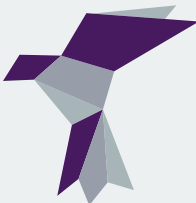




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Letter from the President

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I have been thinking a lot about community: about how we foster trust, belonging and safety, about how we influence our environments, hoping to create something better for ourselves and the future.

At their core, communities exist when people come together through shared values. But it's how we relate to each other over time that drives our shared connection. Being a part of a community involves knowing how and when to show up for each other – that's what the BC Civil Liberties Association strives to do.

The BCCLA is a community of staff, volunteers, board members, donors, and allies. We share core values and goals, but our experiences, skills and identities may be very different. It requires us to assess our roles and relationships with others. As we reflect on our role in community and how we show up, we are building an understanding of how we effectively engage with, support, challenge and grow alongside others.

In 2022, the BCCLA worked in big ways and in small. We exposed mass surveillance for what it is, releasing scores of documents that show how our government's security and intelligence operations have kept an eye on you. We stood with protesters at Argenta and Fairy Creek by calling out the RCMP's Community-Industry Response Group. And we continue to support the Indigenous rights of the Wet'sewet'en people.



As we reflect on our role in community and how we show up, we are building an understanding of how we effectively engage with, support, challenge and grow alongside others."

We worked alongside East Coast Prison Justice Society as the only civil rights organization at Nova Scotia's Mass Casualty Commission of Inquiry, where we pushed for accountability in policing. And we've offered our support to communities who are disproportionately affected by government policies relating to drug possession, sex work and housing.

By looking internally and externally, the BCCLA will continue to show up for the communities we engage with while strengthening our own. I'm proud to include my voice alongside our staff, board, and membership as we advance the goals of liberty, equality, and justice.

Karen Mirsky (she/her)
BCCLA President

The Fight for Police Accountability

Police forces in Canada wield disproportionate powers that ultimately reproduce systemic and colonial violence. The BCCLA works towards the goal of holding these state powers accountable through coalition building, litigation, and advocating for policy reform.

In 2022, the BCCLA continued to fight against the harms of police powers and hold Canadian police forces to account through coalition building, litigation, and policy reform.



Justice Delayed is Justice Denied

On January 11, 2022, the BCCLA was vindicated when the Federal Court ruled in our favour in a landmark case addressing the RCMP Commissioner's extreme delays in responding to public complaints.

In 2014, the BCCLA had filed a complaint against the RCMP for spying on Indigenous and climate advocates opposed to the Northern Gateway pipeline. The complaint was filed with the CRCC – the RCMP watchdog. Due to the RCMP Commissioner's extreme delay in processing complaints, the CRCC was only able to release its final report nearly seven years after the complaint was filed. In court, the BCCLA argued that systemic delays have plagued the RCMP complaints

process for over a decade, preventing the RCMP from being held to account, even through this inadequate complaints channel.

The Federal Court of Canada agreed that then-RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki had breached her statutory obligations by failing to respond to a CRCC interim report about the BCCLA's complaint "as soon as feasible," as she is required to under the *RCMP Act*. The Court held that the RCMP Commissioner must respond to CRCC reports within six months, absent exceptional circumstances.

This decision is a step in the right direction for communities who have been demanding an end to the abuse of police power. Thank you for standing with us in our long fight for justice.

Challenging the Community-Industry Response Group

In July, the BCCLA and six other groups filed a joint complaint with the chairperson of the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission (CRCC) against the RCMP's Community-Industry Response Group (C-IRG). The C-IRG was established in 2017 with the sole mandate of providing a coordinated response to public order events related to broad public opposition and Indigenous land jurisdiction over projects like the Coastal Gaslink pipeline. In its first five years, the C-IRG group spent nearly 50 million dollars quashing people's rights to free expression and congregation.

Our joint complaint to the CRCC outlined a C-IRG unit's egregious behaviour and unlawful arrests during a May 17, 2022 raid of a protest area and soft blockade known as "Grouse Camp" at the Argenta-Johnson's Landing in British Columbia. The C-IRG established two exclusion zones followed by approximately 18 arrests against those allegedly in contempt of an August 2019 injunction known as the "Salisbury Injunction." Most of the arrestees associated with the campaign to protect the area, located between Kootenay Lake and the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy, from industrial harvesting say they were on the side of the road at the time of arrest and were in breach of the injunction.

