



# ANNUAL REPORT 2016

BC CIVIL LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 11 FROM 7:00 TO 9:00 PM

ALICE MACKAY ROOM, LIBRARY SQUARE

350 W. GEORGIA ST, VANCOUVER, BC

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lindsay Lyster, PRESIDENT

Paul Schachter, VICE-PRESIDENT

Steven Savitt, SECRETARY

Alan Rowan, TREASURER

Vanessa Wolff, MEMBER  
AT-LARGE ON EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE

Richard Marcuse, MEMBER  
AT-LARGE ON EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE

Warren Bourgeois

Derek Brackley

Alister Browne

Paul Champ

David Fai

Michael Friedlaender

Rishi Gill

Jeannie Kamins

Stephen Katz

Ed Levy

Melody Mason

Kevin Millsip

John Russell

Tom Sandborn

Paul Tétrault

Eric Wyness

Fadi Yachoua

# HONOURARY DIRECTORS

David Barrett

Thomas Berger, O.C., O.B.C., Q.C.

Neil Boyd

The Right Honourable Kim  
Campbell, P.C., C.C., O.B.C., Q.C.

Andrew Coyne

Bill Deverell

David H. Flaherty

Hon. John Fraser, P.C., Q.C.

Gordon Gibson, O.B.C.

Mike Harcourt, O.C.

Rev. Phillip Hewett

Art Lee

Darlene Marzari

Rafe Mair

Stephen Owen, P.C., Q.C.

Svend Robinson

David Suzuki C.C., O.B.C.

# STAFF

Jay Aubrey, STAFF COUNSEL *(from November)*

Caily DiPuma, ACTING LITIGATION DIRECTOR  
*(from October)*

Jessi Halliday, LEGAL ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT *(from February)*

Catherine Hart, SUPPORTER RELATIONS  
MANAGER

Charlotte Kingston, DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Maggie Knight, OPERATIONS MANAGER  
*(from March)*

Nathanel Lowe, OUTREACH &  
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Grace Pastine, LITIGATION DIRECTOR  
*(on maternity leave as of November)*

Josh Paterson, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Laura Track, COMMUNITY LAWYER

Micheal Vonn, POLICY DIRECTOR

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY LINDSAY M. LYSER, PRESIDENT



What does it mean to stand for equality and freedom while a wave of authoritarianism and isolationism crashes over the western world? As Canadians, what are the

domestic consequences of these international trends, and how should we respond? These questions weigh heavily in the Association's mind, as I imagine they do in yours.

As I write this, it is International Women's Day. Today, Canada's government made a significant financial commitment to funding women's reproductive rights globally. This, surely, is one way Canada can demonstrate our commitment to the equal dignity, liberty, and autonomy of women. This is laudable.

Yet, as we lift up women's equality internationally, Canadians continue to reel from the despicable act of terrorism perpetrated against Muslims in Quebec City that left 17 children without fathers. In the wake of this horrific act of mass murder, we must speak and act to protect the equality—and safety—of all our neighbours.

In response to that atrocity, the BCCLA and a coalition of groups publicized the existence of the Islamophobia Legal Assistance Hotline, a resource launched in March 2016 that provides free legal advice to people who have been discriminated against or faced violence because they are Muslim or are perceived to be Muslim.

We raised our voices against the discriminatory US travel ban. BCCLA lawyers could be found in Canadian airports offering information and assistance to travelers. We were proud to join a cross border coalition serving individuals in the wake of the American Executive Order.

We continue to call for the suspension of the 'Safe Third Country' agreement which allows Canada to turn away most refugee claimants who are transiting through the United States via a land border, based on the premise that the United States is a safe country in which they can make their asylum claim. The continued existence of this agreement helps to explain why we have seen reports of asylum seekers making dangerous crossings in the night, for fear that they may be turned away at designated crossings and returned to a country which seeks to close their doors to refugees.



It is a challenging time for all of us, and a dangerous time for some. The BCCLA grieves the loss of Mamadou Tanou Barry, 42, Abdelkrim Hassane, 41, Khaled Belkacemi, 60, Aboubaker Thabti, 44, Azzeddine Soufiane, 57, and Ibrahima Barry, 39. Our thoughts are with their loved ones.

As we face whatever 2017 may bring, we speak their names and renew our enduring commitment to pluralism, tolerance, and equal rights and freedoms. Today I thank you for standing with us. We are only as strong as the movement that supports our work.

We simply cannot do it without you. In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Lindsay M. Lyster'.

Lindsay M. Lyster

# BCCLA by the numbers

By all accounts, 2016 was a stellar year for the BCCLA. In our long history, we have won many important victories for human rights and civil liberties but in 2016 our impact was greater than ever. Here's a brief look at what we accomplished:

30

ACTIVE COURT CASES AND INTERVENTIONS

POLICY SUBMISSIONS TO GOVERNMENT ON TOPICS FROM  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION TO IMMIGRATION DETENTION

37

39

EVENTS INCLUDING A PANEL WITH EDWARD SNOWDEN



880

PRINT, RADIO AND  
TELEVISION STORIES

554

INDIVIDUALS  
RECEIVED  
COMPLAINANT  
ASSISTANCE



2500  
DONORS



HOURS OF PRO BONO  
LEGAL WORK

3500



10,274

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS  
AND LEGAL EDUCATION  
RESOURCES DISTRIBUTED





# AN UPDATE ON CITIZENSHIP EQUALITY

By Laura Track, Community Lawyer



**IN** last year's annual report, we told you how the government had just tabled its highly anticipated bill restoring citizenship equality in Canada. One year later, the bill is still not law. The BCCLA has been working hard all year to ensure that the bill is passed and provides strong protection for the rights of Canadians.

