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different things to us
all, but we all deserve it
equally.

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PRIVACY & SURVEILLANCE

For more than 50 years the BC Civil Liberties Association has been committed to protecting the privacy rights of Canadians, and opposing the incursion of government surveillance into our lives. In this issue of the Democratic Commitment, we cover our biggest effort yet: taking Canada's secret spying agency, the Communications Security Establishment Canada (CSEC) to court.

Articles in this issue explore what privacy means to democracy, and why surveillance should give us all something to fear even when we have nothing to hide.

BCCLA Files Lawsuit to Stop Illegal Spying

by Caily DiPuma, Counsel

On October 22, 2013, the BCCLA filed a lawsuit against the federal government. The BCCLA's lawsuit claims that the Communications Security Establishment Canada – or CSEC – has engaged in illegal surveillance of Canadians. This is the first lawsuit of its kind challenging CSEC's operations.

CSEC is Canada's national electronic intelligence agency, the Canadian counterpart to the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA). The BCCLA's case argues that two aspects of CSEC's domestic spying activities are illegal and violate the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* protections against unreasonable search and seizure and infringe on free expression.

First, CSEC is allowed to read Canadians' emails and text messages, and listen to their phone

calls, when they are communicating with someone outside of Canada.

All that CSEC needs to intercept Canadians' phone calls, emails and texts is permission from the Minister of National Defence. Once the Minister gives his secret "authorization," CSEC can legally eavesdrop on Canadians.

Imagine living in a Canada where your government can listen to your phone conversation without a court warrant. It sounds unbelievable. Yet, we know that CSEC is doing this. There is no court or Parliamentary committee that monitors CSEC's interception of these private communications, and there is no judicial oversight of its sweeping powers.

In addition to collecting Canadians' private communications, CSEC uses a secret ministerial directive



ACTIVELY PURSUING JUSTICE / Lindsay Lyster

The BCCLA frequently appears as an intervener at all levels of court, providing the courts with assistance interpreting the law in accordance with civil liberties' principles.

These interventions are important and we are incredibly grateful to the many fine lawyers who volunteer their time to represent the BCCLA pro bono. But sometimes the BCCLA will identify an important issue, which no one else is able or prepared to take to Court—in these cases, we'll file our own lawsuit. In the last two months the BCCLA has started, or in one case, taken steps to appeal, four separate court actions:

R. v. Nuttall and Korody

In this case the accused persons are alleged to have intended to use an explosive device to attack the BC Legislature on Canada Day. We will file an application to make public the three search warrants that were granted to police. We want to shine the light of the open court principle on the investigation tactics used in this case.

Youth Protecting Youth and BCCLA v. University of Victoria

We filed a petition seeking to challenge the University's

action in threatening the student members of YPY with academic sanctions for engaging in peaceful anti-abortion demonstrations on campus. Through this case we hope to establish that the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* applies to universities and the right of students to engage in free expression on their campuses.

Carter et al. v. Canada

We filed an application to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada the decision of the BC Court of Appeal, which overturned the decision establishing that the laws that make physician-assisted dying illegal in Canada are contrary to equality and liberty rights of the *Charter*.

BCCLA v. Attorney General

We filed a Notice of Civil Claim alleging that the Communications Security Establishment Canada (CSEC) intercepts the content of Canadian's private communications, contrary to privacy rights enshrined in the *Charter*.

These cases are very different. What they have in common is in each case individual Canadians are being denied fundamental rights and freedoms under the *Charter*,

and in each case, the BCCLA is taking action to defend those rights.

The other thing that these cases share is that they are resource intensive and not without risk for the BCCLA.

When we choose to litigate our own cases, we incur the costs of doing so, and in some cases, if unsuccessful, risk the Court ordering the BCCLA to pay the costs of the Government in defending the case. Nonetheless, we are committed to continuing to fund important litigation. Now, more than ever, we need the financial support of our friends and members.