This complaint is one example of a larger, horrifying pattern of the C-IRG unit acting with impunity in attempts to intimidate and stifle environmental movements and enact colonial rule across the province in areas like Fairy Creek. The CRCC is now undergoing a systemic review of the C-IRG and the BCCLA has joined a national coalition of impacted communities, legal associations, grassroots groups, and human rights organizations. We are calling for

the immediate suspension of all C-IRG deployment pending investigation and resolution of all complaints currently before them. This dedicated group will not stop until the C-IRG is abolished.

Advocating for Police Oversight at the Mass Casualty Commission

The BCCLA joined forces with East Coast Prison Justice Society to participate in the Mass Casualty Commission, an independent commission held in 2022 into the April 2020 events in which a man impersonating an RCMP officer killed 22 people in Nova Scotia.

The record before the Commission revealed a catastrophic policing failure, both on April 18-19, 2020 and long before, that contributed to the mass casualty. This failure did not result from any one officer's action or inaction, but rather, from a series of individual and systemic errors and oversights, some taking place far prior to the night in question.

Our joint-submission drew attention to the engrained systemic and cultural nature of policing problems, stressing that current oversight mechanisms are ineffective and leave communities vulnerable. We also recommended that some policing resources be redirected to develop and enhance non-policing community-based services.

We are cautiously encouraged by the Commission's newly released report, which calls for a community-focused approach to public safety and a strengthening of police governance and accountability that are badly needed in Nova Scotia and across Canada. As we continue to dig into the seven-volume report, we will advocate for recommendations that echo those of our coalition to be implemented without delay by all levels of government.

Protecting Migrant Rights

The BCCLA has long advocated for the rights of migrants and refugees. People move for love, for work, for a better life and yet migrants are so often marginalized, facing the brunt of systemic discrimination and state violence. Where people expect safety and protection, we have seen Canada offer a colonial immigration system that monitors, excludes, and violates people's human rights.

Ending Immigration Detention in Provincial Jails

In 2022, the BCCLA sent a clear message that Canada's immigration detention regime is inhumane and ineffective, violating human rights.

With support and leadership from Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, the BCCLA helped to start the immigration detention coalition formed to pressure BC to terminate its contract with Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA). This contract allowed the CBSA to detain migrants and refugees in provincial jails on purely administrative grounds.

We launched a 14-day campaign in coalition with people with lived experience of immigration detention and other BC migrant rights supporters calling on the City of Vancouver to urge the Province to end its contract with the CBSA. We highlighted concerns with practices in immigration detention, including that they are discriminatory against people with mental health conditions. Immigration detainees from racialized

communities, primarily detainees who are Black, are also incarcerated for longer periods and are more frequently held in provincial jails. In the first motion of its kind, the City voted unanimously to echo our call.

Following this, in July 2022, the BC government announced its decision to end the CBSA contract provincewide.

This win was achieved in coalition with people with lived experience of detention as well as a coalition of BC groups and individuals, including former City Councillor Jean Swanson, Dr. Efrat Arbel, BC Poverty Reduction Coalition, SWAN, Community Legal Assistance Society, Centre for Gender & Sexual Health Equity, Migrant Workers Centre BC, West Coast LEAF, Justice for Girls, BC Prisoner Legal Services, Pivot Legal Society, Rainbow Refugee, VAST, the Immigration and Refugee Legal Clinic, Sanctuary Health, Migrante BC, BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner and BC General Employees' Union.

Since last July, Nova Scotia, Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan have followed suit by also ending their immigration detention agreements with CBSA.

"I never understood why CBSA arrested me... No one explained the rules and there was no interpretation support in jail... I turned into an inmate, a number, a faceless nobody. I remained in immigration detention for three months." – Sara Lopez, a person with lived experience in immigration detention



Advocates from the Immigration Detention coalition gather outside Vancouver City Hall

"Immigration detainees are people who come to Canada seeking safety or a better life...In making their decision, the Province has prioritized the rights of detainees and acknowledged the atrocities they faced within this cruel, carceral system." – Mara Selanders, BCCLA Policy Staff Counsel (Community)

While the end of these provincial contracts is a heartening step towards reforming the racist and carceral foundations upon which Canada's immigration regime is built, we know this was only a first step.

