

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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Special Thank You to Our Former Staff and Board Members in 2020!

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Letter from the President

For 59 years, the BCCLA has been one of Canada's steadfast defenders of human rights and civil liberties for all. Our commitment to protecting human dignity and liberty was unwavering during the global health pandemic. In so many ways, 2020 revealed the deep and layered inequities in our society. From the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, to the deadly tragedies of police violence, to the ongoing onslaught of the opioid crisis, the past year has highlighted what so many people have known to be a daily and lived reality.

On the pages of this report, you will find stories of the work you helped make possible in 2020. Our small but mighty team took on exceptional challenges: from fighting to end policing harms to ensuring that democratic and human rights were protected during the pandemic. Through uncertain times, the BCCLA persisted in our fight to uphold freedom and justice across Canada, particularly for the most vulnerable and oppressed.

We also continued to fight for end-of-life rights and were pleased when the House of Commons passed Bill C-7, enshrining the rights we won for Medical Assistance in Dying in *Carter v. Canada* into law.

Whether we are litigating in some of the most important cases for criminal law reform and democratic rights in the highest courts, advocating for meaningful law reform to protect privacy rights and civil liberties, or advancing public legal education about state infringements, our fight to promote and defend civil liberties and human rights continues well into 2021 and in the years to come. Together, we can push ahead for a future that guarantees civil liberties and human rights for all.

Thank you for standing with us.

Sincerely,
David Fai (he/him/his)
BCCLA President

Letter from the Executive Director

It is strange to write about the good work of the BC Civil Liberties Association in the middle of a global health pandemic and the compounding horrors of the world that reveals the systemic fault lines of who is kept safe and who is not. But, as our members know well, the BCCLA has always issued a clarion call during crisis. Now is no different, and our brilliant and passionate team was defending civil liberties and human rights all throughout 2020.

We were the only civil society organization granted standing at the Cullen Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering, where our team valiantly defended privacy rights and protections against government surveillance and police seizure powers.

We also took action against the harms of policing by launching a lawsuit against the RCMP Commissioner, and working in a powerful coalition to demand a ban on police street checks.

We celebrated victories, including protecting the free speech of frontline healthcare workers through litigation in court, and effective policy advocacy that forced a pause on a new form of detention for youth experiencing an overdose.

We produced legal information factsheets to help navigate the novel landscape of the pandemic. We organized public education webinars that thousands of people participated in.

Thank you to our staff, volunteers, pro bono lawyers, community partners, board members, and all of our members. We cannot do any of this without you.

Sincerely,
Harsha Walia (she/her/hers)
Executive Director



Flattening the COVID-19 Curve: Equality not Enforcement

BCCLA's COVID-19 Response

The COVID-19 pandemic has served as a flashpoint for human rights and civil liberties. Throughout 2020, the BCCLA supported nationwide efforts to protect the human rights of the most vulnerable, while speaking out against unreasonable breaches of our civil liberties and against policing of the pandemic.

Here's some of what we accomplished together.



Expanding Human Rights and Safety for All

No one should be left behind in our public health response. Everyone deserves equal access to vital public health measures. At the start of the pandemic, we mobilized to ensure the expansion of human rights and safety for all by urging government officials to protect the human rights of the most vulnerable. Addressing the social determinants of health, such as race, class, gender, housing, colonialism, disability, age, working conditions, and immigration status, are essential for a meaningful public health response to COVID-19.



Privacy and Surveillance

We advocated against unreasonably invasive digital surveillance during the pandemic. When the government announced a nation-wide COVID-19 contact-tracing app, we raised key privacy and data protection concerns with government officials. Several of our key recommendations were adopted by the federal government.

We also supported the Heiltsuk First Nation, Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council, and Tsilhqot'in National Government in their legal complaint demanding health information

transparency for Indigenous governments. Indigenous communities in BC are most vulnerable to COVID-19, yet they were not being given critical information about where cases are in the province to inform their governance.



