



Thank you to all the BCCLA members who are interested in becoming a member of the BCCLA Board of Directors. This package provides a brief overview on the roles and responsibilities of the BCCLA Board of Directors, and the scope of current substantive work undertaken by the BCCLA. The BCCLA's board of directors are authorized by the *Societies Act* and the BCCLA bylaws to manage and supervise the affairs of the BCCLA. Board of Directors are expected to contribute to and advance the BCCLA's mandate of civil liberties and human rights, as well as provide good governance and diligence in supervising the Association's work.

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BCCLA's 20 Highlights of 2020

Linked here: <https://bccla.org/2020/12/bcclas-20-highlights-of-2020/>

It is strange to write about highlights in the midst of a global health pandemic and the compounding horrors of the world that reveals the fault lines of who is kept safe and who is not. There continues to be a crisis of gendered colonial violence borne by Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people every day; the opioid drug poisoning epidemic is killing thousands of our neighbours; and the violent harms of policing and prisons are especially hurting Black, Indigenous, low-income, and disabled communities.

More than ever, defending civil liberties and human rights is imperative. **Here are our 20 highlights of 2020, crowd sourced from our team passionately fighting in the courts, advocating for meaningful law reform, and advancing public legal education.**

Flattening the COVID Curve: Equality not Enforcement

We supported nationwide efforts to protect the human rights of the most vulnerable, while speaking out against unreasonable breaches of civil liberties and against policing of the pandemic. Read our [op-ed "Our civil liberties matter during crises"](#) in the *Vancouver Sun*.

1. We urged governments to adopt [human rights measures](#) to ensure no one was left behind. This includes protecting the human rights of [refugees](#) at the border; [homeless people](#) in encampments; [women and gender diverse people](#) experiencing violence; [sex workers](#) and [people using drugs](#) being criminalized by bad laws; and [people incarcerated](#) in prisons and jails, including those [dying in custody](#).
2. We advocated against unreasonably [invasive digital surveillance](#) during the pandemic. We also met with government officials and raised key privacy and data protections concerns in [contract-tracing apps](#). We supported the Heiltsuk First Nation, Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council, and Tsilhqot'in National Government in their legal complaint demanding health information [transparency for Indigenous governments](#).
3. We produced a series of four "Your Rights in a Pandemic" [factsheets](#) on the powers of government emergency orders, enforcement powers of public health orders, tenant privacy rights and medical disclosure, and a guide to conditional releases for incarcerated people.

End to Policing Harms

In the wake of deadly tragedies of police violence, there has been public outcry against the harms and systemic racism of policing. We organized three educational webinars on "[Policing Black and Indigenous Lives](#)," "[Racism in Policing and Surveillance Tech](#)" and "[Who's Policing the Police? Police Oversight and Accountability in Canada](#)" that you can watch online.

4. We launched a [lawsuit against the RCMP Commissioner](#) for inexcusable delays preventing the release of a civilian watchdog report into RCMP spying on Indigenous and climate advocates.
5. We supported Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs and land defenders with a policy complaint to the civilian watchdog regarding the [unlawful RCMP checkpoint and exclusion zone](#) during militarized RCMP operations on unceded Wet'suwet'en territory. Our joint [op-ed](#) "Settler governments are breaking international law, not Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs" appeared in the *Toronto Star*.
6. We worked with Union of BC Indian Chiefs, Hogan's Alley Society, WISH Drop-In Centre Society and Black Lives Matter to organize a powerful coalition of [92 organizations](#) and 8,944 [individuals](#) calling for a ban on [racist](#) and [illegal](#) police street streets across Vancouver and BC. Vancouver and Victoria city councils have passed motions calling for a ban. We also challenged the Vancouver Police Board after receiving disturbing information about the [censorship](#) of racist and inappropriate comments and conduct by VPD officers in the Vancouver Police Board Street Check Review report. We co-authored an [op-ed](#) "Why did the Vancouver Police Board hide racism in VPD ranks?" in the *Vancouver Sun*.

Challenging Criminalization

We oppose criminalizing laws that extend into many aspects of our lives including prisons, the criminal legal system, child apprehension laws, and coercive healthcare. Laws intended to criminalize disproportionately affect Indigenous, Black, Muslim, racialized, sex worker, drug user, and low-income communities.

