

Media Advisory: BC Civil Liberties Association at Federal Court to oppose government efforts to force pro-life group to endorse abortion for summer grant

For Immediate Release

WHAT: BCCLA at Federal Court of Canada to intervene in *Right to Life Association of Toronto v. Canada (Minister of Employment, Workforce and Labour)*

WHEN: June 22, 2021 at 9:30am ET

WHERE: Federal Court of Canada (Ottawa)

Ottawa, ON (Unceded Algonquin Anishnaabeg Territory) – On June 22, 2021, the BC Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA) will appear as an intervener at the Federal Court of Canada when it hears the case of *Right to Life Association of Toronto v. Canada (Minister of Employment, Workforce and Labour)*. This case considers whether the federal government can require employers to explicitly support reproductive rights including the right to abortion in order to access a grant for hiring young people for jobs during the summer. The Right to Life Association of Toronto (RLAT) challenged this requirement on the basis that demanding organizations attest to holding certain beliefs in order to receive government benefits violates their *Charter* rights to freedom of expression, to freedom of conscience and religion and to be treated equally under law.

Paul Champ, Counsel for the BCCLA: "The BCCLA is an ardent supporter of reproductive rights, including the right to access safe and legal abortions and strongly disagrees with this group's views on abortion. However, forcing groups to attest to holding certain beliefs that adopt the government's views on matters of public policy is unconstitutional. Freedom of expression is a fundamental value in a free and democratic society. The BCCLA believes just as strongly that the government should not interfere with the peaceful expression of alternative views."

The BCCLA is represented by Paul Champ of Champ and Associates.

[The BCCLA's Factum is available here.](#)

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