Refugee and Migrant Rights

All refugees have an internationally protected right to safety. Yet, instead of ensuring that refugees are included in our public health responses and offered protection from persecution and torture, the federal government chose to bar them from entry throughout the Canada-US land border.

We opposed the closure of the Canada-US border to refugees. This was an unprecedented, unnecessary and unjustified measure that placed refugees' lives and public health at risk. The COVID-19 pandemic is a global one; we can't displace the pandemic beyond our borders. We also supported community advocacy to ensure full access to the COVID-19 vaccine to all migrants regardless of immigration status.



Prisoners' Rights

Echoing the voices of those imprisoned across Canada, the BCCLA called for the safe and immediate compassionate release of eligible incarcerated people from prisons, jails, juvenile detention facilities, and immigration detention centers.

We continue to be deeply concerned about the health and wellbeing of people who remain behind bars. Correctional facilities remain unsanitary, overcrowded, and filled with people with chronic health conditions. We are especially alarmed that the pandemic has provided a pretext for prolonged and inhumane solitary confinement.



Access to Justice for Women, Gender Diverse People, and Youth

COVID-19 prevention methods, including the need to self-isolate and quarantine, have created a dangerous situation for women and gender diverse people experiencing family violence. The closure of courts at the onset of the pandemic had deep impacts on women and gender diverse people's ability to access justice and seek protection orders to ensure their safety.

Alongside partner organizations, we urged immediate attention to the impacts of court closures on women, gender diverse people, and youth experiencing family or intimate partner violence in BC.



Decriminalization

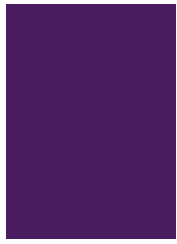
As the COVID-19 pandemic and the overdose crisis sweep across Canada, there is a pressing need to adopt evidence-based measures that meaningfully uphold the health and safety of people who use drugs. We joined 50 organizations to call on the federal government to immediately decriminalize simple drug possession.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also exposed stark health and labour inequities for sex workers. Alongside partner organizations, we called on the federal government to end the criminalization of sex work by issuing a federal directive not to prosecute sex work-specific offences in the *Criminal Code of Canada*.



Your Rights in a Pandemic

To make sure people were equipped with up-to-date legal information on their rights, we developed a series of 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.



The Fight to End Policing Harms

Police accountability has long been an important part of our work. When we think about policing, we think not only about police officers but also of a wider system that criminalizes people, trapping them within an expansive criminal legal system.

People are harassed in the streets by police. Land defenders and environmentalists haven't gotten accountability for illegal spying and data collection. Laws criminalizing sex work and simple drug possession contribute to unsafe conditions. Low-income people have a harder time accessing bail. Young people have different rights to appeal in the criminal legal system. Indigenous and Black people are more likely to be incarcerated in federal prisons for an offence punishable by a mandatory minimum penalty. It's clear that policing and criminalization are systemic issues, and that Black, Indigenous, racialized and low-income people are most often harmed by this system.

To tackle a problem this large and this systemic, we take actions on multiple fronts. As we do advocacy work with community partners, lead public education initiatives, and work in the courts, we carry one truth with us: people deserve a better system. Land defenders deserve better, people experiencing mental health issues deserve better, the next generation deserves better.

“**We are a small organization taking on big legal actions against powerful institutions. We will keep taking these actions for as long as it takes to see real change.**”

2020 Highlights

A Win in Pausing Bill 22 in BC

Bill 22 in BC proposed amendments to BC's *Mental Health Act*. It would have created a new form of detention and involuntary health care for youth experiencing an overdose. Together with partner organizations and groups, we warned that Bill 22 risks increased fatalities for youth and establishes a harmful coercive treatment regime that is inconsistent with any current evidence regarding substance use. Our collective advocacy forced a pause on the passage of the bill.

Solidarity with Land Defenders

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.

Public Legal Education

Responding to an increased interest from the public in learning about racism in policing and police accountability, we organized three educational webinars in 2020. The webinars touched on growing powers of algorithmic policing and surveillance, the impact of policing on Black and Indigenous communities, and police oversight and accountability mechanisms. Over 10,000 people across Canada collectively viewed these webinars.