7. We announced an end to our cross-appeal at the Supreme Court of Canada in our [solitary confinement case](#) with John Howard Society. The federal government finally abandoned its attempt to overturn our historic victory at the BC Court of Appeal, which found that prolonged solitary confinement in federal prisons is inhumane and unconstitutional.
8. We secured an important victory with community organizations in forcing a pause on the [coercive Bill 22](#). Bill 22 proposed amendments to BC's *Mental Health Act* to create a new form of detention and involuntary health care for youth experiencing an overdose.
9. We celebrated two important victories in our Supreme Court of Canada interventions; one limiting [police powers to entrap](#) people and another affirming that [bail conditions](#) must be consistent with the presumption of innocence. In the highest court, we also argued against the abolition of peremptory challenges that reduce [jury diversity](#) and are fighting for [young persons' right to appeal](#) in the criminal legal system.

Free Expression

Freedom of expression has been a cornerstone of BCCLA's mandate for decades. This freedom is especially essential for oppressed communities to act collectively to challenge unjust laws.

10. We celebrated an important legal [victory](#) protecting the right of frontline healthcare workers, such as Carolyn Strom, to criticize the healthcare system without fear of employer or administrative discipline.
11. We spoke out against the implementation of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance ("IHRA") definition of antisemitism in [Montreal](#) and [Ontario](#). While we condemn antisemitism and all racism, this definition and list of illustrative examples can chill Canadian, especially Palestinian and Arab Canadian, protests of Israeli state policy.
12. In response to members of the Kwantlen First Nation, we released an [unprecedented letter](#) detailing the application of *Charter* section 2 on reserves.
13. We intervened and [won](#) at the Supreme Court of Canada in cases supporting anti-SLAPP laws and protecting people from legal intimidation by powerful private actors.

Privacy Rights

With the explosion of digital technologies, protecting privacy rights is one of our priorities.

14. We are the only civil society organization granted standing at the Cullen Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering in British Columbia. We support efforts to combat money laundering, however, some of the government's recommendations [raise serious concerns](#) for privacy, due process, government surveillance and police seizure powers, and risk having a disproportionate impact on East Asian Canadians.
15. We celebrated the news that Clearview AI is ceasing its controversial facial recognition services in Canada and are [calling for a ban](#) on all facial recognition surveillance by federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies.
16. We made an essential joint [written submission](#) to the Special Legislative Committee reviewing BC's *Personal Information and Protection Act*. We recommended substantive amendments to the Act, including digital privacy protections.

Democratic and Human Rights

We know that democratic rights are only meaningful when liberty, dignity and equality are all reinforced. Similarly, decolonization is only meaningful when collective Indigenous rights are affirmed.

17. As part of the Coalition on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls in BC, we [raised grave concerns](#) to the federal government regarding delays in the registration process for First Nations women and their descendants who are newly entitled to status because of amendments to the discriminatory *Indian Act*. We also advocated for BC's *Human Rights Code* to [add Indigenous identity](#) as a ground of discrimination.
18. We launched a [toolkit](#), downloaded thousands of times, to help people participate in the federal government's consultative survey on medical assistance in dying and protect the right to die with dignity.
19. We announced we are [going to court](#) against Alberta legislation that grants the government sweeping new powers to unilaterally write new laws without legislative oversight. In BC, [a similar Act](#) authorizes the government to temporarily change any piece of legislation during an emergency, without any public oversight and legislative approval.
20. As absurd as it sounds, [we secured an important victory](#) for human dignity at the Supreme Court of Canada in a case reinforcing that s.12 of the *Charter* – protection against “any cruel and unusual treatment or punishment” – does not apply to corporations.

Even as I honour this tireless work by our committed staff team – supported by our dedicated network of pro bono lawyers, volunteers and board members and guided by the expertise of frontline communities – there is so much to be done. We will be ringing in the new year ready for more fights, and we cannot do it without the support of our members and supporters. Thank you for fueling our fires and joining us in these fights.

