



STAND UP FOR STANDARD

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CIVIL LIBERTIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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The following is the Canadian Civil Liberties Association Annual Report for 2020. It is the longest and most comprehensive Annual Report within memory, for this 50+ year old organization — now a charity. The year was dominated by two issues of historic importance in the history of civil liberties: a global pandemic and a global reckoning with anti-black racism and the future of policing. Both affected Canada no less than any other nation.

CCLA obviously had a major role to play in advancing the cause of rights and freedoms during a year when racism and police de-tasking became an urgent issue for Canadians; a year during which governments of all levels issued new laws, often weekly, seeking to manage the COVID pandemic. So we were in courts, classrooms, legislatures, and all over the media, doing our job, defending Canadian rights. Never before had CCLA been in such high demand from so many corners of our vast nation. Never before had Canadians so stepped up to support CCLA, in terms of social media engagement, media reach, and financial donations.

In a word, it was our biggest year, ever

Michael Bryant
Executive Director &
General Counsel

Equality is a core part of what we do...

When we stand up against the use of force, for police accountability, and for due process in the criminal justice system, we know that those affected are disproportionately Black, Indigenous, and marginalized.

When we stand up for privacy, we know that many of those under surveillance are Indigenous protestors, Muslims, and other marginalized individuals.

When we stand up for freedom of expression and democratic rights, we know that the majority and those in power can usually take care of themselves, but women, LGBTQ+ individuals, Black, Indigenous, and other groups need the tools of democracy to fight for their rights.

Inspired by a conversation with Alan Borovoy,
O.C., Executive Director CCLA 1968-2009



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Barrister and Partner, Paliare Roland LLP



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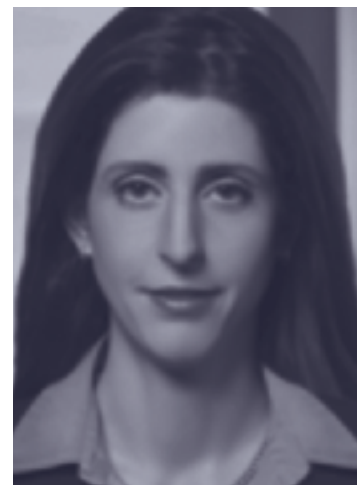
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Corporate Director



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Ron Ness
Retired Principal/Teacher



Simron Singh
Affiliate Scientist, Sunnybrook Research
Institute & Medical Oncologist, U of T



Steven Sofer
Barrister and Partner, Gowling WLG

MISSION

CCLA strives to be a nimble, relevant, national voice for civil rights and liberties in Canada. We stand up to abuse of legal powers, breaking down prejudices and building empathy.



CCLA believes that all persons in Canada are entitled to basic rights, freedoms, dignity and respect.



VISION

ABOUT

There's only one organization I am a member of - and that is CCLA.
— LOUISE ARBOUR, Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, former justice of the Supreme Court of Canada

About Us

Founded in 1964, we are an independent, national, charitable organization, working in the courts, before legislative bodies, in the classrooms, and in the streets, protecting the dignity and rights of people in Canada. We have a long history of defending Canadians, and we believe it is imperative to take a stand against injustice and oppression. We work in partnership with pro-bono lawyers to actively fight unjust laws, supporting the rights and freedoms of all people living in Canada.

Our Impact

The CCLA has been at the center of human rights in Canada since our founding over 55 years ago. The Supreme Court of Canada has heard from us more than any other domestic human rights NGO. We have launched litigation, over and over again, with the goal of changing the law. Our cases have made constitutional history, and improved rights protections for hundreds of thousands of people across the country. We undertake ground-breaking research, changing public discussion, impacting public policy, and informing court decisions. We have changed provincial and federal laws to better protect people's rights. And each and every year we reach over 12,000 students through our educational programs.

US

2020

28 Cases at all levels of Courts in 2020

Five appearances in the Supreme Court of Canada in 2020

VALUES

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We believe the civil liberties, human rights, and democratic freedoms of all people should be respected, protected and promoted, and that CCLA should work to break down barriers facing disadvantaged groups.

Commitment

We will fight passionately to protect these rights.
We will stand up to injustice and oppression.

Integrity

We believe in transparency and accountability, dignity and fairness, in and outside our organization.

Our Values

We exist to...

Help people.

CCLA has been a rights leader and has earned widespread respect for its principled stand on such issues as national security, censorship, capital punishment, and police and state accountability.

Fight injustice.

CCLA fights for the civil liberties, human rights, and democratic freedoms of all people across Canada. We are an independent, national, nongovernmental organization, working in the courts, before legislative committees, in the classrooms, and in the streets, protecting the rights and freedoms cherished by Canadians and entrenched in our civil liberties.

Teach and Share Knowledge.

CCLA established its Education Trust (CCLET) in 1967 with a vision to educate the public about their rights and freedoms so they would be empowered to lend their own voices to the fight for social change. Each year our teachers and lawyers provide educational programming to learners of all ages and diverse backgrounds to increase civic literacy and participation, and to enable everyone in Canada to enjoy their constitutionally guaranteed rights and freedoms.

HOW

WE

WORK

“Throughout the pandemic the CCLA stood out as a committed and responsible voice in defence of our civil liberties, even as other voices, the media and opposition parties fell silent and others advocated absolutist approaches that did not take into account legitimate public-health objectives.”

— KEVIN STANTON - Donor

CCLA has developed a unique model of advocacy that supports five core activities: monitoring, litigation, research, public education, and civic engagement. CCLA's work is focused on the following thematic areas: Fundamental Freedoms, Criminal Justice, Equality, Privacy and Education. These defined focuses and a storied presence within various court levels has allowed us to make the biggest impact possible. Our work is guided by principles, evidence and expertise, rather than ideology, profit or public opinion.

MONITORING

CCLA staff monitor legal cases at all levels of courts across Canada, and provincial, territorial, and federal legislation as a foundation for our strategic engagement in litigation and research. We work with law firms and legal clinics, legal student volunteers in relation with Pro Bono Students Canada.

LITIGATION

CCLA has intervened and acted in hundreds of court cases over more than fifty years, including many leading cases heard by the Supreme Court of Canada. In all our litigation, CCLA presents a unique civil liberties perspective on the case, providing the courts with information to fully appreciate and take into account fundamental democratic values. Over the years, CCLA has developed an unparalleled expertise on civil liberties issues, and is uniquely placed to conduct high impact interventions in legal cases.

