



A message from Paige Thombs, the New Collaborative Lead

Hello everyone and happy autumn! As a perpetual student, the fall season has always represented the start of a new year. A time to dig into new projects, new practices, new ideas. It is the time of year I feel the most optimistic, the most renewed. It seems fortuitous, then, that this should be the time of the year that I begin my new journey as the Collaborative Lead for the Transform the family Justice System Collaborative!

First, let me say how excited I am to take on this role and to be working collectively with so many passionate people. I am situated on the traditional territory of the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Xʷsepəm/Esquimalt) Peoples, on whose territory I am grateful to live, work, and play.

Prior to joining the Collaborative, I worked for several years as a youth advocate for the Representative for Children and Youth BC. Prior to that I spent many years as the Community Outreach and Access Specialist at Provincial Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. I am currently completing my PhD in the Faculty of Law at UVic, where I am also a sessional lecturer.

When I manage to find some downtime, you can find me at a local coffee shop with a book in my nose, riding my bike around town, or binging all things CBC.



Meet our Fabulous New Administrative Coordinator!

I'm Brenda Forero and I joined the team in June! Throughout my work, I've supported both the substantive and administrative sides of social justice-oriented programs.

I completed my Master's in Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice at UBC, where I also worked with my department and the Transformative Memory International Network. Originally from Colombia, I earned my LLM in International Law while working as a human rights lawyer and contributing to projects with the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame and with the Inter-American Human Rights System.

I'm an immigrant who has the privilege of living and working on the traditional and unceded territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), and xʷməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) Nations. Outside of work, I love reading, walking, discovering cozy coffee shops, and singing my heart out at karaoke nights.



Fall Team Planning Day

On Friday, October 10th, Tina, Paige, and Brenda came together for their first in-person gathering. The day was both fun & productive, giving the A2JBC & TFJS Collaborative team a chance to get to know one another & brainstorm for the year ahead.

The team spent an afternoon at the Vancouver Courthouse Library discussing the Collaborative & used a [SOAR Board](#) to identify:

- ✿ Strengths
- ✿ Adaptations & Aspirations
- ✿ Opportunities
- ✿ Results

While we had our own unique take on things, we agreed on the strength of this new team.

We are keen to bring different skill sets to the table and look forward to the opportunities this will create.

We plan to build & strengthen relationships with youth & Indigenous communities as well as work closely with Community of Action (CoA) participants & partners towards greater family well-being and access to justice.

We hope you will join us on this exciting ride!



Excited about this new team!



Our first time together in real life!

Poetic inspiration

Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach.

Any small, calm thing that one soul can do to help another soul, to assist some portion of this poor suffering world, will help immensely.

It is not given to us to know which acts of by whom, will cause the critical mass to tip toward an enduring good. What is needed for dramatic change is an accumulation of acts, adding, adding to, adding more, continuing.

We know that it does not take everyone one Earth to bring justice and peace, but only a small, determined group who will not give up during the first, second, or hundredth gale.

*~Clarissa Pinkola Estes,
A Letter to a Young Activist*

Good listens, good reads.

Paige loves a good podcast almost as much as she loves a good book! Here are some of her recommendations for info on separation and divorce, especially where children are concerned.



The Law Society of BC recently released a new episode of their podcast, LawCast BC, featuring two Collaborative participants. Family lawyer & mediator Tanya Chamberlain and family physician & hospitalist Dr. Ramneek Dosanjh discuss the impacts that separation and divorce can have on families. Listen here: [Helping Families Navigate Divorce & Separation](#).



For something more in-depth, check out the Podcast channel: [SmartGirls' Guide to BC Family Law](#). This podcast is not hosted by lawyers, but instead by successful self-litigants. The podcast is not intended to be a substitute for legal advice.



Julie A. Ross and Judy Corcoran's helpful and often funny book, [Joint Custody With A Jerk: Raising a Child With an Uncooperative Ex](#), is a practical guide to co-parenting with someone who makes you want to scream into a pillow. Available in paperback, e-book, and audiobook from all the usual places.

What's on your reading/listening list?

Do you know of a helpful resource?

Email us your recommendations at contact@accesstojusticebc.ca

and we'll feature it in our next newsletter!

More poetic inspiration...

"If you don't like what you see, why don't you fight it?
If you know there's something wrong, why don't you right it?"

~Trooper, *Raise A Little Hell* (1978)



Happenings

Check out FamilySmart for online and in-person events for parents & caregivers:
[FamilySmart monthly events](#)

November 2-5: [Our Children Our Way: A National Forum for Indigenous Children and Family Well-Being](#), hosted by Indigenous Child and Family Services Directors.

November 6-9: [Canadian Collaborative Rocky Mountain Conference](#), hosted by Collaborative Divorce Alberta Association.

February 2-6, 2026: Access to Justice Week BC, with free webinars & events.

February 2026: Our [Brain Story](#) Discussion Group starts - more info coming soon!



New Initiatives

The Society for Children and Youth of BC has launched a new initiative called [The Early Intervention Program](#). It is a free, accessible service designed to bring the child's voice into a family law process at an early stage. See the link above, for more info. To complete an intake form, [click here](#).



BC LEGAL
REFERRAL
SERVICE

A revamped BC Legal Referral Service has launched: [BCLegal.Help](#). Options now include notaries, designated paralegals, mediators and lawyers who coach and offer unbundled services. To apply to be on the roster as a legal professional, [click here](#). To book a consult, [click here](#).



Did You Know?

The Collaborative has three Communities of Action: The Intersectoral CoA, the Support Finder CoA, and the Child & Youth Meaningful Participation CoA.

Interested in getting involved or just want to know more?
Connect with Paige Thombs, the Collaborative Lead, at paige.tfjs@outlook.com

Stay tuned for an announcement about a new CoA coming in 2026!



We acknowledge the ancestral & unceded territories of many Indigenous Peoples that our participants gather on. We are committed to engaging with Indigenous Peoples and applying Indigenous legal principles in our work.