For more information about our work, please see our 2019 Annual Report: <https://bccla.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Annual-Report-2019-FINAL-Web.pdf>



BCCLA Background

The BC Civil Liberties Association ("BCCLA") is the oldest and most active civil liberties and human rights group in Canada. The BCCLA has been actively advancing human rights and civil liberties through litigation, law reform, community-based legal advocacy, and public engagement and education for the last half century. We were established in 1962 by a group of academics and activists at the University of British Columbia in response to draconian police responses to religious minorities in the province.

The BCCLA has since grown to become a non-partisan, charitable society with thousands of supporters and volunteers, including many *pro bono* lawyers providing tens of thousands of hours of legal assistance in our ground breaking test case litigation and over 100 precedent-setting legal interventions at various appellate courts. Though we are based in BC, our work is national in scope with legal interventions and law reform advocacy across Canada.

BCCLA Mandate

The BCCLA's mandate is to promote, defend, sustain, and extend civil liberties and human rights in British Columbia and Canada. We recognize that such rights are inalienable and necessary for the flourishing of individuals and human society.

We achieve this mandate through four core programs:

1. Litigation
2. Law and Policy Reform
3. Public Education
4. Community-based legal education and information assistance

BCCLA is committed to the protection of inherent human dignity, and strives to achieve a society in which people benefit from the meaningful and substantively equal enjoyment of their *Charter*-protected rights and liberty interests. BCCLA recognizes that liberty, dignity and equality are mutually-reinforcing.

BCCLA focuses on the relationship between people and the state, and the ways in which the state can limit or advance human rights and liberties. BCCLA's work pays particular attention to the needs of vulnerable individuals and oppressed communities, who would otherwise have difficulty getting redress for violations and limitations on their rights despite being the most susceptible to state regulation and violations of their fundamental rights.

The BCCLA is committed to upholding our promise to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, where we committed “our vigilance in using whatever resources we have to oppose violations of the rights and freedoms of Indigenous people now and in the future,” and to the full realization of the rights of Indigenous peoples.

BCCLA Highlights

Litigation:

BCCLA has proven to be one of Canada’s most successful and prolific test case litigators, and we are [one of the most frequent non-government intervenors in the country](#). We build our test cases from the ground up, aiming to creatively shape the future direction of the law, serve the broad public interest, and uphold civil liberties and human rights. We are also involved in several dozen interventions each year at all levels of court and intervene in public inquiries and inquests to catalyze significant systemic changes in the public interest.

Some of our most ground-breaking litigation includes:

- Joining with Little Sister’s bookstore to challenge Canada Customs for banning an LGBTQ magazine. The Supreme Court of Canada unanimously agreed that the actions of Canada Customs officials were discriminatory against Little Sisters bookstore.
- With the call for justice not torture, the BCCLA and John Howard Society filed and won the first-ever constitutional lawsuit seeking to abolish the use of long-term solitary confinement in all federal prisons. The cruel practice of solitary confinement disproportionately harms Indigenous and racialized people and people with disabilities.
- Our momentous death with dignity *Carter v. Canada* case in which the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously ruled to recognize the right of seriously and incurably ill Canadians to choose medical assistance in dying.

- Intervening at the Supreme Court of Canada in the *Chhina* case to argue that immigration detainees should be able to challenge the lawfulness of their indefinite detention through the writ of habeas corpus, a legal provision that allows anyone being held in custody the right to challenge their detention before a judge.
- Intervening at the Supreme Court of Canada in the *Bedford* case to argue against three criminal laws that prohibited various aspects of adult sex work. BCCLA argued against the criminalization of adult sex work to ensure that adult sex workers have safety and control and the ability to determine the circumstances of their work.
- Litigating to advance trade unions' constitutional rights, including union's right to freedom of expression in *Alberta (Information and Privacy Commissioner) v. United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 401* and upholding the right to strike in *Saskatchewan Federation of Labour v. Saskatchewan*, both at the Supreme Court of Canada.
- Intervening in *Victoria v. Adams*, a successful Charter challenge to municipal bylaws that prevented homeless people from erecting shelters in public spaces for their protection.
- Intervening at the Supreme Court of Canada to strike down Canada's unconstitutional security certificate regime, using secret evidence and secret trials to unfairly imprison and possibly expel long-term residents to Canada.
- Intervening in *R. v. Smith*, in which the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously declared restrictions on medical cannabis products were arbitrary and unconstitutional.
- Intervening in a number of cases challenging mandatory minimum sentences, culminating in the Supreme Court of Canada striking down mandatory minimum sentencing scheme for certain criminal offenses.
- Intervening in important cases advocating for criminal law reform, including in *R v. Ahmad* where the Supreme Court of Canada placed important limits on the power of police to step beyond their normal investigative role and tempt people into committing criminal offences, and *R v. Zora* where the Supreme Court of Canada held the offence of breaching a bail condition must be consistent with the presumption of innocence.
- Participating in the public inquiries into the deaths of Frank Paul, a Mi'kmaq man who died of exposure and hypothermia after being dumped in an alley by officers of the

