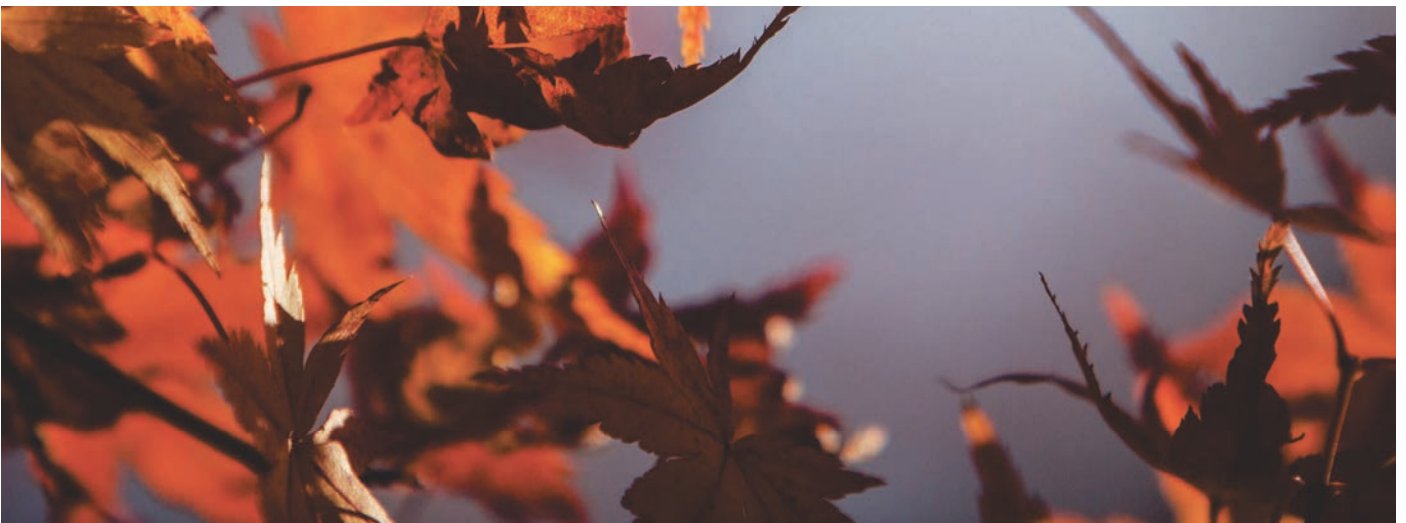


CANADIAN CIVIL LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION



CCLA/CCLET

# ANNUAL REPORT





# 2018/19 IN REVIEW

In 1964, the founders of the Canadian Civil Liberty Association (CCLA) decided to stand against a new police powers bill that would eventually be withdrawn.

Freedom from abuse of power by governments thus became our mission, thanks to the support of thousands of Canadians. Meanwhile, the Canadian Civil Liberties Education Trust, dedicated to education and research on Canadian rights, would grow to reach 10,000 students a year in 2018/19, thanks largely to funding from the Law Foundation of Ontario, and to people like Ron Ness, a retired principal and member of our Board, who shares his retirement savings with CCLET. Although separate corporations, the brand for both is CCLA.

Since 2018, I have had the honour of serving with extraordinary staff, board and members of CCLA. In 2019 we incorporated, obtained charitable status, and now present to you the annual reports for 2018 and 2019, to be presented to our members at the January 2020 AGM.

**Michael Bryant**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & GENERAL COUNSEL



## ABOUT US

CCLA is a group of people standing up to power. We want everyone in Canada to be treated fairly, with dignity and respect.