I am tremendously proud of the BCCLA's courage in taking on all of these important cases. If you share my pride in these actions and want us to continue to stand up fearlessly for the rights and freedoms of Canadians, I ask that you take this opportunity to consider increasing your financial contributions to the BCCLA, either through a one-time gift or by starting or increasing your monthly donations. I know the staff would be pleased to talk with you about doing so.

Thank you for your much-needed, continuing support of the work of the BCCLA.

FIVE

Thanks to your support, the BCCLA has celebrated many victories for rights and freedoms so far in 2013. Here are five of our favourites.

VICTORIES FOR RIGHTS

● New Resources for Youth

We are about to relaunch our hugely successful *Rights Talk* guide for students. This guide has been thoroughly updated to reflect the impact of new technology on the lives, and rights, of young people. Covering a wide range of topics from privacy and social media to police searches to the application of *Charter* rights at school, we expect the second edition to be an extremely successful resource and expect to distribute it widely through the BC school system.

● New Resources for First Responders

HIV and Occupational Exposure covers information that you need to know to understand your options in the case of an occupational exposure to HIV and to help you make informed choices. It covers topics like understanding transmission risk, HIV testing options, post-exposure protocols (medications to prevent infection), legal issues, medical privacy and how to talk to your family about a possible exposure to HIV in the course of work.

● Warrants for Cell and Computer Searches

The Supreme Court of Canada in *R. v. Vu* found that searches of computers and cell phones require a warrant in certain situations. By requiring police to obtain a specific warrant to search computers and similar devices before the fact, the Court has put the brakes on run away searches of vast quantities of highly personal and private information. We are pleased to see the Court continue to emphasize the highly invasive nature of computer searches and the nearly unlimited information that can be retrieved.

● The Largest Pro-Privacy Coalition in Canadian History

The BCCLA joined with more than 30 major organizations and over a dozen leading experts to launch the largest pro-privacy coalition in Canadian history. The Protect Our Privacy Coalition is a diverse mix of organizations, advocates and businesses who are making privacy a front page story. Through consistent public pressure, this group has already got Parliament talking about the issue. Together with the BCCLA's lawsuit against Canada's spying agency, we're out to restore accountability and transparency to the surveillance state in a really important way.

● International Spotlight on Murdered and Missing Women

As part of a coalition of families of missing and murdered women, First Nations and community groups, BCCLA met with and made submissions to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. A representative of the coalition made a forceful and emotional presentation to the Special Rapporteur on the Canada-wide tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and the need for a national inquiry into the tragedy.

The BCCLA also met with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights during their Special Rapporteur's visit to BC to discuss the same issues. Together with allies, we are seeking to draw an international spotlight onto the particular violations of the human rights of Indigenous women in Canada. While it was not BCCLA's work that led to these international visits, we were honoured to be asked to participate in these meetings which were milestones for justice.

SURVEILLANCE & SOCIETY Talkin' About A Revolution

by Micheal Vonn, Policy Director

QUESTION 1: Where Are We?

Privacy is increasingly becoming sexy. On one side of the ledger, this is an exciting development. But in the main, this heightened awareness and engagement is a reflection of people starting to understand in a big way that we are in deep trouble.

At a gallop since 9/11, we have seen the democratic formula turned upside down, with citizens increasingly transparent and accountable to government and government increasingly secret and insulated from accountability to citizens. When we think about how the internet can be and is being turned into a tool for surveillance and control, we no longer think only of 'those' places, elsewhere, with authoritarian regimes.

Virtually all governments are keen to censor the web and monitor citizens. For a temperature-taking, see the U.K.'s draft Communications Data Bill, which involves blanket collection and retention of all online data. As Privacy International pointed out in its submission to the U.K. Parliament, the technology that would be used is currently only deployed in Kazakhstan, China, and Iran.