Vancouver Police Department, and Robert Dziekanski, who was tasered at the Vancouver International Airport by RCMP officers. We participated in these inquiries with a number of recommendations leading to the creation of the Independent Investigation Office to ensure civilian investigation of serious police use-of-force incidents.

- Filing Canada's first and only lawsuit to challenge to the legality of the Communications Security Establishment (CSE's) spying activities against Canadians.

Law and Policy Reform:

In the last decade, we have made [over 400 law reform submissions](#) to all levels of government and have had hundreds of meetings with legislators and government policy-makers on law reform topics including national security, police oversight and accountability, surveillance, mandatory minimum sentencing, immigration detention, privacy rights, freedom of expression and SLAPP suits, and patients' rights.

After years of advocacy alongside community partners, there have been critical victories, such as:

- Reforming non-conviction disclosures on police information checks with the end to the disclosure of mental health and non-conviction interaction information.
- Compelling the provincial government to halt cruel and coercive amendments to BC's Mental Health Act that would create a new form of detention and involuntary health care in BC for youth who have experienced an overdose.
- Ending second-class citizenship through an extremely visible and ultimately successful campaign to repeal changes made to the Citizenship Act by Bill C-24 that rendered millions of Canadians with less permanent rights because they have, or are eligible for, citizenship in another country.
- Release of the Protest Papers, thousands of pages of secret documents disclosed from our complaint into the illegal spying activity of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.
- Campaigning and making submissions against Bill C-51, draconian and wide-sweeping anti-terror legislation, which was subsequently repealed in part.

- Establishing oversight and accountability for the Canada Border Services Agency.
- Challenging the murderous actions of the Canadian Airborne Regiment in Somalia.
- Ending the transfer of Afghan detainees to face torture.
- Fighting the extradition of Dr. Hassan Diab and his detention without charge in France.
- Calling for the return of child soldier Omar Khadr back home to Canada.
- Participating in the inquiry into the actions of Canadian officials in relation to Maher Arar, a Canadian citizen who was a victim of rendition to torture.
- Amending Canada's medical assistance in dying laws to end suffering in the dying process.
- Successfully advocating for the introduction of effective provincial anti-SLAPP legislation to protect free expression against censorship.
- Pushing for police accountability, including the creation of the Independent Investigation Office, and police reforms, including a coalition campaign to end police street checks that has gained significant momentum with Victoria and Vancouver City Council motions calling for an end to the police practice.

While we have been successful in obtaining law and policy reforms, we continue to advocate for more substantive and meaningful changes to the law to protect and expand civil liberties and human rights, especially for those most impacted by state regulation.

Policing Indigenous Communities Initiative:

The Policing Indigenous Communities Initiative is a multi-year project that seeks to address the overrepresentation and disproportionate impact of policing on Indigenous peoples in British Columbia. The initiative has three main areas of focus: police accountability in Indigenous communities in Northern BC; access to justice and rights violations at the Bail stage in rural Indigenous communities; and public awareness-raising and legal education.