You will recall that in 2015, the previous government passed Bill C-24, which created two tiers of Canadians: those who could have their citizenship revoked, and those whose citizenship was secure.

The BCCLA argued that this law was discriminatory, anti-immigrant, and un-Canadian. We made our case in Parliament, in the media, at public events and, ultimately, in a court challenge we launched with the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers (CARL) in August of 2015. We were thrilled when Bill C-6, which would undo the discriminatory aspects of the law, was tabled in the House of Commons last year.

However, our excitement about Bill C-6 was muted by the fact that it left too much power in the hands of government

bureaucrats to revoke citizenship in cases of alleged fraud or misrepresentation, without the involvement of a judge. We think this lack of basic procedural protections for persons at risk of revocation is unconstitutional, and since Bill C-6 was introduced we have been working hard to convince lawmakers that it is unconstitutional, too.

The BCCLA believes the regime established by Bill C-24 lacks basic procedural protections for people at risk of revocation, contrary to principles of fundamental justice and in violation of section 7 of the *Charter*. Hundreds of people have had their citizenships revoked under this unfair process, and many more face the same fate. We were unsuccessful in obtaining a stay of the law's application this past fall, but we expect the Federal Court to decide soon whether the process is constitutional.

In the meantime, we are working hard to bring these concerns to the attention of government and to advocate for a fairer process. Bill C-6 is being considered by the Senate right now, and after BCCLA advocacy, an amendment was introduced that would restore the right to a hearing before a judge in revocation cases, which have such critical implications for people's rights and lives. We hope that the amended law passes, ending second-class citizenship and guaranteeing due process to Canadians.