Ending Street Checks – A Personal Perspective

2020 saw a global movement calling for a reckoning about police violence and harm. People have taken to the streets all over the world, demanding an end to systemic racism in policing. Here in British Columbia, there was renewed attention on police street checks.

A street check is an arbitrary and discretionary practice where police stop a person in public, question them outside the context of a police investigation or arrest, and often record their personal information in a database. Data over ten years, from almost every municipal force across BC, shows that Indigenous and Black people are over-represented in and harmed by street checks. Street checks are also not legally authorized by statute or at common law; they are therefore illegal.



We are resolute in our call for a ban on all street checks in British Columbia. We worked with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, Hogan's Alley Society, WISH Drop-In Centre Society and Black Lives Matter-Vancouver to organize a powerful coalition of 92 organizations and 8,944 individuals calling for a ban on **racist** and **illegal** police street checks across Vancouver and BC. Vancouver and Victoria city councils have passed motions calling for a ban.

We are highlighting the story of Jovian Radheshwar, who was street checked by New Westminster Police in July 2020 and has been fighting for justice since.



In the 2020 summer of protest following the police killing of George Floyd, I was the victim of racial profiling by the New Westminster Police. On July 27, 2020, I was on my way to have coffee with a colleague when I heard someone yell, “Hey, you” at me. It was a pair of police officers. They asked me for my ID and if my name was the name of a suspect they were looking for. Even though I wasn’t, they insisted that I “looked just like him.” When it became clear I wasn’t who they were looking for, they just walked away.

I was not given any additional information about this stop. At no point was I informed of my Charter rights. I was not told whether this was a street check that I could voluntarily leave, or an investigative detention that I couldn’t leave.

Since this encounter, I have filed complaints with the civilian police oversight body, spoken with the Mayor of New Westminster, and brought my story to the media. Months later, I have received neither answers nor justice. Instead, I receive confusing messages from various bureaucratic bodies, none of which communicate straightforwardly and in good faith. I live with a feeling of having a target on my back, every single day, simply due to my appearance.

My story is similar to many others. Innocent people – getting coffee with their friends, walking to their jobs, on their way to school – are targeted by police. Land defenders exerting their rights to protest are experiencing violence at the hands of police. Black, Indigenous, racialized and low-income people are targeted for sport and on the basis of ignorant stereotypes, venal laziness, and corruption.

This system manufactures false positives through street checks and criminalizes entire populations in society. Canada was once a key part of the white supremacist British Empire. It seems that old habits die hard.

Jovian Radheshwar

Jovian Radheshwar

Enough is Enough: BCCLA Sues RCMP Commissioner

In November 2020, we launched our lawsuit against RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki.

For over six years, we had been waiting for a response to our complaint against the RCMP for illegally spying on climate organizations and Indigenous Nations opposed to the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline project.

The RCMP watchdog, the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission (CRCC), launched an investigation into our complaint in 2014 and completed an interim report in 2017. This interim report was forwarded to the RCMP Commissioner, who needs to respond in order for the CRCC to prepare a final report.

That report sat on the RCMP Commissioner's desk for over three years.

This was an unacceptable delay. Saying “enough is enough,” we launched our lawsuit against RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki for her inexcusable delay preventing the release of the CRCC report.

Mere weeks after our lawsuit was launched, the RCMP Commissioner responded to the interim report. This made it possible for the CRCC to release its final report in December 2020.

The CRCC found that the RCMP engaged in many forms of surveillance, including countless examples of RCMP “monitoring” individuals who were opposed to pipeline projects. The RCMP collected and retained comments and opinions expressed by individuals online, and also created secret “profiles” on organizers. The CRCC confirmed that the RCMP tracked and kept records on people who attended demonstrations, and even infiltrated an organizing workshop at the Kelowna United Church.

As of January 18, 2021, 156 interim reports by the CRCC were awaiting a response from the RCMP Commissioner. There are serious consequences for such delays, including situations where RCMP members have retired before the CRCC's report on a complaint against them was complete.