Public Legal Education:

Our [publications](#) on civil liberties and human rights issues in Canada are influential and in demand by legal experts, research institutes, policy advocates, government ministries, as well as the public. Every year we produce high quality, relevant materials to help inform the public and push the civil liberties and human rights conversation forward in Canada. Some of our most popular resources, reports and handbooks include:

- Your Rights in a Pandemic: COVID-19 Response Factsheets, 2020
- Know Your Rights: Injunctions and Contempt of Court, 2019
- Electronic Devices Privacy Handbook: A Guide to Your Rights at the Border, 2018
- Know Your Protest Rights, 2017
- Oversight at the Border: A Model for Independent Accountability at the Canadian Border Services Agency, 2017
- Hungry for Justice: Advancing a Right to Food for Children in BC, 2016
- HIV Testing Handbook: A Guide to Your Rights, 2015
- More Than We Can Afford: The Costs of Mandatory Minimum Sentencing, 2014
- Rights Talk: Students and Civil Liberties at School, 2013
- The Arrest Handbook: A Guide to Your Rights, 2010

We have also provided hundreds of educational workshops on free expression and protest, illegal search and seizure, and rights of youths in schools. Over 200 youth attend BCCLA's annual Youth and Civil Liberties Conference, bringing together high school students to learn and discuss civil liberties and human rights issues with a variety of speakers and workshops.

We could not do this work without the dedication of our staff, the passion of our volunteers including our board and pro bono counsel, and without the stalwart support of our members. If you are not yet a member, [consider becoming one today](#) and stand up for civil liberties and human rights for all.



Strategic Plan

2020 to 2025



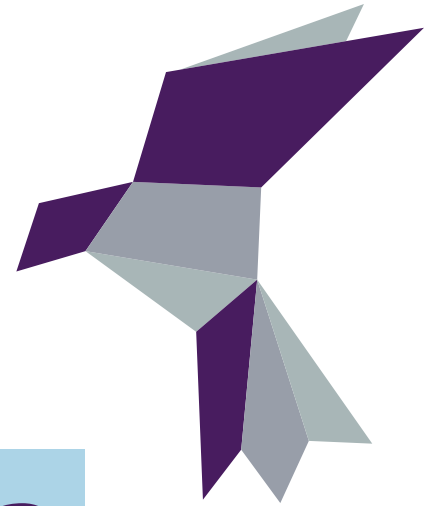
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Who We Are

BCCLA promotes, defends, sustains, and extends civil liberties and human rights. We recognize that such rights are inalienable and necessary for the flourishing of individuals and human society.

BCCLA is committed to the protection of inherent human dignity. BCCLA recognizes that liberty, dignity and equality are mutually-reinforcing, and strives to achieve a society in which people benefit from meaningful and substantively equal enjoyment of the freedom to choose how they wish to live their lives.

BCCLA focuses on the relationship between people and the state, and the ways in which the state can limit or advance rights and liberties. We also recognize that other powerful

institutional actors can have a significant impact on rights and liberties, with varying degrees of interaction with the state. We are committed to giving particular attention to, and where appropriate will seek to work with, those who are the most susceptible to state regulation and violations of their civil liberties and human rights, especially vulnerable, marginalized and poor people and members of equity-seeking groups.

Based in British Columbia, BCCLA is a national leader on civil liberties and human rights. Our work includes issues within municipal, provincial, and federal jurisdiction that have implications in BC and across Canada.

BCCLA is a non-partisan organization that takes concrete, sustained and effective action to create change through:

- litigation to challenge unjust laws and state action, and to advance civil liberties and human rights;
- law reform efforts to promote legislation and policies that advance civil liberties and human rights, and to resist or change laws that do not;
- community-based legal advocacy and providing legal resources to support individuals in defending their rights; and
- engaging and educating supporters, members and the public on the issues on which we work.

BCCLA recognizes that, despite the inherent and inalienable rights of Indigenous peoples, and the recognition of those rights within the Canadian Constitution, the legal system in which we work continues to deprive Indigenous peoples of their

lands, freedoms, rights, autonomy and dignity. We affirm that Indigenous law and the inalienable right to self-determination continue despite the Crown's attempts to suppress them. BCCLA is committed to the full realization of the rights of Indigenous peoples, and to the pursuit of a just, equitable and durable reconciliation between Indigenous Nations and Canada. BCCLA is committed to upholding its promise to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.¹

BCCLA is committed to ensuring equity, diversity and inclusion are significant considerations in our decision-making, in our internal work and in our work in the world. This is critical in order for BCCLA to act on our values and to achieve our fundamental mandate to uphold and advance civil liberties and human rights.

