges that self-governing Yukon First Nations have faced as they develop and implement locally-derived law and policy.

## British Columbia

### THE COST OF CIVIL JUSTICE ATTRITION IN BC'S COURTS

Led by M. Jerry McHale, QC and in partnership with Focus Consultants, this project assesses the proportion of litigants that drop out of the civil court system or are subject to such long delays that their access to justice is affected. It seeks to ascertain the reasons why litigants drop out of the system, at what point, and the factors that contribute to this decision.

## Ontario

### PARALEGALS AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE: A CASE STUDY OF RESIDENTIAL TENANCY DISPUTES IN OTTAWA

This project, led by Professor David Wiseman of the University of Ottawa, investigates the extent to which paralegals are contributing to access to justice by providing fair and cost-effective dispute resolution in residential tenancy disputes.

### NO REFUGE: HUNGARIAN ROMANI REFUGEE CLAIMANTS IN CANADA

This project, led by Professor Sean Rehaag, and graduate students Julianna Beaudoin and Jennifer Danch, seeks to understand why most Hungarian Romani refugee claimants have been unsuccessful with their claims despite evidence collected by reputable human rights organizations of persecution against Hungarian Roma. This analysis seeks to challenge racist discourse against Romani refugee claimants in Canada.

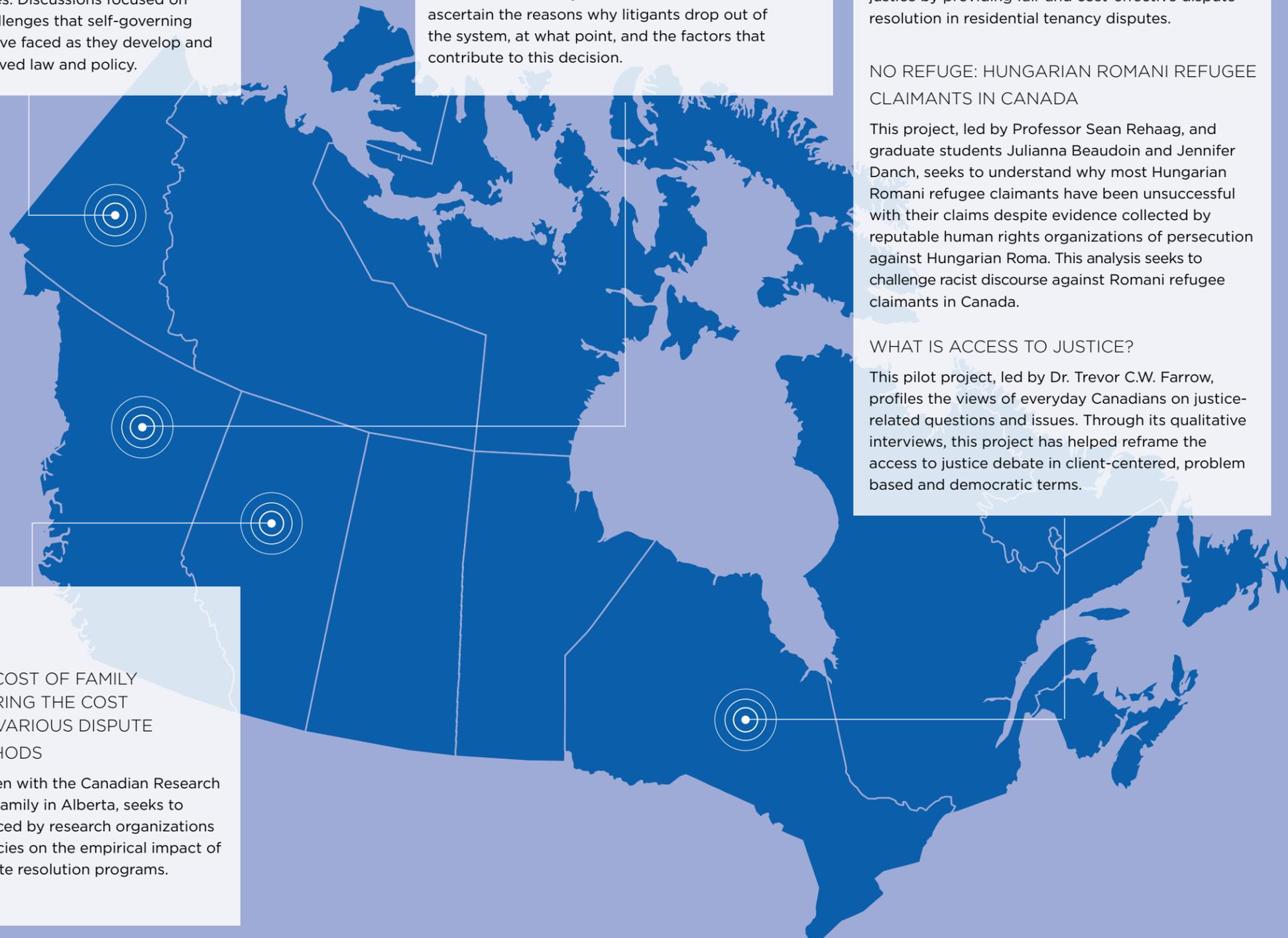
### WHAT IS ACCESS TO JUSTICE?