RESEARCH

CCLA has formed several key partnerships which allow it to conduct its comprehensive research. It benefits from the contributions of several law firms and many academics who serve in various capacities, from advisory group members to members of the CCLA's Board.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

CCLA is proud to provide multi-lingual public programming to educate people in Canada on their rights and freedoms. Each year we reach 11,000+ learners, from elementary to graduate level, teachers in training, in-service professionals, and members of the public. Generously funded through private donations and a grant from The Law Foundation of Ontario (LFO), all of CCLLET's programs engage learners through interactive workshops, resources and activities led by CCLLET and CCLA staff, who bring a wealth of knowledge drawn from CCLA's long history of research and advocacy in support of rights and freedoms in Canada. Additionally, CCLA offers educational resources and workshops, available at ccllet.org, including:

- Multi-media Lesson Plans and resources for elementary and high school social studies class use.
- Annual, national high school student contest, generously sponsored by the Chernos family.
- *[That's Not Fair!](#)* animated video series for children from the ages of 7-11.
- Guides and toolkits, including the *[Peer Privacy Protectors Guidebook](#)*, funded through the 2016-17 Contributions Grant Program, Office of the Privacy Commissioner.



OUR

HISTORY

**SINCE OUR FOUNDING
IN 1964, CCLA HAS
BEEN AT THE
CUTTING-EDGE OF
EVERY CIVIL LIBERTIES
DEBATE IN CANADA.**

1960's

1964

CCLA is founded

The CCLA was founded in 1964. Its predecessor was the Association for Civil Liberties (ACL), which at its foundation had been intended to address national issues, but had become focused primarily on issues in Ontario. The ACL was led by Irving Himel, and in response to the bill, he gathered human rights leaders in Toronto, including Pierre Berton, June Callwood, Bora Laskin, Mark MacGuigan, Harry Arthurs, and John Keiller MacKay, and they formed the CCLA with Mackay as its honorary president.

1968

Alan Borovoy took the reins at the CCLA as Executive Director, leading the organization as a champion for the rights of Canadians for over four decades.

1969

CCLA Defends Mohawk Demonstrators

CCLA defends the rights of Mohawk demonstrators in Cornwall, ON to demonstrate on disputed land.

1970's

1970

Documents the Under-Representation of Racialized Minority Groups

CCLA becomes one of the first groups to document the underrepresentation of radicalized minority groups in part of the job market and sets the stage for employment equity campaigns.

1970

War Measures Act

CCLA triumphs against the return of the War Measures Act during the October Crisis. The CCLA was one of the few groups in Canada that protested the 1970 invocation of the War Measures Act by then Prime Minister of Canada Pierre Trudeau in response to the October Crisis in Quebec.

1970

CCLA Defends Dr. Morgentaler

Intervenes in the SCC's first ruling on the abortion practices of Dr. Morgentaler. CCLA defended, and continues to defend, both the antiabortionist's right to protest and a women's right to choose.

1980's

1980

CCLA appears before the Joint Committee rejecting rights without remedies in the October 1980 draft of the Charter.

1981

CCLA demands a public inquiry into police “Soap” raids of gay bathhouses.

1982

CCLA was central in the discussions leading to the creation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms

1990's

1992

Challenges the vagueness of the obscenity provisions of the Criminal Code.

1996

Standing for equality rights.

CCLA goes to court to argue that funding religious schools could harm public schools.

2000's

2001

CCLA takes on government's response to 9/11: challenging new counter-terror laws to the extent that these were unnecessary or overly broad; calling out Canada's complicity and involvement in torture abroad; and challenging secretive and unconstitutional legal processes that would allow government to indefinitely detain non-citizens whom the government alleged presented a national security risk.

2010's

2010

CCLA successfully intervenes in two SCC cases calling for increased police accountability.

2010

CCLA plays instrumental role in raising concerns about policing of the G20 summit in Toronto before, during and after the Summit. CCLA deployed over 50 human rights monitors to observe interactions between protesters and police during the summit, issued a report following the mass arrests and civil liberties violations that took place during the summit, and held public hearings in the absence of a formal public inquiry initiated by any level of government. CCLA's advocacy contributed to several important reviews that took place following the summit.

2014

CCLA releases two seminal reports – one on Canada's failed bail system, and another on the unfairness of police record checks CCLA's bail report, *[Set Up to Fail](#)*, would go on to be cited by the Supreme Court four times over the next six years.

2015

Ontario government responds to CCLA's reports on police record checks and coalition advocacy, passing the ground-breaking Police Records Check Reform Act, 2015

2018

Challenges Solitary Confinement

CCLA challenges the unconstitutional use of indefinite solitary confinement in court and in parliament, forcing the federal government to dismantle the legal regime supporting solitary confinement.

2019

Smart City

CCLA and co-applicant Lester Brown commenced proceedings against Waterfront Toronto and all three levels of government, seeking a reset of the rights-threatening Sidewalk Toronto smart city project; CCLA believes the litigation was one factor in Sidewalk Labs' decision to cancel the project and leave Toronto in May 2020.

2019

Bill 21

CCLA together with the National Council of Canadian Muslims and an individual education student, filed a constitutional challenge in court against a Quebec law that prohibits teachers, police officers, judges, and others in the public sector from wearing religious symbols at work. The law harms religious, immigrant, and racialized minorities – and Muslim women in particular.

2019

Sex Ed Curriculum Challenge

Becky's daughter is 10 years old. In her public school class, she's the only one whose parents identity as queer. So she was looking forward to Grade 6 because her classmates were going to learn all about her family, under the 2015 modernized curriculum. A month before school started, the provincial government changed the curriculum and her family was left out. They did not exist. There was no reference to LGBTQ+.... anything. So Becky, her daughter and CCLA decided to fight the unconstitutional exclusion of Becky's family.

2020's

2020

CCLA joins as co-counsel to launch a class action challenging illegal strip searches in Canada's federal prisons.

2020

G20 Class Action

Settlement agreement is reached in G20 class action which compensates individuals for mass arrests and detentions that took place during the 2010 summit in Toronto. CCLA intervened in the certification stage of this class proceeding. The settlement allows for compensation for individuals and a statement issued by Toronto Police acknowledging that “many hundreds of members of the public were detained or arrested when they should not have been and were held in detention in conditions that were unacceptable.”

2020-2021

COVID-19

The CCLA has actively monitored and advocated for a rights-centred response to the *COVID-19 pandemic* by governments and state agencies, both in terms of protecting vulnerable populations and preventing unjustified infringements of civil liberties in the name of public safety. These include:

Advocacy against regulations permitting the police and other firstresponders to access individuals' COVID-19 test results without cause, unwarranted and excessive enforcement of public safety regulations, including overly stringent restrictions of public gatherings and enforcement measures which do not further public health objectives.

