

**Service Delivery at Downtown Toronto site
(311 Jarvis St. Courthouse) starts on 1 March 2016**

The Cross-Over Youth Project is a new and unique initiative. Youth living in the care of a child welfare agency and also involved in the youth justice system are often referred to as “cross- over” youth.

We seek to find better outcomes for cross-over youth. Our work has been informed by a series of conversations with representatives from all of the groups who have a role in these systems. Everyone agrees that we can do more to support cross-over youth and help keep them out of the youth justice system.

Our team is engaged at both the systemic level and at the individual case level to facilitate more meaningful collaboration and to develop new strategies. We are guided by the principles of children’s rights and anti-oppression. We recognize the over-representation of African Canadian, First Nations’, Métis and Inuit youth in both systems. Our multi-disciplinary team will act as a resource to all sectors and individuals engaged with cross-over youth.

Our team is available to assist anyone supporting a cross-over youth by:

- Connecting cross-over youth with lawyers
- Coordinating and connecting youth with resources
- Providing advice on creating bail and sentencing plans that address the youth’s child welfare needs without further criminalizing youth
- Providing information about child protection, youth justice, education and children’s mental health law
- Providing case conferences to address child welfare, youth justice, children’s mental health and educational issues.
- Participating in judicial and community case conferences

Our downtown Toronto pilot project will start at the courthouse at 311 Jarvis on March 1, 2016. We will also be offering consultations to service providers at local group care homes, the four children’s aid societies, in the community and at police stations. If you have questions about a cross-over issue involving a youth, we are here to assist. You can find us or call us as listed below.

*The Project received funding in the initial phase of development, from the Department of Justice Canada’s Youth Justice Fund. The Project currently has a four year funding grant from the Department of Justice Canada’s Youth Justice Fund, with additional funding from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Province of Ontario for two years. The Cross- Over Youth Project is housed at and supported administratively at Ryerson University. The Project Co-Chairs, **Professor Judy Finlay**, (Principal Investigator) Ryerson University and **Justice Brian Scully**, Ontario Court of Justice (Judicial Lead) are actively involved in the Project’s implementation.*

We invite you to start a conversation with us to see if we can help!

7 days a week: Please contact our Program Director, Sheena Scott, for assistance at any time. She can be reached for consultation or to arrange for assistance with service coordination or a case conference 7 days a week. We recognize that issues for youth involved in the youth justice and child welfare systems don't stop on Friday afternoon. We are available to help problem-solve throughout the week, including regarding weekend bail issues.

- **Call or text: 647-575-2364.**
- **Email:** sheena2.scott@ryerson.ca

Wednesday to Friday: You may also call our Resource Coordinator, lawyer Michelle Farrell (see her contact information in the chart below).

At 311 Jarvis:

Michelle Farrell <i>michelle.farrell@ryerson.ca</i>	Resource Coordinator, Lawyer	In court at 311 Jarvis Wednesday – Friday Or call/text 647-991-5594
Nikki Bajcar <i>nicole.bajcar@ryerson.ca</i>	Intern, Social Work	In court at 311 Jarvis on Tuesdays and will involve Project staff.
Jessica Salerno <i>jsalerno@ryerson.ca</i>	Intern, MSW Candidate	In court at 311 Jarvis Wednesday - Friday

Project C: Youth led-initiatives: If you are a youth/young adult or know of a youth or young adult who is interested in getting involved in the Projects' youth-led initiatives, email our Youth Coordinator, Thaila-Paige Dixon-Eeet at: thaila.dixoneeet@ryerson.ca

For more information about the Cross-Over Youth Project, contact Dr. Judy Finlay at: jfinlay@ryerson.ca.

As of March 22, 2016, you can visit our website at: www//crossoveryouth.ca