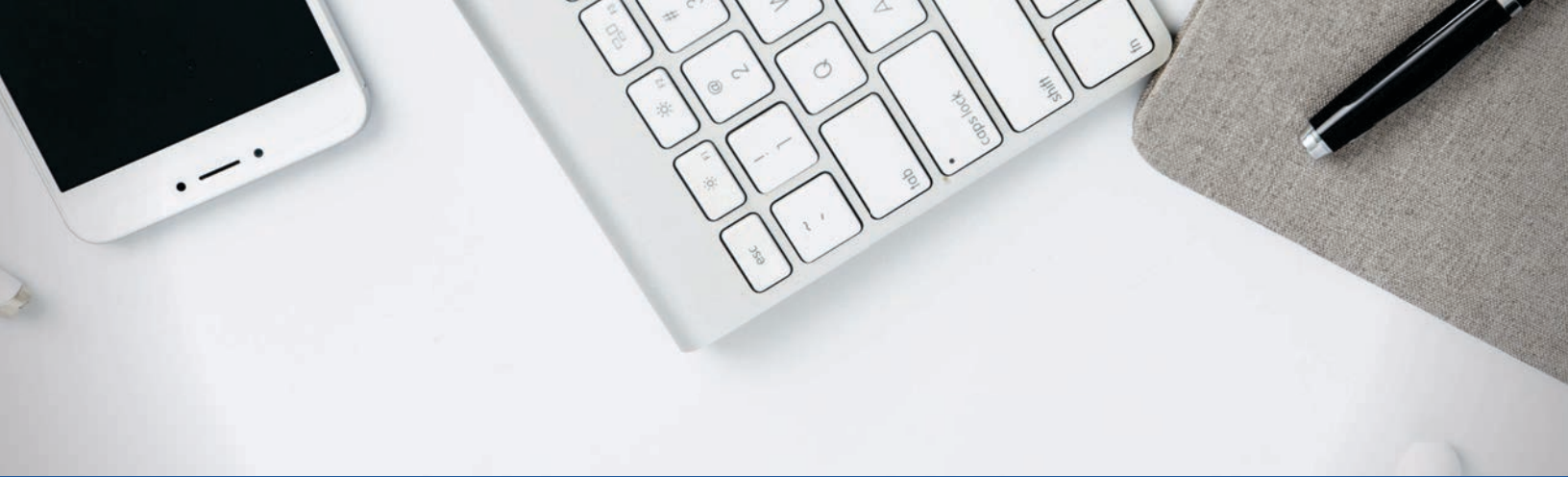
We hold the powerful accountable so rights are protected and freedom is valued. We are fearless and independent, guided only by principles, evidence and expertise, rather than ideology, profit or public opinion. We are to be found in courtrooms and legislatures, on the media, and in your community. Our teachers are in your classrooms having conversations with students and teachers about their freedoms and how to engage in critical thinking and community action.

## OUR IMPACT

The Supreme Court of Canada has heard from us more than any other domestic human rights NGO. Our goal is to change the law. We've been at the centre of human rights in Canada since our founding over 55 years ago.

Once, we were the lone such intervenor before the courts on constitutional issues, lending independent expertise to cases rather than taking sides. Today, the good news is that many more intervenors are heard by the Supreme Court. While we continue to show up at court as intervenors, since 2018 we have launched litigation ourselves, over and over again.





# OUR BOARD

**Andrew Lokan**

CHAIR

**Linda Schuyler**

VICE-CHAIR

**Joe Freedman**

TREASURER

**Jonathan Lisus**

SECRETARY

**Frank Addario**

BOARD MEMBER

**Audrey Boctor**

BOARD MEMBER

**Wendy Cukier**

BOARD MEMBER

**Andrew Forde**

BOARD MEMBER

**John McCamus**

BOARD MEMBER

**Ron Ness**

BOARD MEMBER

**Julianna Greenspan**

BOARD MEMBER

**Patricia Jackson**

BOARD MEMBER

**Anil Kapoor**

BOARD MEMBER

**Walied Soliman**

BOARD MEMBER

Governance modernization accelerated in 2018, with the board shrinking from 40 to 14, and CCLA obtaining charitable status in 2019. We added new financial controls, new oversight committees and began updating our governance policies.



# OUR STAFF

## Michael Bryant

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND  
GENERAL COUNSEL

With six languages spoken in house and decades of experience, our staff works diligently to ensure that people in Canada are treated with dignity and that their rights and freedoms are upheld.

Special thank you to our premier network of pro-bono lawyers, articling students, and our volunteers for helping CCLA stand up to power and hold governments accountable.

## Noa Mendelsohn Aviv

DIRECTOR, EQUALITY PROGRAM

## Cara Faith Zwibel

DIRECTOR, FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS PROGRAM

## Brenda McPhail

DIRECTOR, PRIVACY, TECHNOLOGY &  
SURVEILLANCE PROJECT

## Abby Dushman

DIRECTOR, CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM

## April Julian

DIRECTOR, EDUCATION PROGRAM

## Sarah Pole

ACTING DIRECTOR, EDUCATION PROGRAM

## Lejla Sahovic

DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION

## Maria Rio

SENIOR MANAGER, FUNDRAISING AND  
COMMUNICATIONS

## Talayeh Shomali

COORDINATOR, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

IN  
PARTNERSHIP  
WITH



## OUR EDUCATION PROGRAM

Each year our teachers and lawyers reach over 10,000 primary to graduate level students. This year, we reached over 12,000 kids in Canada.