Writing over 100 op-eds, briefs, and letters to public authorities across Canada expressing concerns and making recommendations about the balance between COVID related public health restrictions and civil liberties.

Initiating litigation as a public interest litigant in three matters directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic involving mobility rights, conditions in shelters for people experiencing homelessness, and conditions for those in detention.

EDUCATION

Issue:
Education

CCLET (Canadian Civil Liberties Education Trust) delivers the education mandate of CCLA, preparing the next generation of Canadians for civic engagement by introducing students to the exploration of civil liberties and human rights and encouraging the development of democratic habits.

EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION

Many turned to CCLET in 2020, with its well-established reputation for balanced and accessible civil liberties education, to meet an important need: how do I educate myself and my kids about what's happening, at home and abroad, in 2020. Whether stirred by the torrent of emergency orders issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the blatant displays of systemic racism everywhere, or the events surrounding the US election, many Canadians turned to CCLET to frame their thinking around these issues. Not to give them answers, but to teach them what questions to ask.

The results were positive. 2020 represented CCLET's highest outreach numbers to date: over 13,000 learners engaged in our Civil Liberties in Schools, Teaching Civil Liberties, CCLA Talks and Newcomer education programming. CCLET staff helped teachers navigate hundreds of difficult classroom conversations about racial injustice, misinformation, emergency powers/ COVID-19 orders, and voting – topics that were top of mind for everyone. All this despite the challenges presented by teachers' strikes, and COVID-19 related school closures.

To ensure that the instructors, community members and agencies who depend on our programming would not be without our support, CCLET worked quickly to adapt its delivery model for in-person workshops. We went beyond simply transferring our in-person programming to an online platform; we *transformed* our workshops to consider the needs of learners and teachers in an online environment, integrating interactive tools and game-based learning platforms to optimize student engagement.

A highlight of CCLET's program year was our 24th Annual Borovoy Conference – the culminating event of our high school programming each year – focused on issues of systemic racism in Canada. The event came with many firsts: delivered over a virtual platform; partnered with both the Toronto and Durham District School Boards to plan and execute the event; taking place over the course of 4 days; and the first engagement with students by our new Special Advisor, Anti-Black Racism (Prof. Akwasi Owusu-Bempah) and Special Advisor, Indigenous Issues (Verna George). The result was the largest Borovoy Conference in CCLET's history, with over 800 students and teachers in attendance daily.

“Education about rights and freedoms for young people is crucial to build confidence, protect against them being taken advantage of in various situations, and create a sense of civic duty. This type of knowledge also creates a sense of safety and belonging, especially for those whose inter-sectional identities may compound their vulnerability.”

— DR. NADIA Z. HASSAN, *Chief Operating Officer, National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM)*

EQUALITY

Issue:
Equality

CCLA is committed to furthering equality – including equity, diversity and inclusion - both internally and through its work, and recognises the importance of fighting racial injustice and other forms of inequality.

HOMELESSNESS, SHELTERS AND COVID CRISIS

Story recap: Concerned with deplorable conditions in the City of Toronto’s shelter system, which represent an urgent threat to the life and safety of Toronto’s homeless population during the COVID-19 crisis, on March 29, CCLA wrote to Toronto’s Mayor and Council to demand the city immediately create appropriate physical distancing and safe accommodation for people without homes. On April 20, CCLA joined forces with several other organizations, sending another letter to the City, and ultimately filing a constitutional and human rights challenge in court.

CCLA and its coalition partners (Sanctuary Ministries of Toronto, Aboriginal Legal Services, Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario, Black Legal Action Centre, and HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario), argued that the City is operating its shelter system and maintaining formal standards that are discriminatory and violate the rights to equality and to life and security of the person of shelter residents under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and the *Ontario Human Rights Code*. The slow pace at which the City acted to protect this vulnerable group led to a dangerous situation in which hundreds of people experiencing homelessness contracted COVID-19.

Following the launch of our legal action, the City reached a settlement with CCLA and its coalition partners, agreeing to create 2 meters space between beds, prohibit the use of bunk

beds in shelters and ensure a bed for anyone using shelter services since the start of the pandemic. The City of Toronto was also compelled to provide periodic reports of its progress until it had been in compliance for some time.

However, the City did not comply, and in October 2020, the Superior Court of Ontario decided in favor of our Coalition concluding that the City had not met its obligations, and must continue submitting reports to the coalition to monitor physical distancing and capacity as required under our settlement.

ICHRAK NOUR EL-HAK, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CANADIAN MUSLIMS (NCCM), AND CANADIAN CIVIL LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION V ATTORNEY GENERAL OF QUEBEC – BILL 21

Story recap: The government of Quebec is banning anyone working in certain public sector jobs such as teachers, judges and police officers, from wearing religious symbols at work. Prohibited symbols could include crosses, hijabs, turbans, and yarmulkes, however the majority of individuals affected by the law are Muslim women teachers who wear the hijab. This law discriminates against people of many faiths, and the youth who aspire to those careers. Bill 21 has a particularly harmful impact on immigrant and racialized women, and unfairly targets people whose faith affects what they wear.



“The CCLA does important work everywhere in Canada. In New Brunswick, the CCLA is working to advance abortion access so that it is equal to the rest of Canada. Reproductive freedom is essential to equality.” – KAREN PEARLSTON, Reproductive Justice NB

CCLA was quick to defend the rights and freedoms of those living in Quebec. Together with the National Council of Canadian Muslims and a young education student, Ichrak Nour El-Hak, CCLA challenged the law in court.

CCLA also argued for temporary suspension of the law formerly known as Bill 21 until the courts could decide on its constitutionality. We outlined the various harms that the religious symbols ban has already caused, and on that basis, asked the court for an urgent remedy. Unfortunately, both the Quebec Superior Court and a majority of the Quebec Court of Appeal declined to grant the suspension.

The six week trial took place in November and December.

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Story recap: CCLA wrote to the province of New Brunswick, demanding the amendment of a regulation that restricts women’s access to abortion unless done in approved hospitals, even though this restriction is not medically necessary or justified.

The Government of New Brunswick did not accede to CCLA’s demands and did not repeal the problematic part of the regulation. On Thursday, October 29, 2020, we issued formal notice to the office of New Brunswick’s Attorney General, letting

them know that we were preparing to commence a lawsuit against the province and would be asking the court to declare the relevant part of the regulation unconstitutional.