QUESTION 2: Where Do We Want to Go?—Getting the Elephant Off the Other End of the 'Teeter Totter'

Security concerns are real and important. That said, the rubric of 'security' is now a catch-all for dangerous authoritarianisms. We can no longer abide by the deeply flawed security vs. privacy paradigm where the security elephant lands on one end of the 'teeter totter' weighing a ton ('public' safety), with a sole individual on the other side claiming a 'personal' right of privacy. We need, among other things, to urgently understand that privacy is not pitted against the public interest: it is the public interest. Privacy is both a personal and societal value, underpinning all our democratic rights, and we need a new paradigm that reflects that.

The re-framing that we need sees privacy as relational and not spatial. As Jennifer Nedelsky (1990) sets out in the article, *Law, Boundary and the Bounded Self*, we use spatial paradigms to illustrate basic rights, and none more so than privacy. But citizens (rightly) are unwilling to sacrifice relatedness for the values of privacy and autonomy. Not because privacy and autonomy

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are not important, but because we've got the wrong model.

The privacy-are-dead types are always pointing to the prevalence of social networking as evidence that people 'don't care about privacy', and yet, it is consistently the digitally savvy and hyper-connected leading the charge on privacy rights.

Our relationships and our communications are no longer spatially contained; a digitally mediated world makes nonsense of the spatial construction of privacy.

We need a new model and understanding of privacy that gives this value its appropriate weight culturally, legally and constitutionally. On the other end of the balance beam, we have to start dismantling the undue secrecy of the security state so security claims can be realistically assessed and given appropriate consideration and weight.

We can no longer permit our constitutional rights to privacy and free expression to

be negotiated away in secret 'trade' or 'security' deals that leave citizens and our Parliamentary representatives reliant on leaks of draft documents for any inkling of what our governments are doing ostensibly in our name.

"...privacy is not pitted against the public interest: it is the public interest."

**QUESTION 3:
How Do We Get There?—Do Everything**

Where do we need to go? Not to put too fine a point on it, we need a genuine democracy. The catch-22 is that we need our digital rights and our privacy rights to help us get there. We have to fight on several fronts all at once because they are connected.

We need technological skills and talent on the privacy side of the equation; from open

source encryption, like TOR, to Eben Moglen's work on personal servers—we need more privacy tools and we need to educate people in how to use them.

We need strategic litigation. And we need to win it.

We need to understand that the privacy battle is genuinely non-partisan.

We need to counter simplistic homilies about 'good guys' [police and intelligence] and 'bad guys' [terrorists and criminals] that are so predictably trotted out in an argument for expanded surveillance.

Picking up on that...

We need effective oversight of all agencies empowered to conduct surveillance.

And, as the late great Molly Ivins said:

We need to have fun while we're fightin' for freedom; cause we don't always win.



More Online: Reg Whitaker in Surveillance & Society

"We begin in the fall of 2001. In the immediate shadow of the 9/11 terrorist attack on the Twin Towers, the Canadian Parliament debated the Anti-terrorism Act 2001..."

For more on the history and context of surveillance in Canada, see *The Curious Tale of The Dog That Hasn't Barked (Yet)* by Board Member and Professor Emeritus Reg Whitaker at <http://bccla.org/2013/01/surveillance-and-society>

continued from page 1

to collect and analyze the metadata information that is automatically produced each and every time a Canadian uses a mobile phone or accesses the internet.

Metadata is digital surveillance. Private metadata information includes the exact geographic location of the mobile phone, records of phone calls made and received, and logs of internet sites accessed. Metadata is like a digital trail and it allows CSEC to track an average Canadian like the police tailing a suspect.

CSEC doesn't need any authorization to collect and analyze this private metadata information. This information is collected under a secret ministerial directive issued by the Minister of National Defence in 2011.

Again, there is no court or committee that monitors CSEC's interception of this private information and there is zero judicial oversight. The BCCLA believes that CSEC's secret and unchecked surveillance of Canadians is unconstitutional, it must be stopped. That is why we are taking the federal government to court.

The government's commitment to CSEC is clear. CSEC has doubled its personnel and budget in the last decade.

It now spends \$350 million in tax-payer money every year. CSEC's new 72,000 square meter state of the art headquarters will cost Canadians over \$1 billion dollars.