Through various projects, many funded by the Law Foundation of Ontario's (LFO) Catalyst Grant, we provide free workshops, seminars, and in-class sessions in schools, educational institutions, and faculties of education, educating citizens about their rights and freedoms.





# STANDING UP TO POWER

20

APPEARANCES AT THE  
SUPREME COURT OF  
CANADA

## SUPREME COURT CASE IN FOCUS

Merciless and punitive, the "mandatory victim crime surcharge" was a tax on the poor. CCLA fought the fines for years, and intervened to have the law struck down as cruel and unusual punishment by the Supreme Court of Canada -- which happened December 14, 2018, in *R. v. Boudreault*. CCLA had that kind of impact 20 times in 2018-2019.

## MAKING A BIGGER IMPACT

NEW CASES  
LAUNCHED  
BY CCLA

5

**CCLA has historically been an intervener, but in 2018 we launched five challenges to inequity and injustice, in addition to our work across Canada at various court levels.**

We want to be the first responders to human rights violations and consistently seek new ways to have a bigger, systemic impact on our local and national communities.

# STANDING UP TO POWER

JUNE  
2019



## CANADA'S LARGEST SURVEILLANCE LAB FOR URBAN BEHAVIOUR

### CCLA V. WATERFRONT TORONTO

A David and Goliath tale: Google's scale and command over global data today may exceed, via commercial empire, the political and social influence of the Roman Empire, circa 117 CE. Canadian government experience with IT infrastructure projects is slim and poor. So when Google offered to take over the SmartCity Quayside project for Canada's largest city, tiny Waterfront Toronto said 'yes.' But without government accountability or regulation, Google was permitted to self-regulate. Trusting Google with our privacy and dignity means losing our ability to be a face in the crowd, ever again. Google-bytes of our data would be taken by the time politicians figured it all out. Someone had to reset this project. Enter CCLA.



# STANDING UP TO POWER

2019

## CCLA V. MIN ENERGY (GAS STICKERS)



Queen's Park passed a law requiring retailers to display government propaganda or face a fine. That's compelled speech, we argue, and unconstitutional abuse of power.



CCLA's counsel Stuart Svonkin (left)

2018-2019

## CCLA V. MIN EDUCATION (SEX ED)

The gov't erased all the content in their 2018 sex-education program that wasn't heterosexual. Within 24 hours we filed our challenge. We lost the battle in court but won the war: the Ministry relented and put queer families back in the curriculum.

# STANDING UP TO POWER



Jonathan Lisus (Lax O'Sullivan) +  
Michael Rosenberg (McCarthys)

**2018-2019**

## CCLA V. CANADA (SOLITARY CONFINEMENT)

CCLA has a long history with solitary confinement, and this is our latest case. Launched in 2017, we won at the Ontario Court of Appeal in 2019. Now this cruel practice is constitutional no longer, albeit under appeal to SCC in 2020.

**2017**

## CCLA V. QUEBEC (BILL 21)



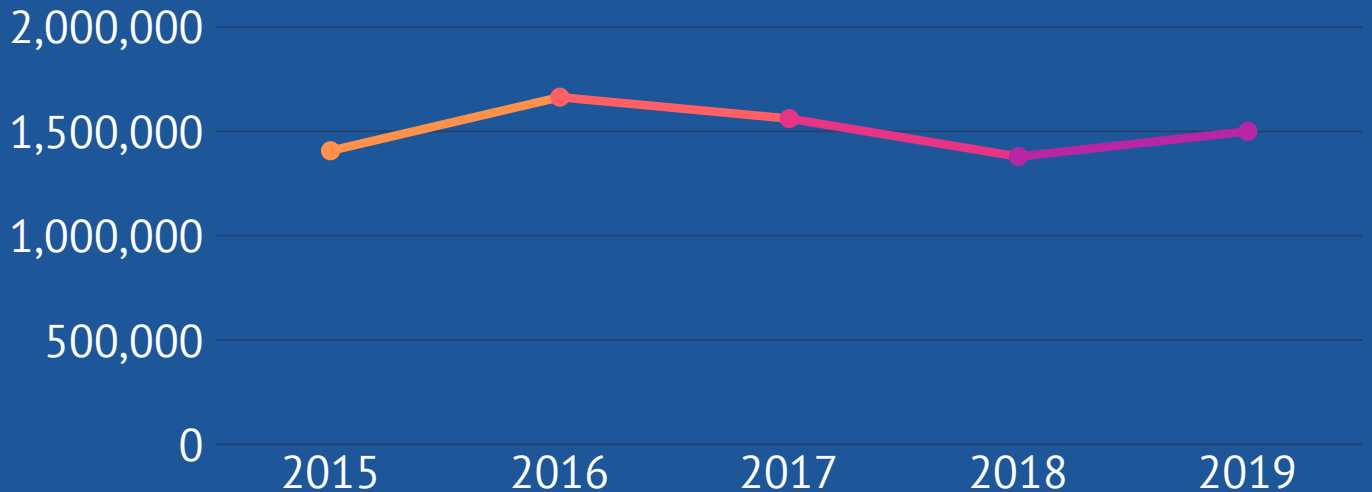
NCCM leaders and CCLA's Noa Mendelsohn Aviv (right)