The New Brunswick regulation that restricts access to abortion creates a serious issue for New Brunswick women, girls and trans people who need access to abortion - a basic form of health care.

Coupled with wait times, limits, and travel requirements, this raises very grave access issues for women, girls and trans individuals across the province – in particular, those for whom access may be more difficult due to poverty, marginalization, or domestic violence. Their rights to liberty, security, privacy, and equality must be protected.

CRIMINAL

“The CCLA has been invaluable throughout this pandemic, holding governments to account and drawing attention to instances where they are not respecting the rights and liberties of all Canadians. Their reports on covid liberties and fines, as well as their live updates on policies that unnecessarily or excessively infringe liberties have been immensely helpful informational resources.”

— LUKE MARTIN

JUSTICE

Issue:
Criminal Justice System

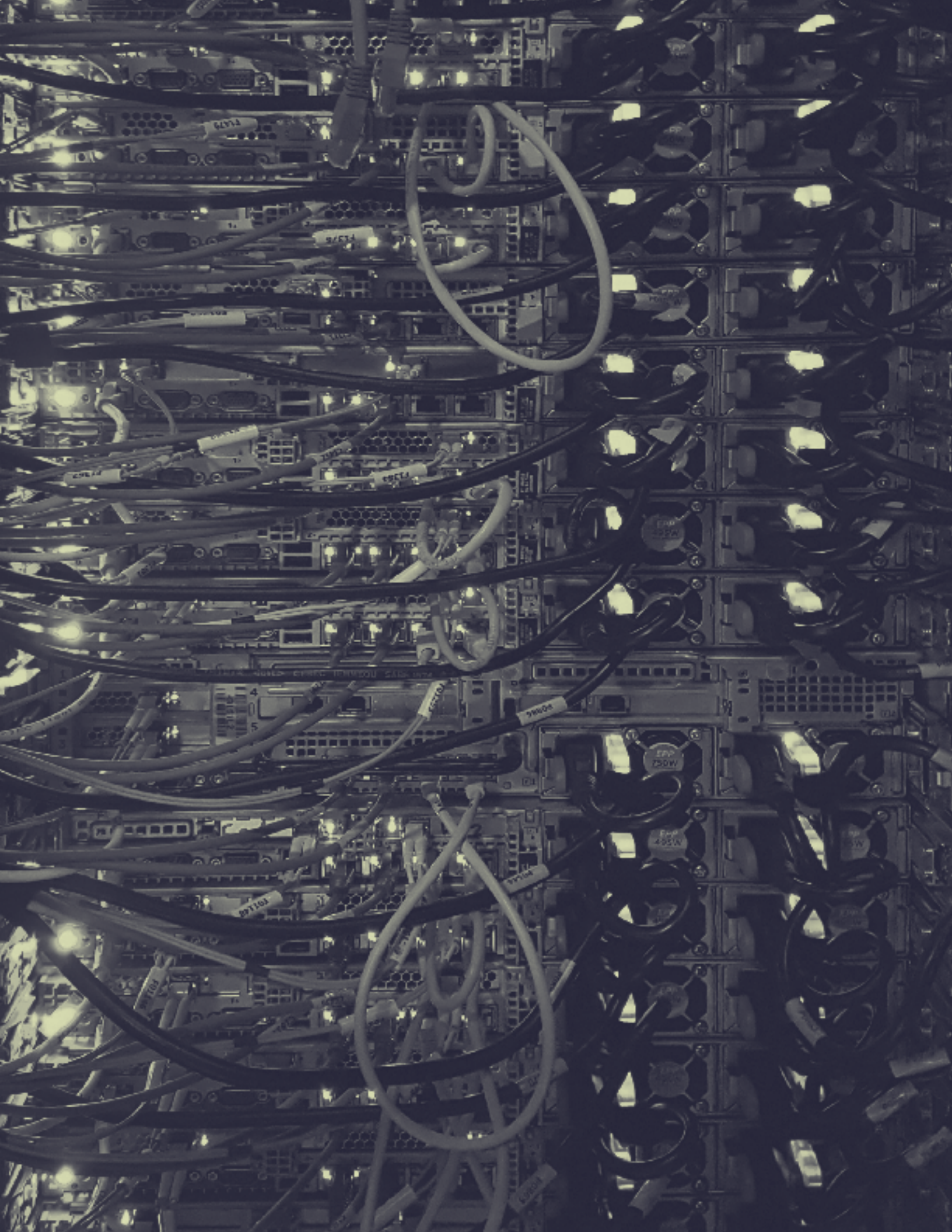
The criminal justice system wields some of the state's most coercive powers. Police are granted powers stop, question, search, harm, and even kill, if necessary. Judges determine guilt and innocence. Prisons deprive people of their most basic liberties. CCLA's criminal justice program works to ensure that these incredible powers are used proportionately, fairly, and only when absolutely necessary.

POLICING THE PANDEMIC *Story recap: In March 2020, every Canadian province and territory declared some kind of state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Unprecedented restrictions on individuals' freedoms quickly followed. Many public spaces across the country were shut. Indoor and outdoor gatherings were restricted. Public health recommendations to maintain physical distancing became legally enforceable laws pursuant to legislation and emergency orders. Many of the laws were overly broad, vague and confusing. Law enforcement was called on to enforce the new orders. The penalties were significant.*

CCLA quickly mobilized to track the use of police and punitive fines during the pandemic. Relying heavily on punitive fines and policing is also of questionable efficacy from a public health perspective. Trying to punish people into complying with broad, confusing, and vague laws is unlikely to have any meaningful impact on behaviour and tends to push marginalized populations further from the services and supports that they need. Relying on punitive law enforcement measures also tends to disproportionately harm those communities – including Black people and members of other racialized communities, Indigenous persons, those experiencing homelessness, mental health challenges, and addiction – that are already subject to disproportionate and harmful policing practices.

We launched a COVID ticket tracker, collected stories, and partnered with the Policing the Pandemic Mapping Project to track punitive COVID tickets across the country. Our report on policing during the first wave of COVID-19, [“Stay off the Grass”](#), called out Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia for their highly punitive approaches to public health, and revealed numerous instances of unfair, discriminatory ticketing. It garnered national news coverage, sparked conversations across the country, and pushed law enforcement and public leaders to critically assess their use of police during a public health crisis.