We are going ahead with our lawsuit against RCMP Commissioner Lucki. **The RCMP is one of the most powerful institutions in our society. This lawsuit is no small undertaking. A win in this lawsuit would be a first step in holding the RCMP accountable.**

Free Expression: Speaking Truth to Power

Freedom of expression has been a cornerstone of our work for decades. It is a fundamental right that empowers individuals and oppressed communities to challenge unjust laws, criticize the actions of powerful private corporations, and even scrutinize our own professions and associations. In 2020, we continued our efforts to protect freedom of expression, so you don't have to be afraid to speak truth to power.



Protecting Frontline Health Workers' Free Expression

In October, we celebrated an important victory in protecting the right of healthcare workers, such as Carolyn Strom, to criticize the healthcare system without fear of employer retaliation. In *Strom v. Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association*, the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal overruled a disciplinary decision by the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association (SRNA). The SNRA had found registered nurse Carolyn Strom guilty of professional misconduct for criticizing the care her grandfather received at a

long-term care facility on Facebook in 2015. Ms. Strom was punished and fined \$26,000.

The BCCLA intervened in the case to highlight the importance of freedom of expression and to emphasize that such disciplinary actions set a dangerous precedent preventing workers from advocating for the public good for fear of administrative reprisal. The judgment also explicitly recognized that criticism of the health care system is in the public interest and, when it comes from frontline workers like Ms. Strom, it can bring positive change.

"In the wake of COVID-19, it is more important than ever that healthcare workers and professionals are empowered to shine a light on the public health sector," stated Meghan Tweedie, BCCLA Staff Counsel.

Charter Rights and First Nations

In September, we authored an unprecedented letter arguing that the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* applies to First Nations people and those on reserve. Kwantlen First Nation (KFN) members reached out to us after receiving a demand by the Band Council that forbids speaking about KFN governance in public or on social media.

Although Canadian courts have decided whether First Nations people are protected by the *Charter* on a case-by-case basis, we were able to provide KFN with a list of precedent-setting legal cases where First Nations people's *Charter* right to freedom of expression was confirmed.

Anti-State, Not Hate

Throughout 2020, we spoke out against the implementation of the International Holocaust Remembrance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism. In January 2020, we urged Montreal City Council to not adopt the definition, and, in October, we provided a written submission urging the Government of Ontario not to adopt the definition that was put forward in Bill 168, *Combating Antisemitism Act*, 2020.

While we condemn antisemitism and all racism, the legal adoption of the IHRA definition is inconsistent with the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and would greatly chill Canadian, especially Palestinian and Arab Canadian, protests of Israeli state policy.

Free Expression in The Courts

► **For the first time ever, Canada's highest court interpreted and upheld Ontario's provincial anti-SLAPP legislation.** SLAPP or "Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation" discourage people from exercising freedom of speech on matters of public interest. The BCCLA intervened in two significant court cases, *1704604 Ontario Ltd. v. Pointes Protection Association* and *Bent v. Platnick*, to support freedom of expression and to discourage litigation by powerful private actors that curbs the free expression of citizens in important public interest debates. In *1704604 Ontario Ltd. v. Pointes Protection Association*, the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously ruled that a developer's lawsuit against a residents' group meant to silence critics and could not go forward.

► **We defended free expression against "site-blocking" orders** in *Teksavvy Solutions Inc v Bell Media et al.* This important case will determine whether Canadian courts have the power to force internet service providers (ISPs) to block access to websites or internet services. We argued that these orders violate *Charter* rights of website operators, the ISPs' customers, and the Canadian public, and should only be issued when the harm of not blocking the site outweighs the harm of blocking it.

Looking Ahead

Anti-SLAPP legislation sends a powerful message to large corporations and wealthy individuals that they can't bully citizens, activists and non-profit organizations into silence through abusive litigation. Currently, only three provinces have enacted anti-SLAPP laws —Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia. We will continue to support efforts to ensure that anti-SLAPP laws are enacted in the seven remaining Canadian provinces.