**Donate today**  
[www.bccla.org](http://www.bccla.org)

# 2016: A CRITICAL YEAR FOR SHAPING NATIONAL SECURITY

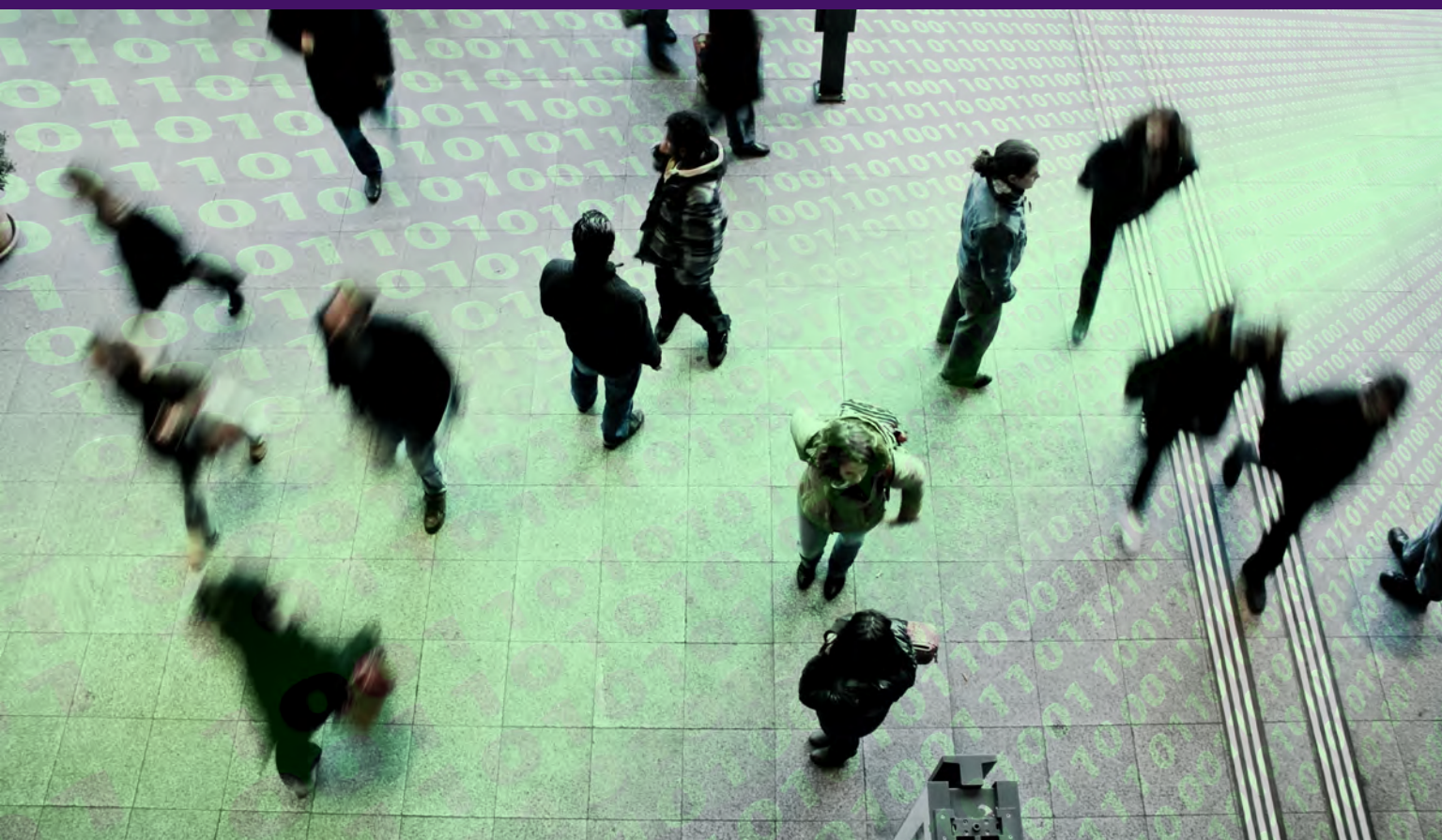
By Micheal Vonn, Policy Director

**I**N response to overwhelming public pressure, the government of Canada promised to review and revise elements of “Bill C-51” (the *Anti-Terrorism Act 2015*), and to hold a broad public consultation on national security writ large, including Canada’s national security oversight and accountability structures. This represented a singular opportunity for critically important voices to be heard in the shaping of our national security landscape and all our affected rights. And the BCCLA was all over it.

It has been reported that the government received approximately 60,000 submissions on this subject – a phenomenal response that underscores how deeply Canadians care about these issues. In order to assist individuals to understand the complex legal and policy issues, we produced an alternative to the government’s Green Paper and background. Our National Security Different-Shade-of-Green Paper blog series explained in plain language what the government forgot to mention about the civil liberties implications of everything from ‘no fly’ lists to terrorism speech offences. People across the country told us how useful our resources were and they were re-published and referenced by various media organizations, including *The Tyee*, *iPolitics*, and the *Toronto Star*.

We worked hard to ensure that shameful matters of long-standing concern – including Canada’s importation and exportation of torture-tainted information – were central to this national discussion. Then, in the fall of 2016, in the midst of that already-extensive work, a series of police and national security surveillance scandals erupted like a string of exploding firecrackers. One stream had to do with spying on journalists, the other with the discovery of secret mass surveillance programs by CSIS.

Some of the news of the mass surveillance scandal came via SIRC, the oversight body for CSIS, which conducted its first-ever audit of the bulk data holdings of CSIS and found that it is possible that every iota of data was illegally collected. More shocking news arrived through a scathing federal court decision which found that a decade-old secret mass surveillance program was illegal, but that CSIS had breached its duty of candour to the court in failing to disclose the program in warrant applications. The bottom line is that we learned that significant portions of intelligence gathering by CSIS are unmoored from lawfulness. We have not only a mass surveillance scandal, we have an accountability crisis.



And in no arena is accountability more critical. National security is unique in the secrecy that is often required in terms of its operations and reporting. It is unique in the seriousness of the consequences that flow from failures to adequately monitor performance and efficacy. And it is unique in the seriousness of the rights violations that flow from failures to mitigate abuses by security and intelligence agencies.

Canada is at the bottom of the heap of comparable democracies in terms of its accountability infrastructure for national security. We have no parliamentary oversight (though an inadequate bill has been introduced to create a weak parliamentary oversight committee); we have agencies working in national security that lack any independent accountability mechanism whatsoever (like the Canadian Border Services Agency); we have no expert review mechanism that encompasses the network of increasingly integrated inter-agency work; and we have no independent monitor to advise law and policy makers and conduct research in this shadowy and specialized terrain.

And if that weren't enough to remedy, we are now in an almost certainly deteriorating situation with respect to the US, one of our partners in the national security intelligence alliance known as the Five Eyes (Canada, US, UK, Australia and New Zealand). Everything from the US Executive Order eliminating (US) Privacy Act protections for "foreigners" to the current US administration's interest in reviving torture programs has serious ramifications for the safety and security of Canadians.

We expect the government's initial responses to the national security consultation in the spring of 2017. 2016 was critical for the national discussion on these issues, but we have still the hard work ahead of bringing in the needed changes.