Criminal Justice Police COVID Database

COVID DATABASE FOR POLICE

Story recap: In the spring of 2020, the Ontario government gave first responders – including the police – access to a database with Ontario’s COVID-19 test results. It was privacy-invasive, ineffective, and unnecessary. CCLA, in partnership with a group of community organizations, mobilized to launch legal action and shut it down. From the outset, CCLA had significant concerns about the utility of this privacy-invasive measure. People going for COVID tests were not asked for their consent to share their personal medical information and the information being shared with police wouldn’t accurately identify those in the community who could transmit COVID in any case. There were concerns about how sharing personal medical information directly with the police would impact those who are subject to systemic discrimination in their interactions with law enforcement and health care – including Black Ontarians, Indigenous persons, and those living with mental health issues and addictions.

CCLA, along with our coalition partners, filed a lawsuit challenging the province’s decision to share this personal medical information with police. Shortly afterwards, the Ontario government terminated the database – a solid win for privacy and equality.

With the database shut down we discontinued our lawsuit – but we didn’t stop asking questions. Data we had received in our settlement showed that the police had searched the database an astounding 95,000 times while it was operational. The information prompted an investigation by the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, and we sent dozens of letters to police services boards across the province. The answers showed just how dysfunctional the database was – and uncovered clear indications of massive privacy violations on the part of some police services.

ILLEGAL STRIP SEARCHES

Story recap: On July 6, 2020, CCLA partnered to launch a class action lawsuit on behalf of Canadians illegally strip searched in federal prisons. Our goal - to bring an end to thousands of unconstitutional strip searches, and secure compensation and other remedies for those who have had their rights violated.

Strip searches are humiliating and degrading. They psychologically scar prisoners, many of whom have experienced physical abuse in the past, making rehabilitation harder and reoffending more likely to happen. The lead plaintiffs in our case, Michael Farrell and Kimberly Major, are former prisoners. Both suffered sexual abuse as children and both spent time in federal prison after becoming addicted to illegal substances. When Mr. Farrell was forced to stand naked in front of other men, he relived the emotions of being abused as a child – powerlessness, humiliation and shame. When Ms. Major was strip searched, she would avoid all eye contact and stare at the ceiling. Her heart would race, and she would try to take herself out of her body and imagine she was not there – a coping mechanism she had used when her husband sexually abused her.

Canadian federal law puts clear limits on strip searches. The class action targets strip searches in situations where they are clearly illegal and unnecessary, such as suspicionless strip searches upon release from prison. These unnecessary searches are being conducted indiscriminately, without any suspicion of wrongdoing, in contravention of the clear limits set out in law. These searches have been conducted hundreds of thousands of times, and in doing so, the federal government has violated individuals' rights.



PRIVACY TECHNOLOGY

AND SURVEILLANCE

CCLA seeks to bring a principled and rights-focused approach to the impact of new technology and surveillance in policing methods and in citizen's public and private lives.

PRIVACY IN THE SMART CITY

Story recap: In 2019, CCLA began a significant fight for privacy rights in Canadian cities. In 2020, we won.

Google sibling company Sidewalk Labs and Waterfront Toronto entered into an agreement in 2017, partnering to develop a neighborhood on Toronto's waterfront 'from the internet up'. CCLA monitored the project from the beginning, worried that turning a part of the city into a sensor-laden tech test bed carried profound risks for privacy and other rights and that our outdated data protection laws provided insufficient safeguards. In 2019, we launched a legal application with co-applicant Lester Brown, and amazing counsel from Fogler Rubinoff. We argued that Waterfront Toronto did not have the jurisdiction to sign off on a data surveillance project with a sibling of the biggest data collector on the planet, Sidewalk Labs, and that our Charter-protected rights to privacy, liberty and free association are at risk if we allow our streets, shops, and even homes to become part of a sensor-laden, intensively surveilled neighborhood. We created a record that included affidavits from a range of experts (all available on our website). After a successful fight from CCLA, and co-applicant Lester Brown, alongside the efforts of many grassroots activists and concerned groups, Sidewalk announced that it would abandon the Quayside project on May 7, 2020.

PRIVACY AND THE PANDEMIC

Story recap: Technology can be used as a tool to support human health and dignity, or to erode our values and our privacy rights. We have to choose, and our choices need to be justifiable not just during, but after the health crisis has subsided.


Privacy might seem like the least of our worries in the midst of a global pandemic. But we must be particularly alert to privacy erosions in times of emergency that may shift the social license for such intrusions after the crisis has passed. This matters not just because our privacy is at stake, but because privacy supports other rights, including rights to liberty in times of quarantine, rights to mobility in times of travel restrictions, and rights to equality when emergency measures affect some more than others. With generous support from the Ken and Debbie Rubin

Public Interest Advocacy Fund, we created the ["Privacy, Access to Information, and You: The COVID-19 Edition"](#) guidebook. The guidebook provides information and encourages critical thinking and public engagement with issues of privacy rights and pandemic control. This resource was created to answer some of the public's pressing questions on privacy early in the COVID-19 pandemic but will continue to be updated.

CONTACT TRACING

Story recap: CCLA has been active in a range of public conversations and presentations regarding technologically-mediated contact tracing, including conversations with Canadian groups building contact tracing apps and ultimately, our Privacy Director's invited participation in the federal App Advisory Council which advised the government on the implementation and ongoing development and analysis of the COVID Alert exposure notification app.

CCLA engaged early and often in the public and private debates regarding the potential and risks of a technologically-mediated contact tracing app. We were quick off the mark, in April 2020, writing to all of the First Ministers of Canada with a set of recommendations and general principles to consider if governments found it necessary and proportionate to engage in any form of data surveillance activities as part of a state response to COVID-19. Both before and after Canada launched its COVID Alert app, CCLA advocated for rigorous privacy and security protections and demonstrable proof that these were present and effective. The transparency provided by the Canadian Digital Service's open data approach set an important precedent in providing such evidence. We called for it to be completely voluntary. We also directed our attention, and lent our voice, to pointing out the complexities of the potential social impacts of the technology including risks of exacerbating pre-existing inequities, because data shows disproportionate impacts of the pandemic in communities from racially-diverse and lower-income neighbourhoods. That made us question the potential discriminatory impact when rolling out a supportive tool that operated on expensive phones, and the need for social supports to allow those warned of an exposure to get time off to be tested, to have paid sick days if they needed to stay home, and to have job protection and a safe place to quarantine if needed.



"I thank Brenda McPhail and the CCLA for the work you are doing to protect our rights to privacy in a society that is slowly becoming more accepting of our loss of privacy." —

EZRA ROSEN

Privacy, Technology & Surveillance

POLICY SUBMISSIONS ON PRIVACY LAWS ACROSS CANADA

Story recap: It was a busy year on the privacy policy front. BC reviewed their Act. The federal government tabled Bill C-11, a new private sector privacy law. And Ontario held ongoing data strategy consultations which included a proposal for a new, made-in-Ontario private sector privacy law.