CCLA and the National Council of Canadian Muslims have gone to court 3X to stop Quebec's Islamophobic bans on religious symbols. In 2020 we're before the Supreme Court and will return to Quebec courts to nullify the laws once and for all later in the year.

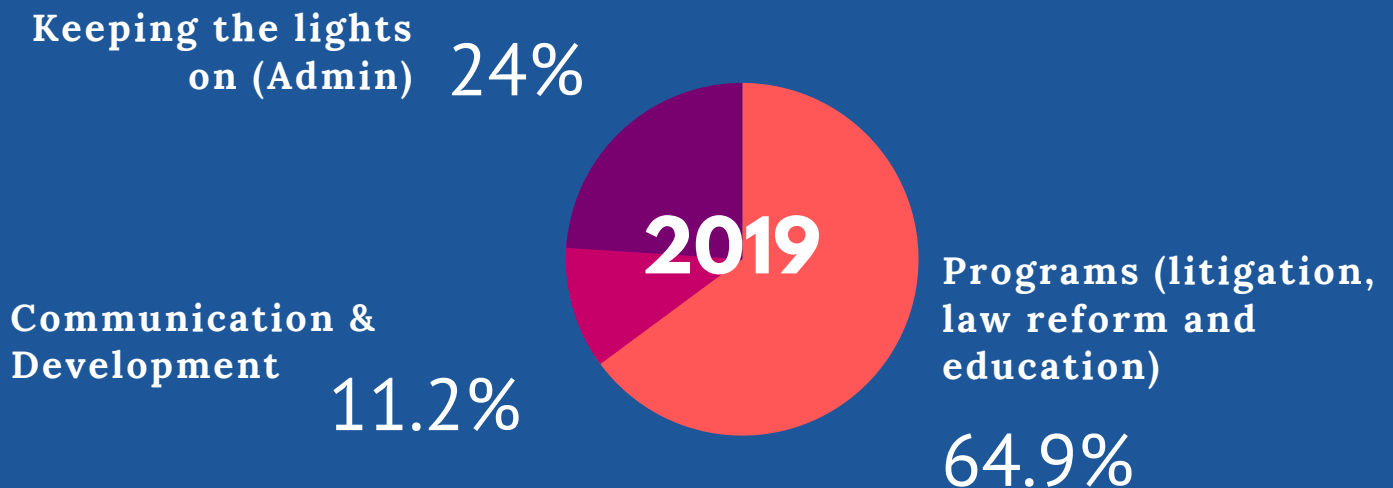
# FINANCIALS

Audited financials for this Annual Report will be posted on our website [ccla.org](http://ccla.org).

## INCOME



## SPENDING WISELY







CANADIAN CIVIL LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION

# STAND UP TO POWER

## STAND UP TO POWER

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### GET IN TOUCH WITH US

900 - 90 Eglinton Ave E.  
Toronto, ON M4P 2Y3  
[www.ccla.org](http://www.ccla.org)  
(416)-646-1404

### ASK US HOW YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

Contact our Executive Director &  
General Counsel at (416)-646-1400 or our  
Donor Relations team at (416)-646-1404.

### WE'RE SOCIAL

Facebook: CanCivLib  
Twitter: CanCivLib  
Youtube: CanCivLib  
Instagram: CanCivLib

### CHARITABLE REG. NUMBER

CCLA: 754802288 RR0001