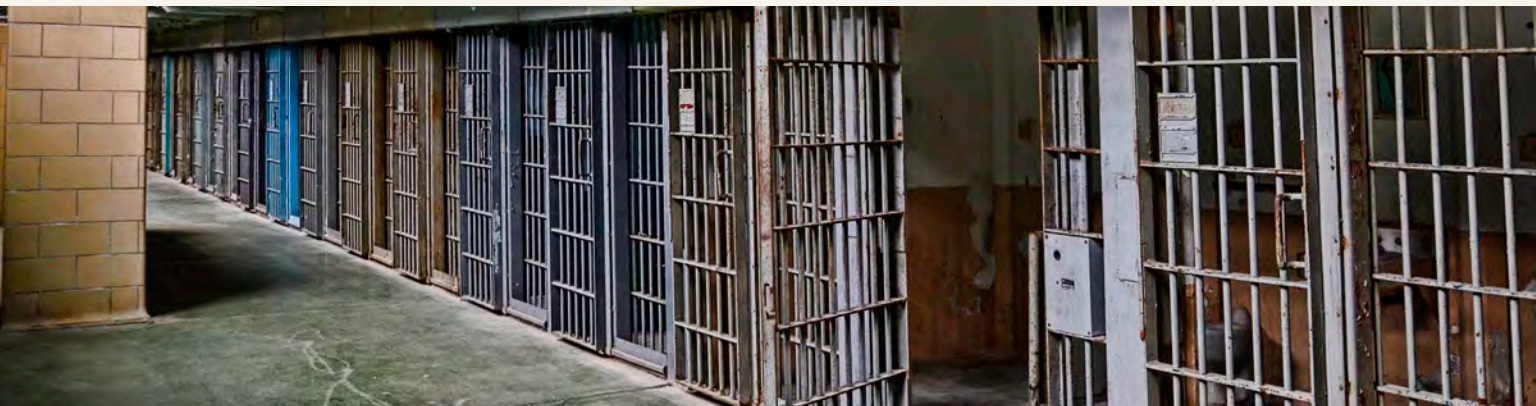
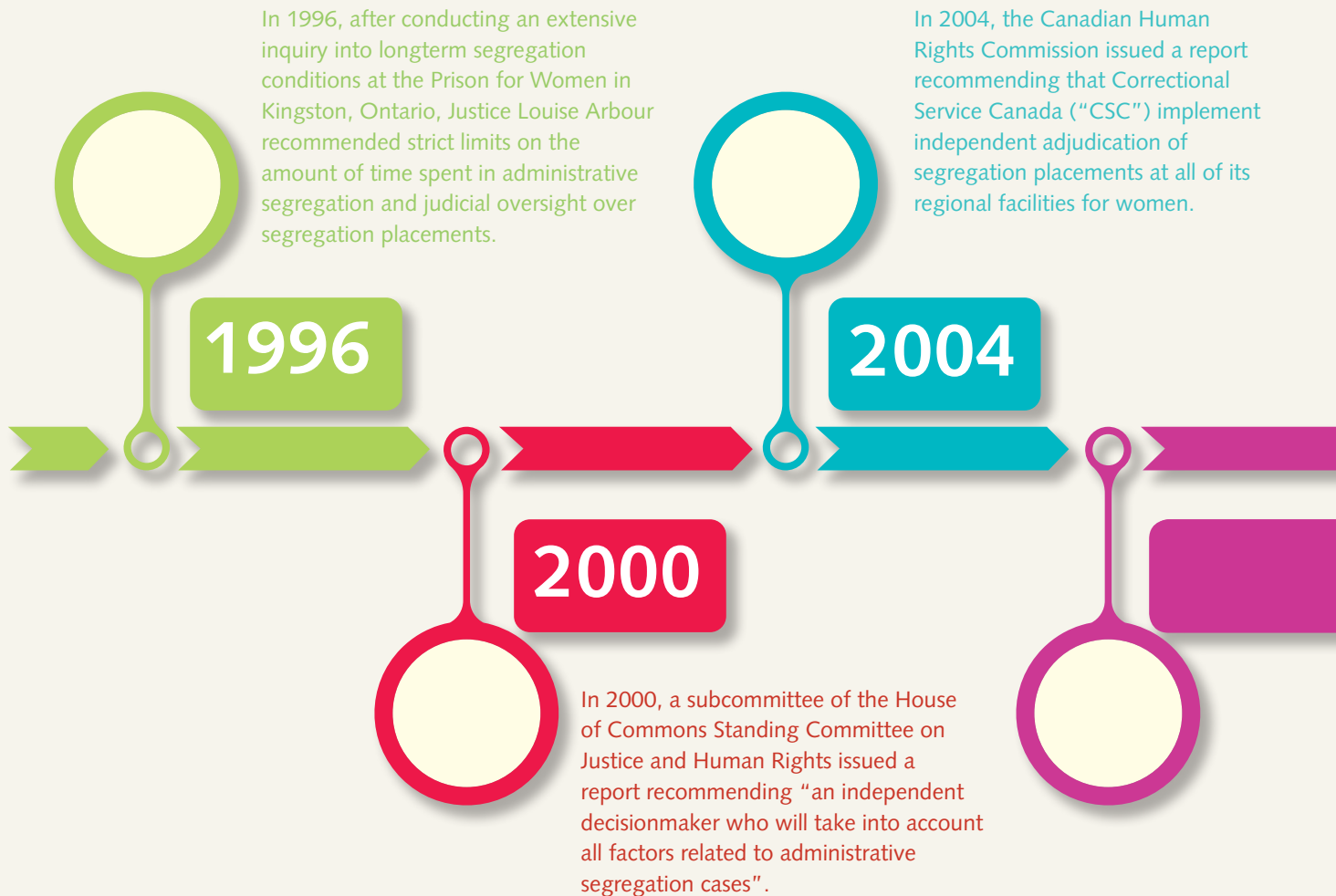


Donate today  
[www.bccla.org](http://www.bccla.org)