CCLA made written submissions to the BC Privacy law review, encouraging attention to updates that would provide appropriate safeguards around emerging technologies including artificial intelligence and biometric identifiers, including facial recognition. We also put forward arguments that the first step in re-imagining British Columbia's private sector privacy regime is to strengthen PIPA's commitment to privacy as a human right. This is especially important in contexts where individuals often have far less power than the companies with which they interact, whether the individuals be consumers, contractors, or employees. A human rights framework would give BC the right legal and analytical lens with which to frame the privacy challenges of today and tomorrow.

Our approach to the new Ontario law is similar: put the recognition of privacy as a human right front and centre. The prospect of a new law offers Ontario a chance not just to repair longstanding gaps in its privacy regime, but also a chance to become a privacy leader. In our submissions, CCLA highlighted the benefits of Ontario recognizing privacy as a human right and the pressing need to protect workers' privacy, especially when COVID has so many people working from home. Ontario also needs a framework that addresses young people's distinct privacy interests, as well as political parties' urgent need for new privacy regulations.

Bill C-11 was the federal attempt to modernize the federal private sector law, fondly abbreviated as PIPEDA. While the bill died on the order paper when the 2021 federal election was called, CCLA's analysis identified a number of significant gaps and omissions that we will advocate to have rectified if a new government puts forward a similar bill in 2021.

BODY WORN CAMERAS (BWC)

Story recap: In October 2020, CCLA participated in Toronto Police Service Board's (TPSB) consultation on policy for body worn cameras for the Toronto Police Service.

CCLA supported the concerns expressed by the Ontario Human Rights Commission in their submissions to this consultation regarding moving forward with this implementation, despite community concerns expressed pointedly and poignantly by individuals and groups in the Black and other racialized communities. We also stressed that the purpose of camera adoption must be front and centre in the policy framing: if racial justice and enhanced accountability are genuinely the goal behind implementation, then the policy governing the use of cameras, training for officers, and release of footage, including public access must reflect that goal. Body worn cameras can exacerbate the power asymmetry between officers and members of the public, especially in a system where systemic racism is a reality. Policies must be designed to mitigate that risk, through constraints/rules around use and through provisions for proactive and systematic review of footage to address discrimination in interactions with the public. Many changes were made to the policy, in response to CCLA's feedback.

FACE SURVEILLANCE

Story recap: An environmental scan, resulting in a report entitled "[Facial Recognition Technology in Canada: What is it and where do we find it?](#)", was created in conjunction with a student consultation team from the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy.

The report focused on the nature and current Canadian implementations of the technology. A series of 'explainer' documents for applied professionals based on this report were developed. Along with our international partners, we participated in a report that lays out risks of the technology as it is implemented worldwide. CCLA also initiated a series of access to information requests into the uses of Clearview AI, an American FRT vendor whose products were surreptitiously used by police forces across the country despite the technology's data collection practices, involving scraping photos from the internet, being contrary to Canadian law. We ultimately called for a moratorium on the use of FRT, pending public debate and improved regulation. We will continue to participate in grant-funded research into this dangerous surveillance tool.

FUNDAMENTAL

FREEDOMS

Issue:
Fundamental Freedoms

CCLA advocates for the freedoms of expression, religion, association, and peaceful assembly, and for democratic rights, mobility rights, and more. Our work in this area also focuses on finding ways to ensure that governments are transparent and accountable to those they are elected to serve.

ONGOING ENGAGEMENT: ONLINE EXPRESSION

Story recap: The federal government has been promising for some time to create new laws and rules to try to regulate expression online. Web platforms are key means of communication for Canadians and their regulation has to consider both the harms that can take place online, and the harms that can result from excessive regulation and censorship.

The internet has been a great democratizing force and opened up lines of communication and ways of connecting that were previously unimaginable. At the same time, technology, and the anonymity that it allows has sometimes led to significant harms including child exploitation and harassment that may drive people away from online spaces. The pandemic has also highlighted in a dramatic way the impact of misinformation on the public and the dangers that it can create. Read more about pandemic misinformation [here](#).

The federal government has been planning to regulate this area for many years and CCLA has been engaged in ongoing research aimed at striking a proper balance between freedom of expression and rights to safety and security. We have provided feedback to government departments about different possible plans and network with civil society and others to try to ensure our work is informed and speaks to the issues of key concern. This work will continue for many years, as our government and others try to impose regulations and a meaningful accountability structure on the largely unregulated world wide web.

HOLDING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE

Story recap: CCLA intervened in [Francis v. Ontario, 2021 ONCA 197](#) at the Ontario Court of Appeal. This was a class action brought against the province on behalf of prisoners who had been placed in solitary confinement in provincial jails.

This case did not only consider the solitary confinement regime – it also raised a question about the application of a new law – the Crown Liability and Proceedings Act (CLPA) – which the government argued immunized it from liability in this and many other civil cases.

CCLA argued that the legislation should not be interpreted in a way that would undermine the court’s ability to hold government accountable for serious civil wrongs. In this case, that included the ongoing use of solitary confinement in situations where Canadian courts had already found the practice to be in violation of human rights standards. The Ontario Court of Appeal agreed with CCLA’s position that the CLPA did not immunize the government from liability in this case and interpreted the statute in a way that will help to ensure government accountability in future civil litigation. Civil cases are one way in which our governments can be held accountable for wrongdoing and can be a catalyst in the push for systemic change in a number of different areas.

“The CCLA was there when my rights & the rights of countless others were being infringed upon. Their advocacy shines a light on the wrongs committed by large entities such as governments & helps take on challenges that people would not be able to on their own. Bravo to The CCLA for their dedication & hard work on behalf of everyday citizens in standing up for what is right.” – KIM TAYLOR, CCLA’s co-applicant in Taylor v. Newfoundland, a case that challenged Newfoundland and Labrador’s travel restrictions imposed due to COVID-19



Fundamental Freedoms



PROTECTING FREE SPEECH BY PROHIBITING COMPELLED SPEECH

Story recap: In CCLA v. Ontario, 2020 ONSC 4838, CCLA successfully challenged the Ontario government’s anti-carbon tax sticker requirement. The provincial government had passed a law requiring all gas retailers to display a sticker on their pumps about the cost of the “federal carbon tax.”