The BCCLA will continue to work alongside fellow advocates, to hold state actors accountable and uphold and enforce the human rights of all those seeking to call this place home.

Defending Refugee Rights

Under section 7 of the *Charter*, Canada cannot remove refugees entering the country to a territory where they run a risk of serious human rights violations or will not be treated in accordance with the principles of fundamental

justice. Canada also has legal obligations as a signatory of the *Refugee Convention*, which is incorporated into Canada's *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*.

In October 2022, the BCCLA intervened in a case at the Supreme Court of Canada in solidarity with the Canadian Council for Refugees to challenge the constitutionality of the *Safe Third Country Agreement*—the agreement between Canada and the United States which establishes that refugees entering Canada from the United States are ineligible for refugee protection in Canada.

This agreement is based on the idea that the US will fulfil Canada's obligations under international law and section 7 of the *Charter*. The reality is that refugee claimants in the US face serious risk of detention and criminal prosecution - measures systemically applied to punish claimants who have entered the country illegally – ultimately obstructing or delaying their access to the refugee process. This regime disproportionately impacts women, LGBTQI+ refugees, and other marginalized groups.

The agreement enables Canada to routinely return refugees entering from the US into the hostile and traumatizing American asylum system.

In light of the federal government and the United States' recent announcement of the expansion of the *Safe Third Country Agreement*, our concerns for migrants and refugees seeking a better life only to be returned to the US are even more concerning today.

Standing with Indigenous Communities

At the BCCLA, we actively reflect on our positionality in our work. As a predominantly settler organization, we seek to address our part in perpetuating colonial violence. We will continue to fight to secure justice within and beyond colonial legal systems, through allyship with Indigenous voices, advocating for legal reform, and promoting the self-determination of Indigenous communities.



Calls for Justice: MMIWG2S Proposed Legislation

During 2022, the BCCLA continued to support the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre in their advocacy and organizing around a federal bill to advance calls for justice that address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit peoples. Their aim is to provide federal legislation that will push the government to be accountable to and no longer ignore the calls to justice that came out of its own national inquiry.

Fighting Gender Discrimination in the *Indian Act*

In December, the BCCLA wrote a letter to the UN Rapporteurs in support of Mr. Jeremy Matson, a member of the Squamish Nation, in his ongoing fight against gender discrimination and assimilation under the *Indian Act*.

The *Indian Act* – created for the explicit goal of assimilating and imposing colonial rule over First Nations people – produces and perpetuates discrimination against First Nations and individuals, particularly First Nations women and 2SLGBTQ+ people, including through the determination of Status. Historically, the Canadian government determined Indian Status solely through the male line of descent. Although legislative

amendments have enabled many of those previously excluded to register as 'Status Indians', they have failed to fully eliminate gender discrimination in the *Act*.

The descendants of First Nations women are more likely to be registered under section 6(2) of the *Indian Act*, which ultimately means less ability to pass Status to their children and grandchildren. Mr. Matson was only last year permitted to register his children under the *Indian Act*, but only under section 6(2) because he had derived his Status through the female line. For this reason alone, Mr. Matson's children are unable to pass their Status to their own children.

The ongoing Status restrictions demonstrate not only that the *Indian Act* registration provisions violate fundamental rights protected by UNDRIP, but also that Canada has failed to provide First Nations people with any effective mechanism for redress for such violations. This discrimination, entrenched in the *Indian Act* for over 150 years, endures and must be dismantled in its entirety.

Supporting Families impacted by Police Violence

The BCCLA provided ongoing support to Laura Holland, whose son Jared Lowndes was murdered by the RCMP in Campbell River in July 2021. Jared was a member of the Wet'suwet'en Nation, a member of the Laksilyu (Small Frog) House, and a loving father to two daughters. Laura, also a member of the Wet'suwet'en Nation, leads

the Justice for Jared campaign demand justice and the end to the criminalization of Indigenous people. Our Policy Counsel accompanied Laura to meetings with the Independent Investigations Office (IIO) alongside other legal counsel and provided assistance to Laura in advocating for the return of Jared's belongings. In December 2022, the IIO announced in a meeting with Laura Holland and BCCLA counsel that the Chief Civilian Director had found that there were reasonable grounds to believe that two of the RCMP officers involved in Jared's death had committed one or more offences.

