

Black Justice Navigator Program

Report to: Mr. Kenneth Campbell, President, Jaku Konbit

Youth Legal Education Workshop – Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa

Date of Workshop: July 14, 2026

Prepared by: Andrew Defor, Justice Navigator

Purpose

This report provides a summary of the Black Justice Navigator Program's legal education workshop delivered at the Youth Services Bureau (YSB) of Ottawa on July 14, 2026. The session formed part of the program's ongoing commitment to improving access to legal information and empowering Black youth with practical knowledge of their legal rights.

Workshop Overview

On July 14, 2026, Justice Navigator Andrew Defor and Social Media & Communications Specialist Gadi Geremew visited the Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa to deliver the "Know Your Rights" legal education workshop.

The workshop was attended by 15 participants, comprising:

- 9 youth (aged 17–18 years)
- 6 Youth Services Bureau staff members

The presentation focused on helping participants understand their legal rights during interactions with police officers, including practical guidance on exercising those rights respectfully and safely.

To reinforce learning, participants were divided into two breakout groups, where they discussed realistic police interaction scenarios that had been prepared in advance. Each group analyzed the scenarios, identified appropriate responses, and presented their recommendations to the larger group. This interactive approach encouraged discussion, critical thinking, and greater confidence in applying the legal principles presented during the workshop.

Evaluation Results

Participants were interviewed pre- and post-workshop to evaluate the effectiveness of the session.

The findings demonstrated a significant improvement in participants' legal knowledge:

Assessment Participants Demonstrating Adequate Legal Knowledge

Pre-workshop 30%

Post-workshop 99%

The results indicate a substantial increase in participants' understanding of their legal rights and responsibilities. The improvement highlights the effectiveness of interactive legal education and demonstrates the important role of the Black Justice Navigator Program in strengthening legal literacy among Black youth in Ottawa.

Participant and Staff Feedback

Feedback from both youth participants and Youth Services Bureau staff was overwhelmingly positive.

Participants particularly appreciated:

- The practical and relatable examples used throughout the presentation.
- The opportunity to discuss real-life situations through small-group exercises.
- The clear explanation of legal rights during police interactions.

YSB staff expressed strong support for the workshop and requested that the Black Justice Navigator Program return to deliver the session to new youth cohorts in August 2026.

Staff also suggested providing modest participation incentives, such as Tim Hortons gift cards or similar honoraria, to encourage attendance and engagement in future workshops.

Certificates of Participation

Certificates of Participation will be issued to all workshop participants in recognition of their successful completion of the "Know Your Rights" legal education session.

Conclusion

The July 14, 2026, workshop at the Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa was a highly successful legal education initiative that achieved its intended objectives. The measurable increase in legal knowledge—from **30% before the workshop to 99% afterwards**—demonstrates the value of culturally responsive, community-based legal education for Black youth.

The positive feedback received from both participants and Youth Services Bureau staff, together with the request to deliver additional workshops in August 2026, reflects the growing demand for accessible legal education within the community.

The Black Justice Navigator Program continues to make a meaningful contribution to empowering Black youth with the knowledge and confidence needed to understand and exercise their legal rights. Continued investment in this initiative will strengthen community awareness, promote informed interactions with the justice system, and support Jaku Konbit's mission of advancing equity and justice for Black communities in Ottawa.

Signed

Andrew Defor
Justice Navigator
Black Justice Navigator Program
Jaku Konbit