The introduction of the law and the timing of the sticker distribution made it clear that this was an attempt to convey a particular government message about the carbon tax and CCLA argued that requiring retailers to display the stickers was compelled expression that violated the Charter’s protection for free expression. The case made an important contribution to the law on freedom of expression, confirming that governments cannot use their power to force expression on private businesses and individuals.

Ontario’s Superior Court of Justice agreed and, as a result, the law requiring the stickers was struck down and deemed of no force or effect.

MOBILITY RIGHTS DURING THE PANDEMIC

Story recap: In Taylor v. Newfoundland and Labrador, 2020 NLSC 125, CCLA joined with an individual to challenge travel restrictions imposed by the province of Newfoundland and Labrador as a result of the pandemic.

The pandemic gave rise to some novel legal issues – including the question of whether and when a single province can restrict entry to non-residents. CCLA argued that a total prohibition on some people entering the province was not a minimally intrusive measure when there was no evidence that self-isolation requirements were inadequate to achieve the government’s public health goals.

The government of Newfoundland and Labrador had argued that there was no freestanding right to move freely within Canada, but the Newfoundland and Labrador Supreme Court rejected this argument. The Court decided that the measures restricted the constitutionally guaranteed mobility rights of Canadians but found that the restrictions were justified under the Charter’s “reasonable limits” clause. CCLA is appealing the decision to the Newfoundland and Labrador Court of Appeal.

FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND THE COURTS

Story recap: CCLA intervened at the Supreme Court of Canada in Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church v. Aga, 2021 SCC 22. This was a case that considered when disputes among members of a religious organization may be adjudicated by the civil courts.

CCLA argued for an approach that allowed for intervention when legal rights were at issue, but also said that the fact that a voluntary association has a constitution and by-laws does not automatically mean all disputes can or should be heard and decided by a Court. The Supreme Court of Canada agreed with this approach.

PROGRAM

DIRECTORS

PROGRAM DIRECTORS



Noa Mendelsohn Aviv
*Director,
Equality*

“In Canada, those with privilege can generally protect their interests through legislative, economic and other systems. Marginalized people, on the other hand – Black, Indigenous and racialized people, individuals with disabilities, people who live with poverty, LGBTQ2S+ individuals, and women – face more obstacles when trying to have their voices heard; face barriers in education, healthcare and other services; are subject to greater levels of surveillance; and are treated more harshly by police, the criminal and the prison systems. A fair and just society must provide human rights to all and must do so in a manner that is substantively equal.”



Brenda McPhail
*Director,
Privacy, Technology & Surveillance*

“We might not speak freely when we know someone is listening; we might not protest when we know there’s a drone flying above the crowd feeding our image to a facial recognition program; we might not trust that it is possible to be treated equally when our data is being used to sort us into categories that then determine what services we get offered, or what kind of ‘risk’ we pose. Standing up for privacy at CCLA serves as a first line of defense for many of the other rights that CCLA has long defended, and it’s my passion and privilege to do this work at CCLA.”



Abby Deshman
*Director,
Criminal Justice*

“The criminal justice system wields some of the state’s most coercive powers. Police are granted powers to stop, question, search, harm, and even kill, if necessary. Judges determine guilt and innocence. Prisons deprive people of their most basic liberties. The work that I have the privilege to do in CCLA’s criminal justice program aims to address the historic and ongoing discrimination in the criminal justice system, and ensure that these incredible powers are used proportionately, fairly, and only when absolutely necessary.”



Cara Faith Zwibel
*Director,
Fundamental Freedoms*

“Standing up for our fundamental freedoms isn’t always easy or popular, but it is always important, and was particularly crucial this past year, when Canadians faced restrictions on their freedoms that were previously unimaginable. I feel privileged to be able to spend each day doing this important work with the support of brilliant colleagues and pro bono lawyers.”



April Julian
*Director,
Education/CCLET*

“It’s imperative that we enable the public to gain a deeper understanding of their rights and freedoms so they would be empowered to lend their own voices to the fight for social change. My colleagues and I at the CCLET are committed to providing programming to people of all ages and diverse backgrounds to encourage civic literacy and participation, and to enable everyone in Canada to enjoy their constitutionally guaranteed rights and freedoms. We educate today to make tomorrow’s Canada better.”



Akwasi Owusu-Bempah
*Special Advisor,
Anti-Black Racism*

“Addressing inequality and injustice takes collaboration and innovation. I’m truly grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the important work that the CCLA does through my role as Special Advisor on Anti-Black Racism”



Verna George
*Special Advisor,
Indigenous Issues*

“As a Haudenosaunee woman, I believe that to truly achieve truth and reconciliation we must move beyond words. We must act. This is what guides my work for the CCLA. The CCLA has provided me the opportunity to meaningfully pursue this goal by allowing me to play my part to ensure that the rights of all Canadians are protected, including those of Indigenous ancestry.”

SPECIAL ADVISORS

FINANCIAL

STATEMENTS

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association
Statement of Financial Position

AS AT DECEMBER 31,	CCLA	CCLET	CONSOLIDATED
ASSETS			
CURRENT			
CASH	433,314	249,274	682,588
INVESTMENTS	4,434	703,897	708,331
GRANTS RECEIVABLE	16,840	22,510	39,350
PUBLIC SERVICE BODY REBATE RECEIVABLE	37,478	49,681	87,159
PREPAID EXPENSES AND SUNDRY RECEIVABLES	959	8,814	9,773
	493,025	1,034,176	1,527,201
INVESTMENTS	-	196,576	196,576
CAPITAL ASSETS (NOTE 5)	9,842	11,720	21,562
	502,867	\$ 1,242,472	\$ 1,745,339
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES	\$ 44,903	\$ 47,499	\$ 92,402
DEFERRED GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	211,544	110,962	322,506
DUE BETWEEN RELATED PARTIES	(597,829)	597,829	-
	(341,382)	756,290	414,908
NET ASSETS	844,249	486,182	1,330,431
	\$ 502,867	\$ 1,242,472	\$ 1,745,339

See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements.