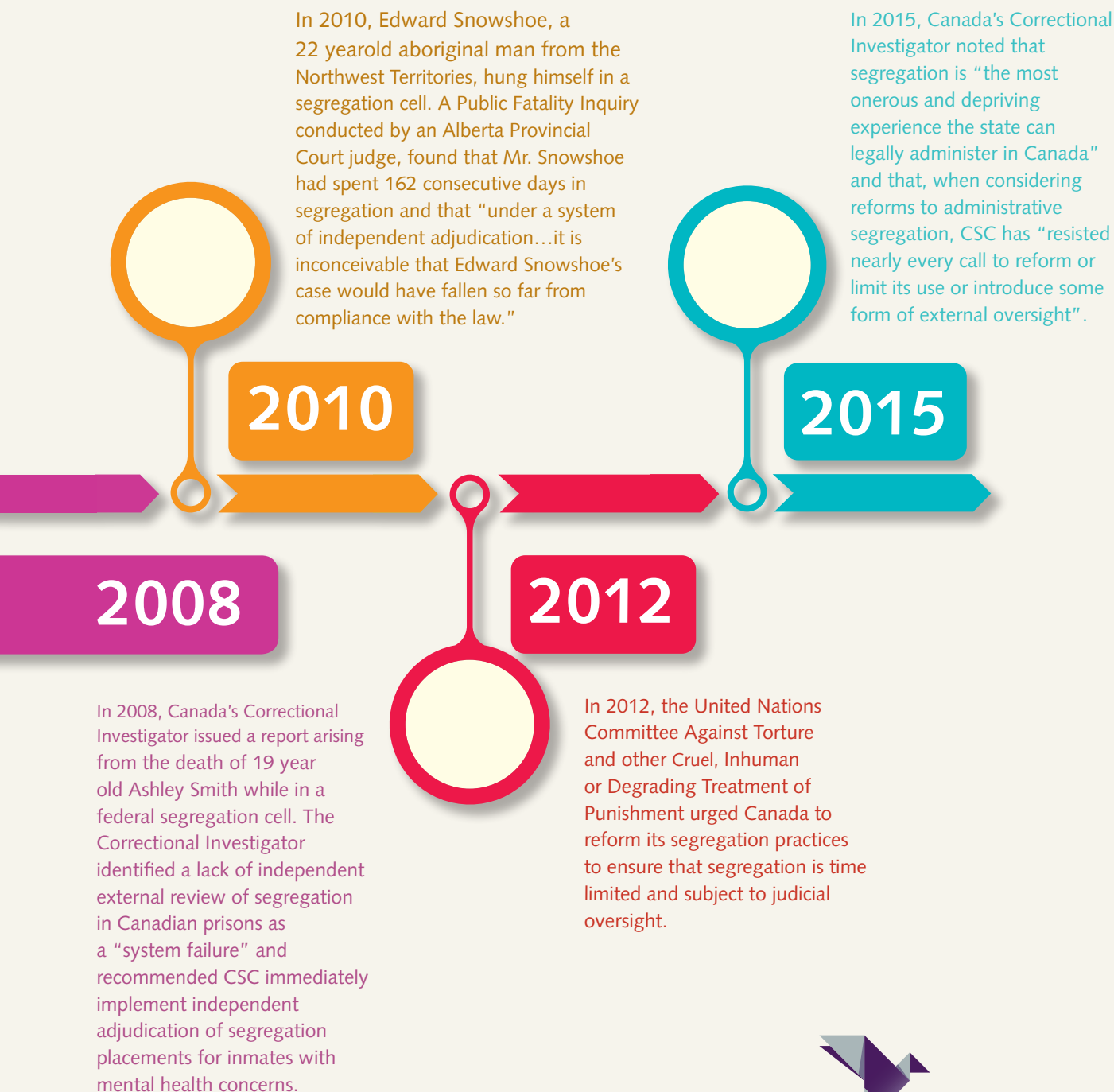
# JUSTICE, NOT TORTURE:

## A TIMELINE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IN CANADA





**On** January 19, 2015, the BCCLA and the John Howard Society of Canada filed a lawsuit against the Attorney General of Canada challenging the use of solitary confinement in Canadian prisons. Our lawsuit is set to go to trial on July 4, 2017. The timeline below highlights just a handful of the reports and studies issued over the last 20 years that the B.C. Supreme Court may review when considering our case, all of which have called on Canada to implement significant reforms to its use of solitary confinement:



**Donate today**  
[www.bccla.org](http://www.bccla.org)

# IN THE COURTS



Litigation is one tool the BCCLA uses in pursuit of our mandate to defend and expand civil liberties and human rights. Last year, with the pro bono assistance of some of Canada's finest legal counsel, the BCCLA litigated 30 cases. Here are some of the highlights from our 2016 legal docket:

## PROTECTING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

In December, the BCCLA was at the Supreme Court of Canada arguing for the right of Indigenous communities to protect their sacred sites from desecration. In this case, *Ktunaxa Nation Council v. Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations*, the B.C. government approved the development of a ski resort on Crown land in the southeastern Purcell Mountains of British Columbia. The Ktunaxa Nation calls the area Qat'muk and argues the area is of paramount spiritual significance to its people as home of the Grizzly Bear Spirit. They argue that allowing the development of the resort within Qat'muk would constitute a desecration and irreparably harm their relationship with the Grizzly Bear Spirit.

The BCCLA intervened in the case to argue that the Charter right to freedom of religion must appreciate the centrality of sacred sites to traditional Indigenous spirituality. A failure to acknowledge the infringements that can and do result from state actions that profane those sites, denies Indigenous spiritual traditions meaningful Charter protection. The Supreme Court of Canada has reserved its decision. The BCCLA was represented by Jessica Orkin and Adriel Weaver of Goldblatt Partners.