BCCLA values our staff and seeks to promote their well-being, consistent with our values and to ensure the sustainability of our work.

¹ BCCLA statement to Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, available at <https://bccla.org/2013/09/the-journey-of-reconciliation-issuing-our-statement-of-reconciliation-at-canadas-trc/>

Strategic Directions 2020 – 2025



Overarching Strategic Directions During 2020 - 2025

BCCLA will continue to work on policing and criminal justice, especially as they impact Indigenous and marginalized communities; privacy and national security; democratic rights and fundamental freedoms; prisoners' rights; patients' rights; and advancing equality rights in BC and across Canada. We will maintain our flexibility to respond in an agile way to important civil liberties and human rights issues that arise.

BCCLA will enhance and deepen the following areas of our work:

- BCCLA will seek opportunities to expand our work on strengthening democratic rights, supporting democratic inclusion and resisting authoritarianism.

- BCCLA will dedicate time and resources to increase our expertise about technological change and its implications for civil liberties, human rights and democracy. We will develop and advance law reform and policy proposals to address these challenges, aimed at the state and other powerful institutional actors. In this work, we will pay attention to the particular impact of technological change on marginalized, vulnerable and equity-seeking groups.

Goals

BCCLA aims to be the leading civil society organization promoting civil liberties and human rights in Canada, working to advance our strategic directions in the following ways:

- We will continue to expand our litigation, law reform and community law capacity, and our associated operational support capacity. We aim to grow by 3-5 staff positions by 2025, as funding and financial strategy permits
- We will continue to develop our unique national leadership position, through high-impact test case litigation and interventions, and intend to initiate between 3 and 5 new test cases, depending on the scale of the cases and the availability of resources.
- We will expand our ability to engage proactively in law reform, and position BCCLA as a trusted and credible expert to decision-makers and allies in advancing civil liberties and human rights in law and policy. We will allocate capacity to specifically address the strategic directions outlined above.
- We will continue to deepen our work standing with communities who experience the most acute deprivations of their rights by the state, including Indigenous communities, through our community law program, in litigation and law reform. We will seek to be a more effective advocate for civil liberties and human rights through dialogue with people who directly experience rights violations, in order to gain a better understanding of the root causes of injustice, the human impact of state rights-infringing action and how to counter it.
- We will work to enhance our presence on the national stage, and to strengthen our relationships of collaboration and support with other organizations to make our work more effective. In doing so, we will maintain our non-partisanship and independence.
- We will remain an essential resource for media, decision makers and the public for analysis of and education about civil liberties and human rights issues in Canada.

BCCLA will strengthen our position as a leading civil liberties and human rights non-partisan charity, with secure, consistent, reliable and diverse funding sources, and a growing member and supporter network, where Board and staff are engaged in outreach and fundraising. To ensure financial sustainability and the enduring effectiveness of our work:

- We will invest in fundraising capacity and work to secure access to new and reliable funding, including major, transformational and legacy gifts.
- We will effectively engage with our supporter network in order to deepen support for BCCLA and our objectives over time. We will strengthen our systems and capacity to communicate with our members and supporters, and build our network through engagement with communities that are currently under-represented among our supporters.
- We will steward our resources in a manner which balances additional expenditures that strengthen the organization and our current work with building a financial reserve to foster the long-term security of BCCLA and our work.

We will invest resources and time to continuously improve our operational and human resources structures and organizational culture to ensure that our workplace remains healthy and able to sustain our work.

Consistent with our commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion:

- We will develop tools to ensure that we give these values significant consideration in our decision-making, in our internal work and in our work in the world.
- We will continue to work to ensure that our staff and board are more representative of the communities in which we work, in order to deepen our expertise, to ground our understanding of the civil liberties and human rights violations that people experience, and to be able to better respond to their needs.
- We will measure and report internally on our progress towards fulfilling our commitments, advancing our strategic directions and achieving these goals.