Despite its significant impact on the rights of Canadians, CSEC's operations are shrouded in secrecy. As former CSEC chief John Adams recently admitted: "[t]here's no question that CSEC is very, very biased towards the less the public knows the better".



CSEC won't tell us who they are watching. CSEC won't tell us what they do with our private information and communications or whether they share that information with other Canadian agencies or other countries. CSEC won't tell us what policies they have in place to protect Canadians' privacy. CSEC won't tell us how they interpret the laws that they use to watch us.

Canada is not a nation of secret laws. It is fundamental to

democracy that Canadians be able to access and understand the laws that impact their rights and freedoms. It is simply not enough for the government to ask Canadians to "trust" CSEC. We are not a society of blind faith – we are a society of accountability, transparency and free and open debate.

And we are a society with a constitution under which any law or governmental practice that violates our constitutional rights must be challenged.

This lawsuit calls on the government to state clearly who they are watching, what is being collected and how they are handling Canadians' private communications and information. The BCCLA filed this lawsuit to force the government to enact specific safeguards to protect the privacy rights of all Canadians.

If you want to help the BCCLA to stop illegal spying, visit our website where you can learn more about the case and make a donation to support our work.

Together, we can ensure that Canadians' right to privacy is protected now and in the future.

<http://bccla.org/stop-illegal-spying>

Carter et al v. Canada – Death With Dignity Case

The BC Court of Appeal released its decision in *Carter v. Canada* on October 10, 2013, with a divided two-to-one decision overturning last year's historic BC Supreme Court ruling. The majority of the court did not base its decision on the merits of the case. Instead, it decided that it could not reverse the Supreme Court of Canada's 1993 decision in *Rodriguez v. BC*, effectively leaving the case for the Supreme Court to sort out. The result is that, for now, seriously ill people do not have the freedom to choose a physician-assisted death.

The BCCLA had argued – and the Chief Justice of BC agreed in his dissent – that the Supreme Court of Canada had not fully considered the issues raised in this case in *Rodriguez*, and that the evidence since *Rodriguez* shows that appropriate and carefully-tailored safeguards can be created to protect vulnerable individuals.

The lawsuit filed by the BCCLA in April 2011 challenged the laws that make it a criminal offense to assist seriously and incurably ill individuals to die with dignity.

In June 2012, the BC Supreme Court struck down the laws that makes physician-assisted dying illegal in Canada, ruling

that the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* protects the right to die with dignity. BC Supreme Court Justice Lynn Smith ruled that the laws violated the rights of Gloria Taylor, who suffered from ALS, and the rights of two other plaintiffs in the lawsuit, Lee Carter and Hollis Johnson. Gloria Taylor became the first person in Canadian history to have the legal right to seek an order allowing her to have the assistance of a physician to hasten her death.

in the balance.

At the trial, nine lay affiants who were seriously and incurably ill shared their stories about why they wished to have the option of a physician-assisted death. Four of those affiants have since died; they died in circumstances which they sought to avoid by participating in this litigation. (Two died from the progression of their illnesses and two committed suicide.)



Elayne Shapray and BCCLA Litigation Director Grace Pastine

Two of the remaining living witnesses have attested in support of our application that they may be obliged to end their lives prior to final judgment of the Court should leave be granted and without the assistance of a physician, before they would otherwise wish to due to their declining condition.

As a result of the disappointing decision by the BC Court of Appeal, the BCCLA sought leave to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court of Canada on October 25. The BCCLA also filed an application requesting that the Court expedite the remaining steps in the application for leave to appeal as well as the appeal if leave to appeal is granted.

We argued that the case is a matter of extreme urgency in which the fate of a number of suffering, seriously and incurably ill individuals hangs

The BCCLA will continue to stand for what we know is right – compassion and choice at the end of life. We are confident that ultimately, there will be legal change, and that Canadians who are suffering unbearably at the end of life will have the right to choose a dignified and peaceful death.

The plaintiffs are represented by **Joseph Arvay, Q.C.** and **Alison Latimer** of Arvay Finlay and **Sheila Tucker** of Davis LLP.