## ARGUING FOR TIMELY JUSTICE

In June, the Supreme Court of Canada released its decisions in *R. v. Jordan* and *R. v. Williamson*, confirming that accused persons have a right to be tried within a reasonable time to avoid violations of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. The accused individuals in those cases endured 45 and 35 months of delay, respectively, in getting to trial.

The BCCLA intervened to argue that delay in getting to trial undermines the ability of an accused person to make full answer and defence to the charges against them, as a delay can prejudice the ability of a defendant to lead evidence, cross examine witnesses, or otherwise raise a defence. Delay may also violate the liberty and security of accused persons.

The Supreme Court of Canada ruled that significant delays prior to criminal trials are unreasonable and contrary to s. 11(b) of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. Absent exceptional circumstances, the Court determined that cases at the Provincial Court should not take more than 18 months and cases at the Superior Court should not take more than 30 months from the time charges are laid to the completion of trial. The BCCLA was represented by Tim Dickson of Farris, Vaughan, Wills & Murphy.

## BALANCING FREE EXPRESSION AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

In December, the BCCLA made oral submissions to the Supreme Court of Canada in *Google Inc. v. Equustek Solutions Inc.*, a case questioning the authority of Canadian courts to impose worldwide restrictions on Internet search results. The case involves a trademark infringement case where one company illegally relabelled another company's products and began selling them worldwide on the internet. After a number of failed attempts to compel the company to stop the illegal activity, the B.C. Supreme Court ordered Google to remove the involved websites from its search engine worldwide.

The BCCLA intervened in the case to propose a legal framework that ensures these types of restrictive orders are only granted when absolutely necessary to provide a litigant with a meaningful remedy, and are crafted to create the least possible impact on the public's *Charter* right to free expression. The Court reserved judgement. The BCCLA was represented by Justin Safayani and Carlo Di Carlo of Stockwoods LLP.

## A letter from Ellen Frank

In February 2015, after a four-year legal struggle, the BCCLA won a historic victory on behalf of all Canadians in *Carter v. Canada* when the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously struck down the laws criminalizing physician assisted dying.

In June 2016, the federal government passed a new law that restricts medical assistance in dying only to those Canadians whose illness is terminal and who are near death. The BCCLA responded by filing *Lamb v. Canada*, a second constitutional case arguing that the new law will continue to trap many Canadians in unbearable suffering. That case is working its way to trial and the BCCLA continues its commitment to securing the right to choose a dignified and peaceful death for all grievously and irremediably ill Canadians.

Ellen Frank, author, activist, mother and grandmother, was diagnosed with primary progressive multiple sclerosis in 1988. She graciously shared her thoughts with the BCCLA on her life, her illness and her choice to seek medical assistance in dying:

*"I am 69 years old, and I have lived with primary progressive MS for 29 years. Now I have decided to die, with the help of a physician.*

*For about 22 years, the MS progressed slowly, and I could manage each new loss. In the last eight or 10 years, the losses have been worse, and they are happening faster. The MS is quite advanced now. I never feel good. I spend all of my time and energy just trying to get through a day and stay on top of the pain. I can think but I can't physically write anymore. I can eat but I can't feed myself. When I do get through a day, I feel like I have been pretending it's all right. My life isn't mine anymore. Little by little, MS takes everything out of me that is me. So, deciding to die is a no brainer.*

*But deciding to die is also very hard and very sad. I have so much – lots of loving friends, three wonderful children and eight grandchildren – things that many other people have never had. And I don't want to leave them. But I also don't want them to watch me die, a little more each day, bit by bit. I want them to say good bye to me when we can still talk, tell stories, laugh and cry with each other, reminisce about our lives together.*

*The night I told my granddaughter Khyah that I was planning a physician assisted death, she said no. No! She wasn't having it. Maybe there was some other treatment to try, and so on. The next day she came to see me, and she threw herself on me and said, "Bubbie, I'm so sorry, I support you 100 percent, I know you have to do it, but I don't want to lose you!"*

*I held her tight and said, "You never have to apologize for loving me." We hugged and cried and pretty soon we were laughing over a funny memory.*

*I want to go out, while I'm still in."*

Ellen Frank died January 30, 2017. In the last hour of her life, she told the friends and family members who had been gathering at her bedside for several weeks, singing, laughing, weeping and telling stories: "This has been better than I could have ever imagined."







# NEW DIRECTIONS WITH CASEWORK

**BY LAURA TRACK, COMMUNITY LAWYER**

**L**ast year, our long-time caseworker Alyssa Stryker moved to Washington DC to pursue an exciting opportunity working on drug policy and criminal justice reform. We wish her all the very best in her new role.

The calls that come in to the casework line have guided and informed the BCCLA's systemic work on all sorts of issues, from the disclosure of non-conviction information on police record checks to the criminalization of poverty and so much more. But of course, we simply don't hear from the people who don't know about us or don't think to call us when they experience a rights violation, and we may miss important issues as a result.

When Alyssa left, the BCCLA decided to re-imagine the casework position as one that would take a more proactive role in reaching out to BC's diverse

communities. Our goal is to ensure that the human rights and civil liberties concerns of all of regions, and communities of BC are being adequately and appropriately addressed in the Association's work.