BCCLA Governance Resolutions Adopted April 11, 2016

RESOLUTION A: BCCLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS GOVERNANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

RESOLVED that the Board of Directors adopts the following policy:

BCCLA Board of Directors Governance Responsibilities

The Board of Directors bears the ultimate responsibility for the BC Civil Liberties Association.

The Board carries out this responsibility through a governance role. The Board delegates the day-to-day management and operations of the BCCLA to the Executive Director and, through the Executive Director, to staff. The Board may appoint committees and working groups that it considers necessary to enable it to carry out its responsibilities effectively, and to delegate to those bodies any of the remaining powers of the Board it deems appropriate, but not all of its powers.

To fulfill its governance role and legal obligations, the Board has responsibility for:

1. Determining and articulating the BCCLA's mission, vision, and core values within the parameters of the BCCLA's constitution;
2. Determining and amending the BCCLA's overarching substantive policy positions;
3. Overseeing the development and implementation of high-level strategic and financial planning for the Association's future, and monitoring and assessing the BCCLA's progress in implementing such plans;
4. Authorizing the BCCLA's involvement in litigation in which the BCCLA directly represents a client or is a public interest litigant, and interventions where the appropriate BCCLA position is uncertain or that raise issues on which BCCLA policy is lacking, in accordance with the BCCLA Litigation Policy;
5. Selecting, directing and evaluating the BCCLA's Executive Director, including supporting the Executive Director, approving their compensation, and defining their duties and authority;
6. Developing succession plans for the Executive Director, and ensuring the Executive Director has succession plans in place for senior staff positions;

7. Ensuring that processes are in place to identify, manage and monitor the principal risks faced by the BCCLA;
8. Overseeing the acquisition and management of adequate financial and other resources to implement the BCCLA's strategy and goals; adopting policies to govern the acquisition and use of financial and other resources; approving the budget; and monitoring, assessing and reporting on the fiscal condition and financial performance of the BCCLA;
9. Ensuring that the BCCLA acts in accordance with the highest standards of ethical behaviour and integrity;
10. Requiring implementation and maintenance of appropriate internal controls, in relation to the use of financial resources, information systems and other key systems;
11. Ensuring that procedures are in place for the Executive Director to manage and evaluate staff performance;
12. Enhancing the BCCLA's credibility and public image;
13. Monitoring and ensuring the BCCLA's compliance with its constitution and bylaws and with its statutory, regulatory, charitable and fiduciary obligations, and ensuring that the by-laws are appropriate to the functioning and circumstances of the BCCLA;
14. Adopting and amending human resources policies and ensuring that the Executive Director maintains compliance with those policies;
15. Adopting and amending policies on the BCCLA's governance and on the Board's operations and ensuring compliance with those policies;
16. Developing and assessing the Board's own effectiveness and performance;
17. Creating and implementing plans for Board succession and training; and
18. Making all other decisions required to be made by the Board of Directors or reserved by the Board to itself.

RESOLUTION B: EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF BCCLA DIRECTORS

RESOLVED that the Board of Directors adopts the following policy:

Expectations and Responsibilities of BCCLA Directors

Directors on the BCCLA's Board will:

1. Participate actively by:

- 1.1. Attending Board meetings;
- 1.2. Serving as a member of one or more Board committees or working groups, as necessary;
- 1.3. Preparing in advance and engaging in independent and critical thinking for meetings and other Board activities;
- 1.4. Attending events and activities.
2. Be knowledgeable about:
 - 2.1. The mission, vision, goals, strategic direction and work of the BCCLA;
 - 2.2. The BCCLA's Constitution and Bylaws, the BCCLA Board of Directors Governance Responsibilities, and BCCLA internal policies;
 - 2.3. The legal duties of a Director of a registered charity and not-for-profit society;
3. Become informed about:
 - 3.1. Matters that will be the subject of Board deliberation or decision-making;
 - 3.2. Issues that are likely to affect the work of the Board and BCCLA;
4. Support and actively contribute to the Board's work as a team, including through compliance with the BCCLA Communications Commitments;
5. Provide active support for fundraising and development activities by:
 - 5.1. Making a regular personal financial contribution to the BCCLA at a level commensurate with the member's capacity;
 - 5.2. Where able, assisting the BCCLA to connect with people and organizations that can aid in the funding of and support for the BCCLA;
 - 5.3. Taking part in the BCCLA's fundraising and development campaigns;
6. Support the work of the BCCLA by:
 - 6.1. Acting as a goodwill ambassador on behalf of the BCCLA;
 - 6.2. Providing encouragement and support for the work of the staff and volunteers, while being vigilant not to interfere with staff roles or functions;
7. Serve with honour and integrity by:

- 7.1. Complying with the BCCLA's Constitution and Bylaws, the BCCLA Board of Directors Governance Responsibilities, and BCCLA internal policies;
- 7.2. Complying with the legal duties of a Director of a registered charity and not-for-profit society;
- 7.3. Enhancing the image and credibility of the BCCLA, including by ensuring that their personal behaviour reflects well on the BCCLA;
- 7.4. Maintaining required confidence of deliberations and other matters, exercising discretion and exhibiting ethical behaviour;
- 7.5. Avoiding actual and perceived conflicts of interest and other unethical behaviour.

The Journey of Reconciliation: Issuing our Statement of Reconciliation at Canada's TRC

Posted on [September 21, 2013](#) by [BCCLA](#)

This morning the BCCLA joined [Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#) at the Vancouver national event to issue a Statement of Reconciliation. We take part in this event as part of a much broader journey of reconciliation, hoping that with care and action we might walk together to achieve just relations.

BCCLA President Lindsay Lyster delivered the following words on behalf of the Association:

I acknowledge that this ceremony today is taking place on the unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish Nations of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples. Hychka siem – thank you – to those Nations who allow us to share in this land where we live and work. It is an honour for me today, and for the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association, to be with you all today in this ceremony.

The British Columbia Civil Liberties Association is 51 years old. We are Canada's oldest and largest civil liberties and human rights organization, based here in Vancouver, and with an office in Prince George. As civil libertarians, we stand for the fundamental right of each person to dignity and autonomy. We uphold the right of people to choose how they want to live their lives – including the right to live according to one's own culture and values. We stand against the unjust coercion of people by the Crown. We stand in opposition to government action that unjustly takes away the right of people to determine and shape their own future.

In the entire history of Canada, there can be no more shocking, tragic and sustained example of such coercion by the government than the residential schools system. The system, at its very core, and from its very inception through to its conclusion, was a grave violation of civil liberties and human rights. This injustice sowed seeds that have grown into the weeds that continue to damage people to this day. The weeds of injustice continue to damage and to strangle the relationships between individuals, among families, and across communities. They continue to damage and to strangle the relationship between Indigenous peoples and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. Sadly, that was the very design of the schools. They were designed to sever the bonds of children to their families and their communities, and they did so by severing their ties to their languages, their culture, and their land. And they were designed to change the relationship between First

Peoples and the rest of society by erasing Indigenous culture, and assimilating Indigenous children, by force, into white, European Canadian society.

In a very real sense, the residential schools were an unspeakable violation of fundamental human rights and freedoms; as the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples observed, very few people spoke out about the fundamental injustice of the residential schools system – the harrowing physical, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect of children within the system, and the systemic, racist and colonizing attack on Indigenous culture, identity and society, generation after generation.

Now, however, we are gathered to speak about this unspeakable injustice. Now the silence is over, and those who have ears to hear can hear the message of the great injustice that was done. We are here to name and to identify this injustice. We are here to collectively bear witness to its awful legacy. I cannot speak for those who have gone before me. But I know that the reality is that civil society in Canada, including the BCCLA, for years and years, failed to see or to understand what was happening and what was being done in our names. As civil libertarians, we should have seen, and we should have spoken out, sooner than we did. Just as Indigenous people in Canada continue to bear the pain and the ongoing effects of the residential schools system, so too have Canadians inherited the collective responsibility for actions that were taken on our behalf dating back more than a century.

On behalf of the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association, I offer to you today that we are sorry for the terrible injustice that was inflicted on Indigenous people through residential schools. We pledge to you our vigilance in using whatever resources we have to oppose violations of the rights and freedoms of Indigenous people now and in the future. And we pledge our fellowship with Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada as we walk along the difficult road of healing and reconciliation together.