Defending Privacy Rights

For decades, we have been staunch defenders of privacy rights and protections. From sounding the alarm against facial recognition, to advocating for reforms to privacy laws in light of emerging technologies, the BCCLA is challenging invasions of privacy rights across Canada.

Money Laundering and Privacy Rights: BCCLA at the Cullen Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering in BC

Since February 2020, the BCCLA has been participating in the Cullen Commission of Inquiry into Money Laundering in British Columbia. We are the only civil society organization that was granted full participant standing at the Commission. The BCCLA supports efforts to combat money laundering. However, some recommendations raise serious concerns for privacy, due process, and expansion of police powers. We are working to ensure that civil liberties, human rights, and the values set out in the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* play a key role at the Commission.

What rights and liberties are at stake?

➤ Surveillance

- The Commission is considering recommendations to expand police surveillance, and increase information collection and sharing to combat money laundering.
- We're arguing for strong limits on the expanded use of surveillance technologies.

➤ Expanding financial surveillance

- The Commission is considering proposals to expand the surveillance powers of the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC) – raising serious privacy rights concerns.
- We're advocating for proper checks and balances to any measures that involve increased data collection and sharing.

➤ Unexplained Wealth Orders (UWOs)

- Unexplained wealth orders are being considered as a measure to combat money laundering. They would give the government the power to seize wealth that appears to be beyond a person's financial means, unless that person can explain where that money came from.
- UWOs may not require the person to be convicted or even suspected of a crime. They are a clear violation of due process rights and the presumption of innocence. We stand against this unnecessary expansion of government power.



- **Discrimination and systemic racism**
 - Some recommendations before the Commission could have a disproportionate impact on racialized and other marginalized people. We recognize that racism against East Asian Canadians has animated public discussions regarding money laundering, and will continue to challenge these narratives at the Commission.
 - The BCCLA elicited important evidence from Professor Henry Yu, who appeared as an expert witness at the Cullen Commission. He provided much-needed insight into how anti-Asian racism, white supremacy, and Canada's immigration laws play a role in public discourse about money laundering.
- **Addressing the root causes**
 - We will press the Commission to explore the root causes of money laundering and organized crime, such as drug prohibition and weak oversight of the real estate and gaming sectors. The government should not give police aggressive new powers to investigate and prosecute money laundering without first investigating these underlying conditions.
- **Protecting against government overreach**
 - Any expansion of police powers should come with meaningful oversight. Government bodies given the power to collect and share personal information should have to report publicly on what information is collected, how much is collected, how long it is kept for, who it is shared with, and how often it is shared.

We will continue to bring our expertise in privacy rights, criminal law reform, police accountability, access to justice, and due process to the Cullen Commission in order to provide a much-needed civil liberties-based perspective.

What else have we accomplished to defend privacy rights?

- **We celebrated the news that Clearview AI is ceasing its controversial facial recognition services in Canada.** A joint investigation by four federal and provincial Privacy Commissioners found that 48 law enforcement agencies have run thousands of searches using Clearview AI's facial recognition software database. The absence of transparency is deeply troubling, and it signals a lack of accountability around the adoption of this technology.
- **We called for an immediate ban on the use of all facial recognition surveillance by federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies.** Facial recognition surveillance is invasive and a violation of our privacy rights. The technology is also inaccurate – it is known for its racial biases, which misidentify Black, Asian, and Indigenous faces 10 to 100 times more than white faces.
- **We advocated for major reforms to BC's *Personal Information and Protection Act*.** The Act has not gone through substantial amendments since its enactment in 2003. We called for greater public education, clarity in organizations' privacy policies, enhanced credentials of privacy officers in organizations, and enhanced privacy protections.



Human Rights: Change Through Collaboration

We have always fought to protect fundamental human rights and freedoms, but we never do this work alone. From coalition work and joint advocacy, to lending our perspectives in challenges against unjust legislation, to amplifying the voices of people across the country, we continue to uphold human rights and push for change through collaboration.