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association
Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020	CCLA	CCLET	CONSOLIDATED
REVENUE			
MEMBERSHIPS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONATIONS	\$ 1,274,682	\$ 154,468	\$ 1,429,150
GRANTS	198,392	257,955	456,347
RENTAL AND OTHER	75,308	99,772	175,080
WAGE SUBSIDIES	17,480	23,170	40,650
INVESTMENT INCOME	21	18,647	18,668
MISCELLANEOUS, INCLUDING RECOVERIES	3,930	-	3,930
	1,569,813	554,012	2,123,825
EXPENSES			
AMORTIZATION	3,447	3,222	6,669
COMMUNICATIONS	19,282	25,559	44,841
FUNDRAISING	21,604	9,791	31,395
INSURANCE	2,935	3,890	6,825
LITIGATION	4,279	-	4,279
MEMBERSHIP	3,809	5,050	8,859
OFFICE	20,455	27,124	47,579
PERSONNEL AND OUTSOURCED SERVICES	553,600	604,202	1,157,802
PROFESSIONAL FEES	18,262	24,208	42,470
RENT AND UTILITIES	107,843	142,956	250,799
RESEARCH	3,855	5,111	8,966
TRAVEL	2,486	3,296	5,782
	761,857	854,409	1,616,266
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR	807,956	(300,397)	507,559
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	36,293	786,579	822,872
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 844,249	\$ 486,182	\$ 1,330,431

See accompanying notes to the consolidated financial statements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of The Canadian Civil Liberties Association (“the Organization”), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2020, and the consolidated statement of operations and changes in net assets, and the consolidated statement cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as at December 31, 2020, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

In common with many charitable organizations, the Organization derives revenue from memberships, contributions and donations, the completeness of which is not susceptible of satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to amounts recorded in the records of the Organization and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to memberships, contributions and donations, excess of revenues over expenses and cash flows from operations for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, current assets as at December 31, 2020 and 2019, and unrestricted net assets as at January 1 and December 31 for both the 2020 and 2019 years. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2019 was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this limitation in scope.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Organization in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Organization's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole

are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

TORONTO, Ontario

April 26, 2021



Licensed Public Accountants

FAQ

Donor Questions

WHAT DOES CCLA DO?

CCLA is a national civil liberties organization that was constituted to promote respect for and observance of fundamental human rights and civil liberties in Canada. To advance these objectives we participate in litigation as a party and as an intervenor; speak to government committees preparing legislation at provincial and federal levels; hold public meetings and rallies; make representations before public inquiries; conduct surveys of people's experiences with various laws; publish articles and appear regularly in the mass media; hold seminars and have education programs for students as young as grade 3 through high school, university and law school.

ARE DONATIONS TO CCLA TAX-DEDUCTIBLE?

Yes! The Canadian Civil Liberties Association is a registered charity (Registration number 754802288 RR0001)

HOW DOES CCLA FUND ITS CASES?

CCLA raises funds from the general public and private donors. In order to maintain our independence, we do not accept money from the government. The lawyers who do work for us usually do so on a pro bono basis.

HOW DO I MAKE A DONATION TO CCLA?

[Please click here](#) to visit our donation page. You may also call us at 416-646-1401 or email administration@ccla.org. The Canadian Civil Liberties Association is a registered charity and is able to issue tax receipts for donations. (Charitable registration number 754 802 288 RR 0001)

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CCLA AND CCLET?

CCLA was incorporated in 1964. CCLET was created by CCLA as its charitable educational research arm in 1967. CCLA is focused on litigation, civil liberties monitoring/research and advocacy, while CCLET engages in public education, including speeches, presentations, op-eds, as well as delivering programmes in schools and faculties of education. The two organizations share staff and resources.

I DONATED BUT HAVE NOT RECEIVED MY TAX RECEIPT YET. HOW CAN I GET A COPY?

If you called us to make a donation, you will receive it within the quarter. If you made a donation online, your receipt was emailed to you automatically. You can request that a PDF tax receipt be emailed to you again if you are unable to find your receipt. If you donated by mail but would like to receive your (PDF) tax receipt via email, please contact us. Monthly donors will receive a year-end cumulative tax receipt for all monthly donations in January for the previous year (e.g. for your donations from January to December, you will receive your receipt in January of the following year).

I RECEIVED A CALL FROM A CCLA FUNDRAISER

CCLA is always committed to engaging with our donors and giving people the opportunity to become a monthly donor. As a donor, you may receive a call from our fundraising partner, Public Outreach, telling you about our most recent cases and how you can support our critical work.

Legal Questions

WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN CCLA GAINS “INTERVENOR STATUS” ON A CASE?

“Intervenor status” is a legal term that means a court has made a formal decision to grant CCLA the right to participate in the proceedings before the court and provide comment on the legal issues being considered. The case may be between two private parties, or between the government and a private party. CCLA seeks to intervene and make legal arguments on civil liberties issues on behalf of all Canadians so that their rights are protected, preserved, and perhaps even expanded.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE, ON AVERAGE, TO SEE A CASE THROUGH TO COMPLETION?

Case length varies considerably and is influenced by many factors, such as level of court and jurisdiction. The complexity of the facts, legal arguments, and issues can also affect the duration of a case. Decisions in Supreme Court of Canada cases are frequently handed down between six and twelve months from the date of the hearing, though in some cases decisions may take longer.

I AM A LAWYER. CAN I DO PRO BONO WORK FOR CCLA?

If you are a lawyer interested in doing legal work for the CCLA please write to administration@ccla.org for more information.

I AM A LAW STUDENT. CAN I OBTAIN AN ARTICLING POSITION AT CCLA?

Our ability to take articling students is funding-dependent and can vary from year to year. For more information contact the career centre at your law school or email us at administration@ccla.org.

CAN I GET A COPY OF ONE OF YOUR LEGAL SUBMISSIONS?

Many of our factums are available on our [website](#).

CONTACT

US

DONATION QUESTIONS

Please contact us if you would like to make a donation, have a question about your gift, or are considering a significant gift and would like to discuss our work. We would be happy to hear from you and it will be our pleasure to help.

kmiki@ccla.org

Call Us at 416-646-1404

400 – 124 Merton Street
Toronto, ON M4S 2Z2

VOLUNTEER QUESTIONS

We are thankful for the involvement of individuals who generously donate their time, expertise and passion to advance our work to defend and protect civil liberties. Whether it is lending a hand at our events or campaigns, helping out on our administrative team, conducting research relating to CCLA's ongoing advocacy efforts, or pitching in wherever the need is greatest – we appreciate the support of all our volunteers.

volunteer@ccla.org

MEDIA QUESTIONS

Please note emailing us is the best way to get your request processed as soon as possible.

media@ccla.org

OUR EDUCATION PROGRAM

Each year CCLET reaches over 11,000 primary to graduate level students, from a wide range of public, separate, and private educational institutions. We provide free workshops, seminars, and in-class sessions in schools to educate kids about their rights and freedoms.

Book a Workshop
[Visit CCLET.org](http://CCLET.org)

**JOIN US
ON OUR
MISSION
TO STAND
UP TO
POWER**