I was thrilled to accept the newly created position of Community Development Lawyer in the fall of 2016. I'm looking forward to visiting communities across the province to learn more about their experiences and concerns, and to building the Association's profile outside the Lower Mainland as a credible ally and powerful advocate for human rights.

I'm also excited to reengage the BCCLA's Know Your Rights workshops and Legal Observer program. With resource extraction projects and other issues generating significant opposition across the province, this knowledge is in high demand. The BCCLA has a long

history of helping people know and exercise their constitutional rights to protest and express their views. Getting this knowledge into the hands of people around the province who need it will be a primary focus in the coming months.

Of course, the phone calls and emails from people seeking legal help don't stop coming. In my few months in the role, I've fielded hundreds of requests for support from people with privacy complaints, issues with police, experiences of discrimination and many other issues. BC's underfunded legal aid system and the high cost of legal services make accessing a lawyer all but impossible for many people. While the BCCLA cannot take on clients or act as counsel to people with legal problems, we can often offer support, information and resources that can help.

## PRO BONO COUNSEL

**Greg Allen**, Hunter Litigation Chambers  
**Joseph Arvay**, Q.C., Farris, Vaughan, Wills & Murphy LLP  
**Stephen Aylward**, Stockwoods LLP  
**Nancy Brooks**, Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP  
**Paul Champ**, Champ and Associates  
**Gerald Chan**, Stockwoods LLP  
**Ryan Dalziel**, Norton Rose Fulbright  
**Carlo Di Carlo**, Stockwoods LLP  
**Tim Dickson**, JFK Law Corporation  
**Matthew Estabrooks**, Gowling WLG  
**Michael Feder**, McCarthy Tétrault LLP  
**Julie Gibson**, Harper Grey LLP  
**Nader Hasan**, Stockwoods LLP  
**Craig Jones**, Q.C., Branch MacMaster LLP  
**Jordan Katz**, McCarthy Tétrault LLP  
**Marcus Klee**, Aitken Klee LLP  
**Emily Lapper**, Norton Rose Fulbright  
**Alison Latimer**, Underhill, Boies Parker, Gage & Latimer LLP  
**Joanne Lysyk**, Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP  
**Andrew MacDonald**, Bersenas, Jacobson, Chouest, Thomson, Blackburn LLP  
**Emily Mackinnon**, McCarthy Tétrault LLP  
**Audrey Macklin**, University of Toronto Faculty of Law  
**MarieFrance Major**, Supreme Advocacy LLP  
**David Martin**, Martin & Associates  
**Sharon Matthews**, Q.C., Camp Fiorante Matthews Mogerman LLP  
**Roy Millen**, Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP  
**Joel Morris**, Harper Grey LLP  
**Matthew Nathanson**, MN Law  
**Jessica Orkin**, Goldblatt Partners LLP  
**Brent Olthuis**, Hunter Litigation Chambers  
**Tae Mee Park**, Bersenas, Jacobson, Chouest, Thomson, Blackburn LLP  
**Monique Pongracic-Speier**, Ethos Law Group LLP  
**Micah Rankin**, Jensen Law  
**Nicolas M. Rouleau**, Pape Barristers  
**Bijon Roy**, Champ and Associates  
**Lobat Sadrehashemi**, Embarkation Immigration Lawyers  
**Justin Safayeni**, Stockwoods LLP  
**Warda Shazadi Meighan**, Waldman & Associates  
**Byron Shaw**, McCarthy Tétrault LLP  
**Daniel Sheppard**, Goldblatt Partners LLP  
**Micheal Sobkin**, Barrister and Solicitor  
**Rebecca Spigelman**, Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP  
**David Taylor**, Power Law  
**Maia Tsurumi**, Barrister and Solicitor  
**Sheila Tucker**, Q.C., Shapray Cramer Fitterman Lamer LLP  
**Brendan van Niejenhuis**, Stockwoods LLP  
**Lorne Waldman**, Waldman & Associates  
**Adriel Weaver**, Goldblatt Partners LLP  
**Yael Wexler**, Fasken Martineau DuMoulin LLP

The BCCLA is a small organization with just ten staff, but through the incredible support of pro bono counsel and volunteers across the country, we are changing the landscape of civil liberties in this country. We'd like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who donated their time and talent to us in 2016.

## BCCLA VOLUNTEERS

**Mary Caple**  
**Junna Hagiwara**  
**Carolina Diaz**  
**Erin Newman-Renwick**  
**Michael Diack**  
**Anna Butler-Koo**  
**Umang Khandelwal**  
**Patrick Twagirayeza**  
**Susan Humphrey**  
**Deborah Guterman**  
**Sarah Tseng**  
**Whitney Brown**  
**Miriam Taveira**  
**Steve Finlay**  
**Jon Levitt**  
**Daniela Gardea**  
**Lena Shillington**  
**Bonny Ho**  
**Sydney Gustafson**  
**Margaret Birrell**  
**Shaun Carson**  
**Richard Sim**  
**Zahir Muslun**  
**Oonaugh Berry**  
**David Muskeyn**  
**Katharine Ellison**  
**Blair Hobkirk**  
**Lana Tobin**  
**Tara Cox**  
**Rachelle Loudon**  
**Lenee Son**  
**Ming Lin**  
**Nat Strull**  
**Brooklyn Fowler**  
**Micah Goldberg**  
**Anna d'Archangelo**  
**Susan Ward**  
**Nicole So**

Virtually all of the BCCLA's daily activities depend on the talent, dedication, and energy of individuals who donate their time to advance our work for human rights. With deep gratitude, we would like to recognize the following volunteers who worked with us in 2016.