In 2020, our collaborative work with partner organizations, pro bono counsel, and our membership resulted in multiple victories for access to justice, human dignity, and protecting democratic rights.

Dismantling Legacies of Discrimination

As part of the Coalition on Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) in BC, we raised concerns about the lack of information and registration delays for First Nations women and their descendants who are newly entitled to status. In 2019, Canada made historic and welcome amendments to sexist provisions in the *Indian Act*, entitling up to 450,000 people to status. However, information on eligibility is not being distributed to communities, and the wait time for processing applications can take up to three years.

Along with the BC Human Rights Tribunal and other organizations, we also advocated for the addition of Indigenous identity as a ground of discrimination in the BC Human Rights Code. The Code prohibits discrimination based on race, colour, ancestry, and place of origin, which fails to capture the experiences reported by Indigenous Peoples and protect them from exercising rights unique to their Indigenous identity.

Protecting the Right to Die with Dignity

We continued the fight for end-of-life rights and won. In February 2020, the federal government introduced Bill C-7, which allows those who are intolerably suffering and incurably ill to access medical assistance in dying (MAID) without being “near-death”. The Bill also allows for advanced requests in place of a final confirmation for those whose capacity to do so may become impaired. Before the Bill was introduced, we created a digital toolkit that was downloaded thousands of times to help people across Canada participate in the public consultation process and make their voices heard. We successfully advocated against major flaws in Bill C-7, including barriers that flatly barred some patients from eligibility for MAID. In March of 2021, the House of Commons and Senate passed Bill C-7.



Human Rights in The Courts

- In *Attorney General of Quebec, et al. v. 9147-0732 Québec Inc.*, **we secured an important victory for human dignity** when the Supreme Court of Canada ruled corporations don't have a constitutional right to freedom from cruelty. The BCCLA intervened to argue that protections against cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment only apply to human beings.
- In *Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms v. Her Majesty the Queen (Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta)*, **we are holding governments accountable** by fighting Alberta's unconstitutional Bill 10. The bill grants sweeping new powers to the provincial government to write new laws without legislative oversight. This violates our right to democratic due process and the *Charter*. Even during a pandemic, the Alberta government remains bound by the constitution.
- **We fought to protect benefits for young adults leaving government care in Alberta** in *AC and JF v. Her Majesty the Queen*. The case was about an Alberta law that put young adults raised in government care at risk of losing financial and emotional benefits to help them transition to independence. We argued that the law should be suspended because it violates the rights to life, liberty, and security of the person under s. 7 of the *Charter*.



Thank You Pro Bono Counsel and Volunteers

With the incredible support of pro bono counsel and volunteers across the country, we are changing the landscape of civil liberties in Canada. Thank you to everyone who dedicated thousands of hours to protect and extend civil liberties and human rights in 2020.

Pro Bono Counsel

Neil Abraham
Spencer Bass
Amanda Bertucci
Simon Cameron
Paul Champ
Gerald Chan
David Fai
Greg Fingas
Adam Goldenberg
Kathryn Gullason
Nader Hasan
Joseph J. Arvay
Jennifer Klink
Peter Kolla
Alison Latimer
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Roy Millen
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Bijon Roy
Marilyn Sanford
Joshua Sealy-Harrington
Elena Semenova
Elin Sigurdson
Daniel Song
Maia Tsurumi
Gib van Ert
Christine Wadsworth
Adriel Weaver
Nathan Whitling

BCCLA honours the memory of Joseph J. Arvay, O.C., O.B.C., Q.C. Joe was a brilliant constitutional litigator and civil liberties champion. He fearlessly represented the BCCLA on a pro bono basis for three decades in many ground breaking cases. In his honour, we are proud to announce that we will now be awarding the “Joseph J. Arvay Award for Excellence in Legal Advocacy” as part of our bi-annual Liberty Awards.

