

Discuss the importance of access to the law and representation in the law.

This piece needs to be about how access to and representation in the law gives marginalized groups a voice.

- Access to the law
 - People must be able to use the courts to resolve their disputes in an orderly manner
 - This ensures their issues get heard
 - Marginalized groups face a disproportionate amount of difficulty in getting the attention they need for their cases as well as getting a fair result in their cases.
 - Being fairly represented in the legal system
 - Advocacy for marginalized groups
 - Marginalized groups being fairly represented within the legal system
 - Everyone must be able to access the courts to resolve their disputes to ensure that the legal challenges facing them are not dropped simply because they do not have the external resources to challenge injustices
 - Initiatives to increase access to justice, like the Court Challenges Program, are demonstrations of why increasing access to justice is beneficial for the law and the population
 - Barriers to access to justice
 - Despite these initiatives, many people's voices still aren't heard
 - To reap the benefits of increasing access to justice for all, there must be enough representation in the law so that these efforts can be successfully received and can actually effect change.
- Representation in the law
 - All groups of society must be appropriately represented within the legal system to ensure that the legal system can address challenges individual groups are facing
 - People feel as if they have a voice in the legal system if someone similar to them has a positive role in the legal system
 - Avoids explicit and implicit biases that affect the outcome of cases as judges can relate and understand their unique circumstances
 - Without proper representation in the law
 - Marginalized groups can point to a lack of consultation
 - They feel as if they aren't consulted when it comes to their own issues, or as if their issues are forgotten about
 - Indigenous groups often see themselves losing their cases because the overwhelming majority of non-Indigenous judges do not have the experience to understand what being an Indigenous person is like and so cannot fully comprehend the challenges Indigenous people face.
- Without proper access and representation in the law:
 - People have no viable recourse in response to unjust laws
- Salomon v. Matte-Thompson
 - This lawyer suggested Matte-Thompson to invest in a Ponzi scheme and then she got scammed
 - The dangers of not having proper access to justice

- With nobody to trust to advise and be loyal to you in legal proceedings, the execution of justice is jeopardized as lawyers would take actions in their best interest rather than the client's. This leaves people with little knowledge of the judicial system either at the whim of their lawyers or clueless as to how they can navigate the judicial system. In both scenarios, justice is out of the reach of individual citizens, who now have little access to justice.

Discuss the importance of including Indigenous voice and perspective in our legal system, paying specific attention to the challenges presented when addressing Indigenous overrepresentation in our legal system.

- Goes back to importance of representation in the legal system
- Indigenous people are overrepresented as victims or offenders in cases
- Recognizing the Indigenous experience within Canada is crucial to addressing Indigenous overrepresentation as victims and offenders in our legal system, as Indigenous offenders require special consideration to address their unique histories and reduce the disproportionate number of Indigenous people incarcerated.
- Specific about the last issue with avoiding implicit and explicit biases from affecting a case
- Not to artificially reduce the number of Indigenous but to pay closer attention to their unique circumstances by using laws that reflect their treatment and integrating Indigenous laws within existing legal architecture.