



Message from our new Interim Collaborative Lead!

Welcome to our growing community!

As the Interim Lead for the Transform the Family Justice System Collaborative (TFJS), I am thrilled to welcome you to our network of advocates, practitioners, and partners dedicated to putting child, youth, and family well-being at the heart of family justice.



This is a pivotal and exciting moment for our movement. We are working hard to ensure the Collaborative continues its vital momentum, and we have major news to share: the Law Foundation of BC has approved transition funding to support our transition and ongoing work.

What does this mean?

Rather than rushing decisions, we are using this dedicated transition period to intentionally build Collaborative 2.0. Led by a focused 2.0 Design Group and supported by our Transition Secretariat at the Family Justice Innovation Lab Society (FJIL), we are:

- 🌱 Designing sustainable governance and stewardship rooted in cross-sector collaboration, youth and lived experience participation, and Indigenous legal principles.
- 🌱 Maintaining momentum across our Communities of Action, ongoing prototypes, and intersectoral initiatives.
- 🌱 Developing a 3-year strategic activities plan and budget for long-term Law Foundation funding starting in Spring 2027.

We are so glad to have you with us as we reimagine and strengthen family justice in this province together. Keep an eye on your inbox for regular updates, event invitations, and opportunities to share your voice.

With gratitude,

Sonali Sharma

Interim Collaborative Lead, Transform the Family Justice System Collaborative

Know a young person who should be highlighted here?

Let us know at contact@accesstojusticebc.ca

www.tfjscollaborative.com

Express your support, here.
Reach out at contact@accesstojusticebc.ca



**Meet the Transition Team helping shape what comes next for the
TFJS Collaborative!**

Interim Advisors



Jane Morley



Kari Boyle



Nancy Cameron

Transition Secretariat



Sonali Sharma



Matt Sims



Brenda Forero

Design Group



Kirsten Barnes



Renée Le Nobel



Jared Hydamaka



Tamara Throssell



Emily Drown



Andrew Pilliar



What's Been Growing Since Spring? 🌱

Child & Youth Meaningful Participation and Intersectoral CoAs April 21 Meeting

How can lived and living experiences help transform the family justice system?

On April 21, the C&YMP and Intersectoral CoAs came together to explore this vital question. Thank you to our guest speakers, Marko Aguilar and Parmis Aslanimehr, and facilitators Kari Boyle and Frankie McGee, for guiding an inspiring conversation centered on vulnerability, active listening, and authentic relationship-building.

Key takeaways from our group discussion:

- 🌱 Shifting toward relational, less hierarchical spaces
- 🌱 Centering consent, clarity, and purpose in participation
- 🌱 Offering continuous support before, during, and after sharing difficult stories
- 🌱 Showing up authentically within our professional roles

Support Finder CoA April 30 Meeting

The Support Finder CoA gathered to share updates on technology and AI developments across the sector, hear about Phase I of the Any Door Prototype, and review a draft Request for Proposal for an evaluator. The conversation explored how evaluation can best support the work ahead, as well as opportunities around technology coordination and funding.

- 🌱 *What's next?* More Support Finder conversations are planned through the fall and before the end of the year to share progress, exchange updates and identify next steps together.

Four Years of Growing Together 🎉 June 11 Celebration

On June 11, we gathered in Victoria to celebrate four years of the TFJS Collaborative!

We honored the First Nations territories across BC that support our work in so many communities, and celebrated the strong relationships, deep learning, and collective effort that continue to drive TFJS forward. A big thank you to our host, the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth, for generously sharing their space with us!



Thank you to our speakers: Nancy Cameron, Shirley Sze, Kaitlin Sevier, Kari Boyle, Dani Sunshine, Marko Aguilar, Tina Parbhakar, Tesolin Adams-Piccolo, and the Honourable Leonard S. Marchand, Chief Justice of BC

A special thank you to our emcees, Renée Le Nobel and Emily Drown



What's Been Growing Since Spring? 🌱

From Reflection to What's Next The journey toward TFJS Collaborative 2.0

The TFJS Collaborative is entering an exciting new chapter! As the administrative arrangements supporting our work evolve, we are taking this opportunity to pause, reflect on our impact, and intentionally design what comes next for TFJS Collaborative 2.0.

What We've Done

In June, we brought together members from across our network, leadership, and strategy committees to reflect on our journey so far. One message emerged loud and clear: the work of the Collaborative remains deeply valuable, and there is strong support to move forward together.

Where We Are Now

We are actively shaping our transition plan, defining our governance, and turning these insights into strategy. We look forward to sharing more details as TFJS 2.0 takes shape!

What We Heard:

Participants highlighted the strong trust, relationships, and unique cross-sector momentum built over the past four years. To build on this foundation, our next phase will focus on key areas for growth:

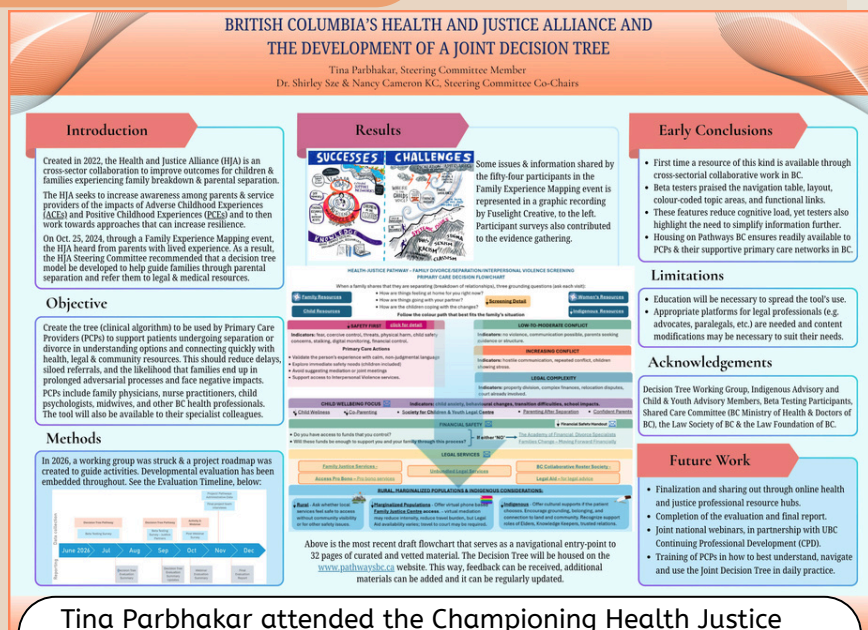
- 🌱 **Sustainability & Capacity:** Building a stable foundation with dedicated resources and broader shared leadership.
- 🌱 **Clarity & Governance:** Establishing clear roles, decision-making, and organizational structure.
- 🌱 **Centering Equity:** Continuing to prioritize voices from Indigenous communities, children and youth, and people with lived and living experiences.
- 🌱 **Action & Impact:** Moving from dialogue to tangible, measurable results and clearer communication.

The HJA has been busy all year working on a software-based tool to help guide primary care physicians and psychiatrists

A message from Nancy Cameron:

The **Decision Tree** contains information doctors can use when meeting with patients who are going through separation and divorce. Dozens of volunteers contributed to compiling the resources and the educational material set out in the Decision Tree, which will be housed on Pathways, a platform used by physicians.

In addition to the numerous volunteers contributing information for the Decision Tree and reviewing each iteration, family law lawyers volunteered to beta test and give feedback on the tool. This work would have been impossible without Dr. Bruce Hobson's constant revisions (I think he went through over thirty iterations). As well, Dr. Shirley Sze's steady leadership of the HJA over the years, has made the collaboration between doctors and lawyers possible.



Tina Parbhakar attended the Championing Health Justice Partnerships conference in Ontario and shared a poster she put together outlining the Decision Tree and the process behind its creation. She has graciously agreed to have the poster reprinted in this newsletter. Thank you, Tina, Bruce and Shirley, Jennifer Scrubb, and the countless volunteers, for your ongoing work bringing the Decision Tree to fruition. View the full poster [here](#).



Good listens, good reads

Looking for something to listen to or read this fall? Here are a few recommendations from around our community:



Meaningful Participation of Children and Youth in Justice: Voice is not Enough. Check out this [new column from Kari Boyle](#), our wonderful advisor and FJIL coordinator, published in Slaw, Canada's online legal magazine.



The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child adopted **General Comment No. 27** on children's right to access to justice and to an effective remedy. Also the Committee decided to dedicate its next 28th General Comment to emerging technologies and child rights, including AI and other digital technologies. Read more [here](#)



Transforming Family Justice Is an International Concern. Check out this University of Calgary article exploring how the challenges families face in the justice system cross borders — and how the need for transformation does too. Following Cambridge scholar Dr. Jan Ewing's visit to UCalgary's Centre for Transformation, the article shares lessons from Canada and the UK on moving beyond adversarial approaches, better connecting families with legal and non-legal supports, meaningfully including children's voices, and grounding change in research and evidence. Read more [here](#)



New episodes of **You Can't Say That in Court!** are out! [Tune in](#) for conversations on Decolonizing Family Law and the impact of Ahluwalia on survivors — two important conversations exploring change in family law and the justice system.

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!



Happenings

- **Oct. 19:** Webinar **The Child Behind the Case: How Lived Experience, Identity, and Professional Practice Shape the Way We See Families** organized by AFCC – Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. Register [here](#)
- **Oct. 29:** Webinar **Financial Abuse Before and After Separation** organized by RISE Professional Legal Education. Register [here](#)
- **LEVEL Youth Policy Program (YPP)** applications are open until **Oct. 30**. An initiative of the Vancouver Foundation. More information and registration details [here](#)
- **Nov. 13:** CBA Child and Youth Law Symposium (online) – **Providing Access to Justice to Neurodiverse Youth in Criminal Courts in Canada**. Presented by the CBA Child and Youth Law Section. Register [here](#)

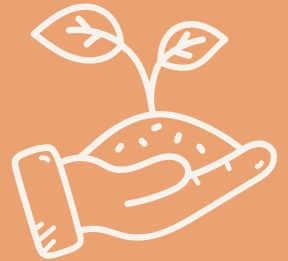


A Heartfelt Thank You to Tina

At the end of August, Tina Parbhakar concluded her role as Strategic Coordinator at A2JBC. Tina has been an important part of the heart and work of the TFJS Collaborative, helping lead CoAs, initiatives and prototypes with professionalism, care and a deep commitment to transforming the family justice system with children and families at its core.

While Tina will always remain connected to this work and her advocacy for children and youth, we want to pause and express our deepest gratitude.

Thank you, Tina, for everything you have contributed to the Collaborative, the relationships you've nurtured, and the genuine care you brought to this work every single day.



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.