Volunteers & Pro Bono Students

Sean An	Nathalie Giasson
Ian Bownick	Sonia Khan
Hellen Chan	Amy Kim
Hyemin Cho	Zoe Nygra
Joeveen Dhari	Melissa Vogler
Cameron Fox	Linbo Zhao



Thank you to our funders and community partners

BCCLA wishes to gratefully acknowledge the financial and in-kind assistance of our major funders and community partners for the 2020 calendar year. Their contribution benefits the advancement of civil liberties and human rights in BC and Canada through our litigation, law reform, and public legal education efforts.

Law Foundation of BC
Vancouver Foundation
Court Challenges Program
Province of BC
BC Government and Service Employees Union
Health Sciences Association of BC



Join the fight

We wouldn't have victories to celebrate without our supporters standing with us.

There are many ways to join us:

Volunteer

Join us in our office, at our events, or out in the community!

Find out more at bccla.org/volunteer

Become a donor

None of our work would be possible without our donors' generosity. Become a donor and join a group of like-minded people who believe in civil liberties and human rights for all.

Find out more at act.bccla.org/donate

Become a member

There is strength in numbers, and our members are a crucial part of amplifying our voice and bringing critical civil liberties and human rights issues to light.

Become a member at act.bccla.org/become_a_member

Spread the word

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook, and sign up to receive emails from us at bccla.org



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Financial Statement

Statement of operations and changes in fund balances

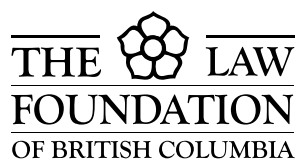
Year ended December 31

	2020				2019
	General Fund	Stabilization Fund	Trust Fund	Total	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
REVENUE					
Membership and donations	622,489	—	—	622,489	1,137,723
Law Foundation of BC – operating grant	380,000	—	—	380,000	380,000
Distributions from BCCLA Legacy Trust Fund	255,624	—	—	255,624	—
Grants earned	237,327	—	—	237,327	237,542
Net investment income (loss)	201	28,884	36,062	65,147	180,266
Miscellaneous and special events	38,425	—	—	38,425	25
Wage subsidy - government assistance	25,000	—	—	25,000	—
Amortization of deferred contributions	10,200	—	—	10,200	10,200
Endowment distributions	6,264	—	—	6,264	6,070
Litigation recovery	3,718	—	—	3,718	49,068
	1,579,248	28,884	36,062	1,644,194	2,000,894
EXPENSES					
Salaries and benefits	1,361,339	—	—	1,361,339	1,047,621
Office operating	123,008	—	—	123,008	204,021
Rent and utilities	67,498	—	—	67,498	67,177
Contract fees	46,642	—	—	46,642	102,309
Litigation costs	38,657	—	—	38,657	33,939
Amortization	36,345	—	—	36,345	33,748
Partner contributions	22,500	—	—	22,500	15,000
Fundraising	16,066	—	—	16,066	17,170
Newsletter	11,154	—	—	11,154	5,121
Travel and accommodation	9,506	—	—	9,506	27,209
Bank and donation processing charges	8,882	—	—	8,882	13,223
Insurance	4,379	—	—	4,379	4,202
Meetings, publications, events	161	—	—	161	8,357
	1,746,137	—	—	1,746,137	1,579,097
Excess of revenue (expenses) for the year	(166,889)	28,884	36,062	(101,943)	421,797
Interfund transfers	87,670	(37,670)	(50,000)	—	—
	(79,219)	(8,786)	(13,938)	(101,943)	421,797
Fund balances, beginning of year	512,547	74,272	1,084,739	1,671,558	1,249,761
Fund balances, end of year	433,328	65,486	1,070,801	1,569,615	1,671,558

The 2020 Financial Statements have been approved by the BCCLA Board and will be presented to our membership at the 2021 AGM on June 23th.

The Annual Report is a publication of the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association. Established in 1962, the BCCLA 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.

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The BCCLA's main office is located on the unceded and ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.



306 – 268 Keefer Street
Vancouver, BC V6A 1X5
Unceded Coast Salish Territory

Tel: 604.687.2919
Email: info@bccla.org