# MEET OUR NEW BCCLA STAFF

**W**e've been grateful to be able to expand our team over the last year to take on new and pressing work and to strengthen the organization.

Last Spring, **Jessi Halliday** returned to the BCCLA as our Legal Administrative Assistant after working with our pro bono counsel Joseph Arvay, QC and Alison Latimer at Farris, Vaughan, Wills & Murphy. In addition to providing support to our legal team, Jessi runs reception and contributes to fundraising and operations efforts.

**Maggie Knight** joined in the new role of Operations Manager (in the wake of our long-serving Office Manager Jim Braunagel's retirement at the end of 2015). Maggie brings experience as Managing Director of grassroots advocacy group Leadnow.ca, Operations Manager of RADIUS (SFU's social innovation lab and

venture incubator), and President of McGill's undergraduate student union.

In the Fall, former staff counsel and board president **Caily DiPuma**, most recently of Hunter Litigation Chambers, rejoined the staff team as Acting Litigation Director (while Grace Pastine is on maternity leave). New litigation counsel **Jay Aubrey**, who articulated with prominent advocate Clayton Ruby's Toronto firm, brings experience advocating for members of her rural Ontario working class community, women and children surviving domestic violence, and British Columbia tenants.

This Spring, we will be joined by **Meghan McDermott** in our policy team. In addition to her legal training, Meghan brings a wealth of policy experience from several ministries within the BC and Ontario governments.

## YOUR LEGACY: OUR FUTURE

Leaving a gift to the BCCLA in your will allows people of any financial means to provide long-term support to civil liberties and human rights in BC and across Canada.

Leaving a bequest can be as simple as adding a clause to your will. If you would like to discuss leaving a gift in your will, contact Charlotte Kingston, Director of Community Engagement at 604-630-9745 or email [charlotte@bccla.org](mailto:charlotte@bccla.org).

SUPPORT THE BCCLA FOR GENERATIONS TO COME



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

Year ended December 31, 2016

	2016				2015
	GENERAL FUND (operations)	STABILIZATION FUND	TRUST FUND	TOTAL 2016	TOTAL 2015
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Membership and donations	854,789	—	—	854,789	544,176
Law Foundation of B.C. – operating grant	175,000	—	—	175,000	175,000
Specified grants earned	82,980	—	—	82,980	28,936
Investment income	116	5,917	62,877	68,910	101,770
Gaming revenue earned	52,319	—	—	52,319	52,743
Miscellaneous and special events	52,217	—	—	52,217	57,413
Litigation recovery	39,845	—	—	39,845	163,114
Realized gains (losses) on sale of investments (net)	—	(3,521)	(25,758)	(29,279)	11,247
Adjustment of investments to market value	—	8,849	54,668	63,517	(54,560)
Endowment distributions	5,301	—	—	5,301	5,023
	1,262,567	11,245	91,787	1,365,599	1,084,862
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Salaries and benefits	720,509	—	—	720,509	640,946
Office operating	142,278	3	—	142,281	63,292
Litigation costs	111,829	—	—	111,829	57,400
Rent and utilities	58,374	—	—	58,374	55,869
Fundraising	57,020	—	—	57,020	19,675
Professional fees	37,452	—	—	37,452	37,571
Travel and accommodation	30,735	—	—	30,735	30,234
Bank charges	18,128	—	—	18,128	14,076
Newsletter	16,385	—	—	16,385	13,365
Strategic planning	7,761	—	—	7,761	27,683
Contracting	3,953	—	—	3,953	28,309
Amortization	3,826	—	—	3,826	2,543
Meetings, publications, events	3,385	—	—	3,385	5,053
Conference	3,353	—	—	3,353	7,096
Insurance	2,892	—	—	2,892	4,058
	1,217,880	3	—	1,217,883	1,007,170
<b>Excess of revenue for the year</b>	44,687	11,242	91,787	147,716	77,692
Interfund transfers	90,111	(12,006)	(78,105)	—	—
Fund balances, beginning of year	131,985	135,561	955,425	1,222,971	1,145,279
<b>Fund balances, end of year</b>	266,783	134,797	969,107	1,370,687	1,222,971

The complete 2016 BCCLA audited financial statements are available at [www.bccla.org](http://www.bccla.org).

This statement is subject to final audit approval and adoption by our members at the 2017 Annual General Meeting.



The Democratic Commitment is a publication of the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association. The Association was established in 1962 and is the oldest continuously active civil liberties association in Canada. Its mandate is to preserve, defend, maintain, and extend civil liberties and human rights in British Columbia and across Canada.

BN: 888466844RR0001

Front photo credit: David Whelan (Flickr CC 1.0)

Back photo credit: Canadian Pacific (Flickr BY-NC 2.0)

## BC CIVIL LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION

900 Helmcken Street, 2nd Floor  
Vancouver, BC V6Z 1B3  
Tel: 604.687.2919  
Email: [info@bccla.org](mailto:info@bccla.org)



We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia and the generous support of the Law Foundation of BC



[bccla.org](http://bccla.org)



@BCCivLib



@bccla