

# Quebec Community Groups Network Access to Justice in English in Quebec

*Working Together to Ensure Access to Justice in English in Quebec*

We acknowledge the support of the  
Government of Canada

Nous reconnaissons l'appui du  
gouvernement du Canada

Canada 

# AJEQ Project Background

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- Project is led by the QCGN and funded by Justice Canada
  - Carries forward work that was initiated in 2016 and looks to continue building on the success of the April 2018 Community Forum (“*No Justice Without Access*”)
  - Explores how to improve access to justice in English in Quebec (AJEQ)
  - The Community Forum developed important starting points in three targeted areas to improve access to justice in English
    - Seniors
    - Youth in need of protection or interacting with the criminal justice system
    - People seeking justice from administrative entities
  - As experience and knowledge is acquired, scope and depth of action to improve access to justice in English will be expanded and deepened
  - Engagement of a broad cross-section of English-speaking community representatives and justice system officials is fundamental to project success

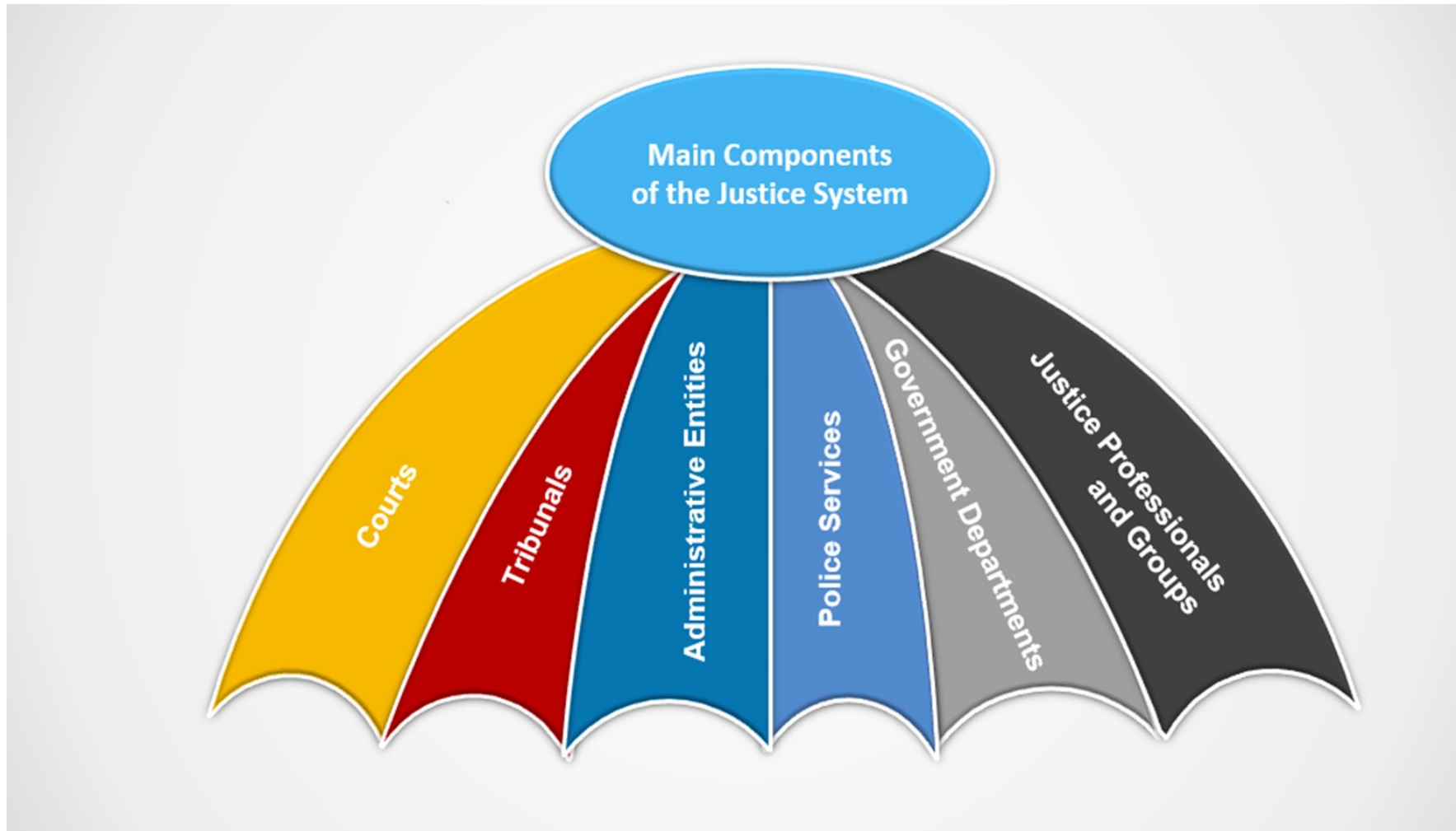
# Scope of the AJEQ Project

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- Access to justice in English touches all aspects of peoples lives  
→ It is a concept that is much larger than just “access to courts/lawyers”
- Laws, regulations, administrative polices, and professional practices frame (*sometimes enable/sometimes limit*) the use of English in multiple settings

# What the Justice System Looks Like

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# Desired AJEQ Outcomes

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- Community knowledge of the justice system, especially how components of the system link together and interact on an ongoing basis
- Collaborative relationships between the community and the justice system
- Strengthened community intervention capacity
- Improved access to justice in English

# Why AJEQ Is Important

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- The use of an Official Language should not be a barrier to access to justice in any jurisdiction in Canada
- Providing people with what they are due in terms of being informed and understood when a person's rights, obligations, autonomy, and freedom are at stake
- When people/citizens need access to justice in English, it is usually in times of critical need or crisis
- Increase the capacity of the justice system to offer justice services in both official languages
- Increase awareness in the legal community and official language minority and majority communities concerning rights and issues related to access to justice in both official languages

# What Improved AJEQ Means

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- Information and Awareness about AJEQ
- Proactive Justice System Engagement
- AJEQ Evidence
- Accessibility to Information and Services in English
- Justice System Navigation
- Advocacy
- Litigation

# AJEQ Project Approach

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- The Access to Justice in English in Quebec project takes a people-centered, systems approach
- Developed a project Steering Committee and three Work Groups
- Community Forum – April 2018 – *No Justice Without Access*
  - Successfully built upon the work of the project's Steering Committee and three Work Groups



# Takeaways from the Community Forum

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- 1) People seeking justice from administrative entities
- 2) Youth
- 3) Seniors

# Strategy Moving Forward

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- Identify priority populations/problems
- Identify and engage relevant justice system actors
- Gather relevant data and information / understand root causes
- Develop and undertake short, medium, and longer-term actions
- Advocate for broader legislative and policy change
- Expand the scope and depth of understanding and action regarding AJEQ

# Where Are We Going in the Long Term

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- Capacity Development
- Partnerships
- An AJEQ Framework
- Legislative and Institutional Reform

# Where Are We Going In The Short Term

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- Build on Preliminary Analytical and Scoping of AJEQ Issues and Community Consultation
  - Administrative entities
  - Youth
  - Seniors
- Design and Deploy Concrete Strategies in Priority Areas
- Develop Provincial Capacity via Technology and Partnership

# Building A Strategy for Improved AJEQ

