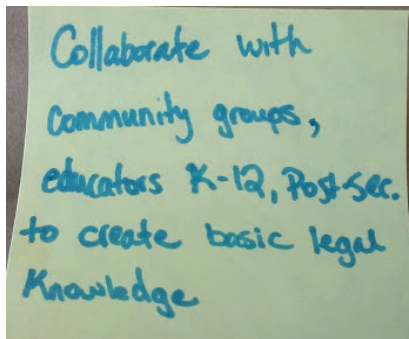


#TalkJustice

Thank you to the nearly 100 people, including community members, judges, lawyers, police, social workers, journalists and Society staff and Council members who attended the launch of the [#TalkJustice report](#) on Friday, May 22 at the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre in Halifax. Together, you provided our engagement team with a wealth of valuable information, ideas and advice about how we can make our justice system better. We hope that you also built new relationships amongst yourselves, across sectors, to work to improve access to justice in your own communities. Find the report online at nsbs.org/public-interest/2015/04/lets-talkjustice.

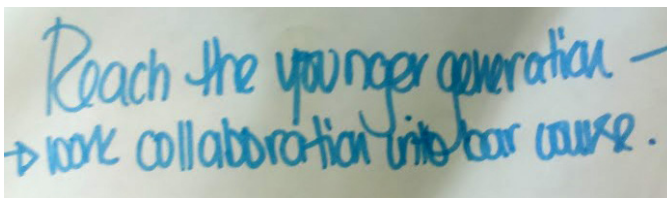
Here at the Society, we're busy processing everything we learned from you. Our first step has been to identify the common themes in your feedback – our future work in this area will centre on these themes.

EDUCATION



The importance of education came up multiple times throughout the day, both in our panel discussion and in the workshop portion. We heard a lot about the importance of justice system actors – including lawyers, police, teachers and the courts – to learn about and understand peoples' *cultural context* when interacting with them. We also heard a loud and clear demand from community members to provide better education about the law and the justice system in public school curricula.

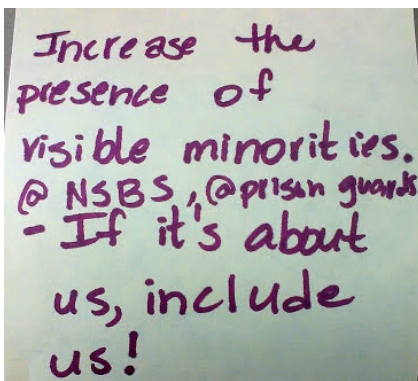
COLLABORATION



When a person moves through the justice system, they often have to deal with several different organizations. Participants told us that these bodies don't do a good job of talking to each other or with community groups. Participants urged justice system actors to step out of the silos and work across sectors – and across communities – to identify problem areas

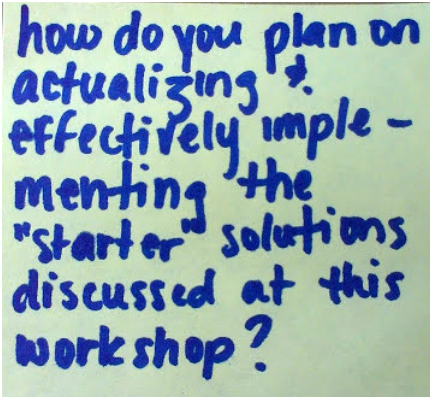
and fix them.

LISTENING



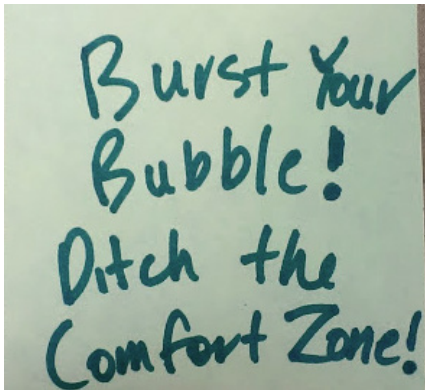
Nova Scotia's equity-seeking and economically-disadvantaged communities care deeply about matters of access to justice, and **#TalkJustice** has shown us the value of including their voices in our discussions. Participants called for us to continue this conversation, and we plan to do so. **#TalkJustice** has taught us that we must ensure that any community discussions we have are substantive, sustained and sincere.

TRANSPARENCY



Participants were unanimous in their desire to ensure that **#TalkJustice** is not the end of our engagement. It's a feeling we share, so we're dedicated to showing how **#TalkJustice** informs our future work, and we'll be honest about how effective that work is. If programs don't work the way we want them to, we'll work to change them – with stakeholder input.

INDIVIDUAL EMPOWERMENT




At **#TalkJustice**, we found a group of people who were highly motivated to create small-scale/high-impact change through individual and small group actions. Some of the actions identified include:


- ensuring front-line staff provide service that is open, caring and kind;
- organizing car pools to drive families to visit their loved ones in prisons; and
- creating peer support networks for those recently released from prison.

CONTACT US

We want to hear from you: what are you doing as a result of participating in **#TalkJustice**? Do you have any more thoughts, ideas, or advice you'd like to share with the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society?


 902 422 1491

 email us at talkjustice@nsbs.org

 Twitter [@NSBS](https://twitter.com/NSBS) using the hashtag **#TalkJustice**

 [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/NSBarristers) at NSBarristers

 [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/NSBarristers) at NS Barristers' Society

 Watch for us soon on Instagram

MEDIA COVERAGE OF MAY 22 LAUNCH

NSBS #TalkJustice project addresses barriers to justice

Touch BASE: The Magazine for Global Canadians

Vol. 16, Issue 11 | June 2015 (print edition only)

Ask Me Why I Classify, My Rhymes will Terrify: Morning File

Halifax Examiner | May 23, 2015

BY EL JONES (**scroll down to #5**)

<http://www.halifaxexaminer.ca/featured/ask-me-why-i-classify-my-rhymes-will-terrify-morning-file-saturday-may-23-2015/>

Access to justice system not equal for all communities, says N.S. report

By Julia Wong, videojournalist

Global News | May 22, 2015

<http://globalnews.ca/news/2011909/access-to-justice-system-not-equal-for-all-communities-says-n-s-report/>

#TalkJustice campaign calls for equal access to legal services

By EVAN WEBSTER

Chronicle Herald | May 22, 2015

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/novascotia/1288468-talkjustice-campaign-calls-for-equal-access-to-legal-services>

Nova Scotia Barristers' Society examining access to justice

Project comes after society met with community groups about challenges, barriers to justice

By Lien Yeung

CBC News | May 22, 2015

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/nova-scotia-barristers-society-examining-access-to-justice-1.3083688>

Positive 'tweets' throughout the event

By Jacob Boon, News Editor (*no article yet, perhaps with next phase?*)

The Coast | May 22, 2015

(*Other media and attendees were also tweeting continuously*)