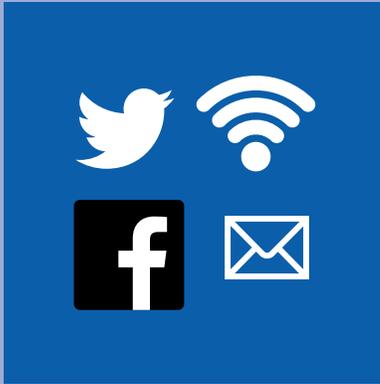
This pilot project, led by Dr. Trevor C.W. Farrow, profiles the views of everyday Canadians on justice-related questions and issues. Through its qualitative interviews, this project has helped reframe the access to justice debate in client-centered, problem based and democratic terms.

## Alberta

### EVALUATING THE COST OF FAMILY DISPUTES: MEASURING THE COST IMPLICATIONS OF VARIOUS DISPUTE RESOLUTION METHODS

This project, undertaken with the Canadian Research Institute for Law and Family in Alberta, seeks to aggregate data produced by research organizations and government agencies on the empirical impact of provincial family dispute resolution programs.

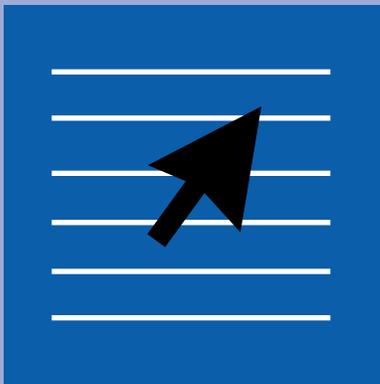




## Connections & Outreach

- @CFCJ\_FCJC has over **850** Twitter followers and more than **600** tweets.
- Our website, [cfcj-fcjc.org](http://cfcj-fcjc.org), had over **19,000** hits in 2013.
- Our Facebook page has over **100** “likes”.
- The CFCJ's monthly email newsletter reaches over **200** subscribers.

To subscribe to our newsletter click [here](#).



## In Case You Missed It

This year, the CFCJ launched a new “A2J Blog”. Check out our most popular posts so far:

- “A New Vision for the 2015 Millennium Development Goals: Integrating Access to Justice”
- “Collaborating on Justice Innovation: The Hague and Canada”
- “Why the Cost of Not Resolving Legal Problems May be Greater Than We Think”

To read these and other posts click [here](#).

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“This research... by the Canadian Forum on Civil Justice will be essential in helping us understand the true extent of the problem of cost and how it impacts on the justice system. I believe that it will prove to be of great assistance to... identify concrete solutions to the problem of access to justice.”

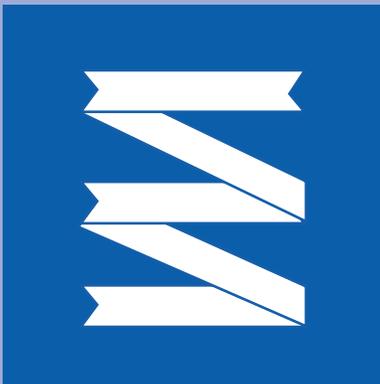
— The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin, P.C. (2011)



## New Partners and Collaborators

The CFCJ continues to collaborate with the following organizations to further access to justice research and reform.

- Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters
- The Winkler Institute for Dispute Resolution
- Community Legal Education Ontario
- National Self-Represented Litigants Project
- Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family
- Justice Education Society of BC
- Cyberjustice Lab/Laboratoire de cyberjustice



## Ovations

- The past year, the CFCJ welcomed five new board members: Mark Benton, Melina Buckley, Justice Stephen T. Goudge, Patricia Hughes, Desmond Levin, Gillian Marriott and Donald Piragoff.
- Trevor Farrow and Melina Buckley discussed access to justice issues facing low income Canadians on CBC Radio's *The Sunday Edition*.
- In October, the CFCJ assisted the Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters in publishing its final report, "A Roadmap for Change".
- Our popular new infographic series has kicked off with two exciting graphics: "Justiciable Problems" and "The Advice Maze". **See them [here](#).**

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