Your Rights on Trial

The BCCLA is intervening in a variety of cases aimed at protecting rights and freedoms. Here are just some of the cases we're working on.

PRISONERS' RIGHTS

R. v. Whaling / Supreme Court of Canada

On October 15, the Supreme Court of Canada heard arguments in this case. The BCCLA is an intervener in the case. In this case, the Court will determine whether the provisions of the Abolition of Early Parole Act should be applied to people who were already serving sentences in

federal prisons at the time that law came into force. The Abolition of Early Parole Act ended accelerated parole review and accelerated day parole. The practical result of applying the law to people who were already serving sentences is that they will spend more time in prison. The

BCCLA argued passing a law to retroactively increase the length of an inmate's prison term constitutes punishment and is unconstitutional.

The BCCLA is represented in this case by **Professor Michael Jackson, Q.C.**, **Megan Vis-Dunbar** and **Joana Thackeray**. The

Diane Knopf, Warden of Mission Institution and Harold Massey, Warden of Kent Institution v. Gurkirpal Singh Khela Supreme Court of Canada

On October 16, the Supreme Court of Canada heard arguments in *Diane Knopf, Warden of Mission Institution, et al. v. Gurkirpal Singh Khela*. The BCCLA is an intervener in the case.

This case concerns the critical role that the provincial superior courts play in ensuring that prisoners have access to meaningful judicial review when their rights inside the prison walls are

violated. Among the issues on appeal in this case is whether the right to habeas corpus should be construed narrowly or broadly. A habeas corpus application is a legal action that allows a prisoner to challenge in provincial court conditions of his confinement, such as placement in solitary confinement. The BCCLA argued that a robust interpretation of the right to habeas corpus is essential to maintaining the rule of law in

the Canadian prison system. The BCCLA's position is that the right to habeas corpus is necessary to safeguard the human rights and civil liberties of prisoners, and to ensure that the rule of law is applied behind prison walls.

The BCCLA is represented in this case by **Professor Michael Jackson, Q.C.** of the University of British Columbia Faculty of Law and **Joana Thackeray** of Heenan Blaikie LLP.



The BCCLA appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada on prison issues twice in October, re-asserting that for prisoners the rule of law is absent, although rules are everywhere. With reference to official reports, inquiries, and case law, the BCCLA's counsel brought to light a picture of prison as a frontier-land, where prisoners' constitutionally guaranteed rights exist in theory but are disregarded in practice.

NATIONAL SECURITY

R. v. Appulonappa / BC Court of Appeal

This case concerns the constitutionality of s. 117 of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA). Section 117 criminalizes what is colloquially known as “human smuggling.” The BC Supreme Court found s. 117 of IRPA

to violate s. 7 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. The government appealed. The BCCLA intervened in the appeal, arguing that the section is overbroad and could improperly be used to criminalize the conduct of

humanitarian workers, family members, and potentially other persons genuinely assisting refugees.

The BCCLA is represented by **Monique Pongracic-Speier** of Ethos Law Group LLP.

Divito v. Canada (Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness) / Supreme Court of Canada

The Supreme Court of Canada rendered judgment in this case on September 19, 2013 (2013 SCC 47). The BCCLA was an intervener in the case.

At issue in the case is whether the government can reject the application of a Canadian citizen who is incarcerated abroad and seeks transfer to a prison in Canada to serve out the remainder of his sentence. In a disappointing result, the Court unanimously

dismissed the appeal. The Court upheld the right of the federal public safety minister to refuse requests from Canadians imprisoned abroad to return to Canada and serve the rest of their sentences at home. Nonetheless, a positive development from our perspective was the Court’s treatment of international human rights law. The BCCLA argued that mobility rights under the *Charter* must be interpreted in light of

Canada’s obligations under international law, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (“ICCPR”). The Court affirmed that the ICCPR is binding and that the *Charter* should be interpreted in a way consistent with the protection under international law.

