

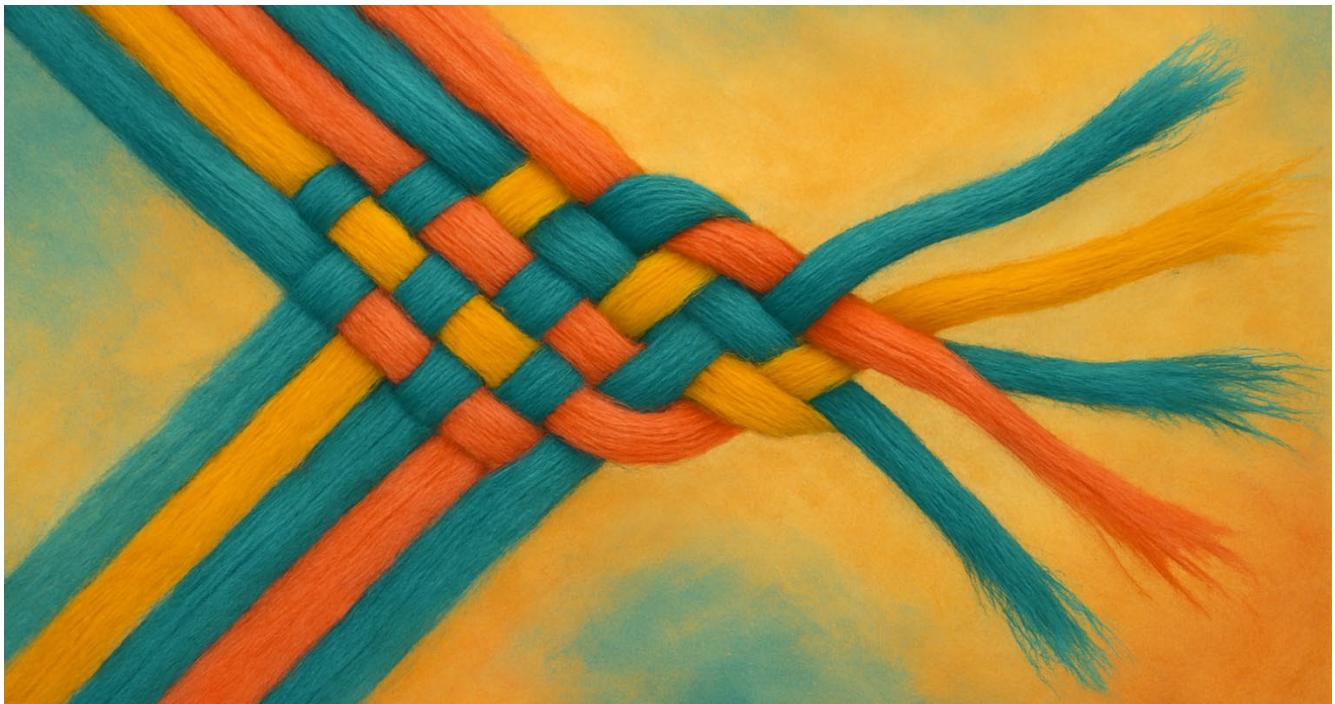
ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONFERENCE

For Immediate Release

CIAJ's 50th Annual Conference

Rethinking Law and Justice Through Restorative Approaches

Montreal, May 4, 2025 - As Canada continues to reflect on public confidence in its institutions, meaningful access to justice and the need to better respond to harms experienced by individuals and communities, the [Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice \(CIAJ\)](#) marks an important milestone in its history. On October 27 and 28, 2026, in Ottawa, CIAJ invites members of the legal community, public decision-makers and justice system leaders to its 50th Annual Conference: [Reimagining Law and Justice Through Restorative Approaches](#) – an in-depth exploration of the transformative potential of these emerging practices for the Canadian justice system.



For half a century, CIAJ's Annual Conference has served as a leading national forum for dialogue. For this anniversary edition, the organization proposes to examine how the principles of restorative justice can transform our understanding of law and justice.

As courts face persistent delays, many communities call for more humane responses to conflict and public debates highlight the limits of a strictly punitive model, many believe restorative justice stands out as a promising path forward. It encourages recognizing harm differently, taking responsibility constructively, and repairing broken relationships — not only between individuals, but within the broader social fabric.

TRANSFORMING LEGAL PROCESSES

The conference will explore how restorative principles can transform legal processes across various areas of law — criminal, family, administrative, and community law — as well as their broader implications for access to justice, institutional legitimacy, and public trust. At the heart of this reflection lies a profound transformation of the roles of legal actors.

- What is expected of lawyers in a system that places greater value on dialogue and restoration?
- How can judges support practices that foster accountability and healing?
- What changes must public decision-makers and justice system leaders undertake to sustainably integrate these approaches?

Through practical sessions, panels, case studies, and concrete examples, the conference will offer tangible pathways toward a justice system that integrates restorative values. Participants will be invited to draw on lived experiences, discover emerging tools and models, and reflect on how the law can evolve to better address harm, strengthen communities and promote a more humane justice system that is attentive to social realities.

LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

- **Event:** Annual Conference of the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice (CIAJ)
- **Title:** Reimagining Law and Justice Through Restorative Approaches
- **When:** October 27-28, 2026
- **Where:** Ottawa, ON
- **For more information about CIAJ Annual Conference including the full program and registration options, please visit the [conference web page](#).**

ABOUT CIAJ

Imagine a space where concrete solutions emerge to address the complex challenges of our Canadian justice system. This is what the Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice (CIAJ) is all about.

Founded in 1974, CIAJ's mission is to promote excellence in justice through knowledge, learning, and the exchange of ideas.

CIAJ acts as a conduit for change. As a **non-profit and independent organization, we bring together individuals and institutions from diverse expertise**—judges, lawyers, legislative drafters, Indigenous communities, academics, and policy-makers, as well as social workers, law enforcement officers, engaged citizens, etc.— to improve the administration of justice across Canada.

Our multidisciplinary approach enables us to **break down silos and mobilize diverse perspectives** across a wide range of sectors, tackling fundamental issues in depth (family law, Indigenous justice, criminal law, mental health, etc.). Together, we develop concrete solutions tailored to the real needs of Canadians.

We are much more than event organizers: **we are a driving force for change.**

At CIAJ, we build bridges where none existed before, ensuring that the justice system reflects the complexity, diversity, and aspirations of our society.

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CONTACT

For interview requests or additional information, please contact:

Marion Essig

Communication Director

Canadian Institute for the Administration of Justice (CIAJ)

marion.essig@ciaj-icaj.ca

(514) 891-0812

www.ciaj-icaj.ca

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