The BCCLA is represented by **Gib van Ert** and **Heather E. Cochrane** of Hunter Litigation Chambers.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Alberta (Information and Privacy Commissioner) v. United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 401 / Supreme Court of Canada

On Friday November 15, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in favour of the position taken by the BCCLA, finding Alberta’s privacy legislation unconstitutional because it interferes with freedom of expression by placing an absolute ban on union videotaping at picket lines. The United Food and Commercial Workers union, Local 401, represent the workers at the Palace Casino in Edmonton.

During 2006, the union went on strike to protest working conditions. The union formed a picket line. The union posted a sign stating that the union might videotape individuals who crossed the picket line and post those images on a website. Several individuals who the union recorded crossing the picket line filed complaints with the Alberta Privacy Commissioner. The BCCLA is an intervener in

the case. We argued that the court must balance the right to privacy against the freedom of expression very carefully in the context of a labour dispute. The BCCLA argued that the expressive act of videotaping at a picket line must be protected, and that an absolute ban on unions videotaping at a picket line is unjustified.

The BCCLA is represented by BCCLA President **Lindsay M. Lyster** of Moore Edgar Lyster.

No Extradition Based on Torture-Derived Evidence

In November of 2013, the BCCLA intervened in *AG Canada (Republic of France) v. Diab*, a case involving a Canadian citizen whose extradition is being sought by France.

Dr. Diab is charged with offences arising from allegations that he is responsible for the bombing of a synagogue in Paris in 1980. He alleges that France is relying on torture-derived

evidence in seeking his extradition. The case seeking Dr. Diab's extradition was based largely on intelligence reports from unnamed foreign entities, who themselves obtained information from unknown sources in unknown circumstances.

The BCCLA takes the position that trial on the basis of torture-derived evidence is fundamentally incompatible with Canadian values and the

Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The BCCLA will argue that the Minister of Justice must either satisfy himself that the evidence to be used is not connected to torture, or obtain explicit assurances from the other country that they will not use torture-derived evidence against the individual.

The BCCLA is represented in this case by **Brendan van Niejenhuis** and **Justin Safayeni** of Stockwoods LLP.

Déjà vu: BCCLA Intervenes in Harkat Case



Mohamad Harkat

Mohamed Harkat has been at the centre of one of the Canadian government's most controversial legal programs for over a decade: the security certificate regime in the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*. Initially designed in 2001, the purpose of the security certificate regime was to facilitate the removal of non-citizens living in Canada on various grounds including connection with terrorist activities. In reality,

however, the regime has led to prolonged periods of incarceration, secret hearings based on secret evidence and a drawn out legal debate over the constitutionality of the process.

The government was supposed to fix the regime back in 2007 after the Supreme Court of Canada declared it to be unconstitutional. The Court at that time concluded that dependence on secret evidence admitted during secret hearings left Mr. Harkat unable to answer the case against him. The Court invalidated the law and gave the government one year to re-write the legislation.

This month the Court considered whether the amended law meets *Charter* standards. The BCCLA argued that the law still does not go far enough. Despite the

introduction of security-cleared "special advocates", the current security certificate process continues to allow the government to rely on secret evidence, the credibility of which cannot be tested by Mr. Harkat. When coupled with the threat of indefinite detention, the security certificate process still does not comply with the *Charter*.

This time around the hearing had an additional element. The Court held a "secret" session, closed from the public and held in an undisclosed location. We hope that this does not become business-as-usual when the Court is considering the constitutionality of laws related to national security. For now, we await the Court's decision on this important issue.



Jasmine Yen
Director of Development

Welcome Jasmine!

After three years overseeing our fundraising activities, Development Manager, Stefanie Ratjen has decided to move on. We wish her all the best in her new endeavours. While we'll miss Stefanie greatly, the BCCLA is thrilled to welcome Jasmine Yen as our new Director of Development. Jasmine has worked with a number of charities over the years, including the Canadian Cancer Society, the Vancouver Public Library Foundation, and most recently the David Suzuki Foundation, where she was the Community Giving Manager. Welcome to the BCCLA Jasmine!

Dear Friends of BCCLA,

I'm delighted to join the team at the BC Civil Liberties Association. I have been a fan of the organization for many years and am thrilled to have the opportunity to support the efforts of the board, volunteers and staff. I've been particularly inspired by the Association's work around privacy, dying with dignity, and freedom of speech.

Working with non-profit organizations for so many years, I've been able to see first-hand the impact that individual members and donors have on an organization, and I'd like to personally thank you for your support of the BCCLA.

I look forward to getting to know our supporters. If you have questions about your gifts or the work you're supporting, please feel free to contact me at 604-630-9750 or email jasmine@bccla.org.

Kind regards,

Jasmine Yen
Director of Development

Support the BCCLA year round. Join the Freedom Circle monthly giving program

If you are not already a monthly supporter, please consider joining the *Freedom Circle* monthly giving program. As a monthly supporter, you'll help ensure that the BC Civil Liberties Association has the resources it needs to continue to fight for all our freedoms.

Your monthly gift will mean we can better plan our campaigns, save on administrative time, and continue vital, ongoing BCCLA community and education programs throughout the year.

Monthly gifts are an efficient and valuable way to give—and they're convenient for you! Each month, your gift is automatically debited from your credit card or chequing account. Your membership will automatically renew, and you'll receive an annual charitable tax receipt in the mail each February. To join the *Freedom Circle*, simply fill out the form in this newsletter and return with a voided cheque or your credit card information.

Regardless of how you support the BCCLA, your contributions make our work possible. Thank you.

For more information, please call
Jasmine at 604.630.9750

Rights Talk:

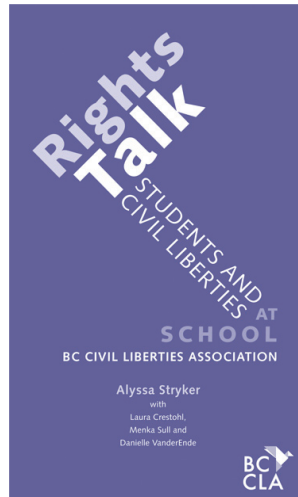
Engaging Young People in Our Work

by Alyssa Stryker

This fall included two exciting milestones in our ongoing effort to engage young people in our work.

On November 13, we were thrilled to host our 9th annual conference for grade 11 and 12 students. The event brought together 200 students. We featured topics ranging from youth criminal justice to privacy on the internet to the value of the law as a tool for tackling poverty, and everything in between. Once again, the event was completely full, and spots were in such high demand that we could easily have packed a venue twice as large!

We are also thrilled about the recent release of a new edition of our handbook *Rights Talk: Students and Civil Liberties at School*. With the rapid pace of technological change and an ever-growing body of civil liberties-related caselaw,

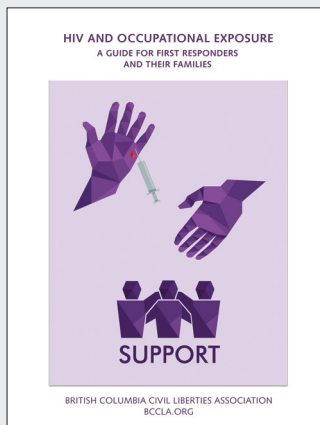


the information today's high school students need to know to help them protect their rights is quite different than it was 12 years ago, when this resource was first published.

We have made a PDF version available on our website here: http://bccla.org/our_work/rightstalk. Please take a look, and pass it on to all the students and teachers in your lives!

We believe that opening the eyes of young people to the many complicated, fascinating and challenging civil liberties issues that exist around them today is one of the most valuable things we can do. We want to make sure that the next generation is just as concerned about these issues as we are. Thanks to your ongoing support, we hope to continue to ensure that the future of civil liberties is in good hands.

www.bccla.org



The resource *HIV and Occupational Exposure* is a guide for first responders and their families. Now available for free online thanks to the Mac AIDS Foundation and the Law Foundation of BC.

The BCCLA acknowledges the generous support of:



BC Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch
of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

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