The BCCLA supported Haida Elder Ruby Marks, whose brother, Jimmy Johannesson, was murdered by the RCMP on April 8, 2022. Our support and advocacy included demanding action from the government and sharing those demands with media and the public. We will continue to coalition-build around advocacy for Laura and Ruby's families, as well as other families across Canada who have lost loved ones to the RCMP.

Advocating Against Mass Incarceration

We intervened in the Supreme Court case of *R v Sharma* in March of 2022, a case regarding Conditional Sentence Orders (CSOs). CSOs allow an offender to serve their sentence in the community and out of incarceration. Introduced in 1996, CSOs reflected Parliament's specific intention of reducing the overincarceration of Indigenous people.

Ms. Sharma, a single mother of Ojibwe ancestry and a member of the Saugeen First Nation, pleaded guilty to importing drugs in exchange for money from her boyfriend, a task she carried out to avoid eviction for herself and her daughter.

The sentencing provisions in the *Criminal Code* restrict the ability of judges to apply CSOs for certain offences. Using section 15 of the Charter – which makes clear that every individual in Canada, regardless of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, colour, sex, age or physical or mental disability, is to be treated with the same respect, dignity, and consideration – we argued that these sentencing provisions were unconstitutional as they perpetuate a colonial approach to justice against Indigenous people, leading to overincarceration. **We argued that CSOs should be available to more people, particularly Indigenous people, to address the growing problem that Canada's prisons are serving as the country's new residential schools.**

Further, we pushed the Court to acknowledge that the current laws perpetuate, reinforce, and exacerbate disadvantages that continue Canada's colonization. As an intergenerational survivor of residential schools, Ms. Sharma endured a tumultuous childhood. The intersecting factors in her life are exactly what CSOs were designed for, and yet the laws enacted in 2012 remove these sentences from the judge's available options.

In November, we were disappointed to hear the Supreme Court's decision to ignore those realities in favour of maintaining the status quo of continued discrimination. The Court reverted to a technical view of section 15 of the Charter by placing an undue burden on Indigenous defendants to prove what has already been recognized time and time again: the lasting legacy of colonialism in the criminal justice system has directly resulted in the overrepresentation of Indigenous people in prisons.

2022 in Review

January 11

BCCLA wins landmark case against RCMP Commissioner for extreme delays in responding to public complaints by challenging the RCMP's failure to respond to its own watchdog.

January

February

February 28

The BCCLA joins Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and partner organizations in calling for Canada to abolish its immigration detention agreements with Canada Border Services Agency.

March 2 – 3

Over 100 students from across the lower mainland attend our 17th Annual Youth Conference presented by the BCGEU, featuring workshops on community organizing, workers' rights, colonial legal systems and Indigenous law.

March 22

BCCLA appears at the Supreme Court of Canada in *Hills and Hilbach* – two cases about the constitutionality of mandatory minimum sentences to argue that mandatory minimums can be grossly disproportionate and cruel.

March

April 30

The Final Report on the BC Police Act Review is released, which falls short of the 65 recommendations made in our submission.

April

May 19

We supported The Student Press Freedom Act campaign led by Jessica Kim and Spencer Izen of The Griffins' Nest student newspaper. Along with the Canadian Association of Journalists, we called on the Vancouver School Board to reconsider two recently adopted administrative policies that could be used to limit the free expression of student journalists in Canada.

May 30

BCCLA welcomes Supreme Court of Canada's ruling in *R v Bissonnette*, which unanimously affirmed that the Criminal Code provision authorizing the stacking of parole ineligibility periods for life sentences is unconstitutional.

May

June

June 1

The BCCLA testifies at the Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence regarding Bill S-7, making key recommendations to strengthen the digital privacy of travelers at border crossings.

"Crossing the border with a personal digital device is analogous to crossing the border with almost every piece of mail a person has ever received or sent...It's extremely unreasonable for a single written letter to attract even greater protection in law than the information stored in a personal digital device." – Meghan McDermott, BCCLA Director of Policy

June 16

The Final Report of the Cullen Commission is released, proposing an ineffective, tough-on-crime approach to money laundering in British Columbia rather than following our recommendations.

June 23

BCCLA celebrates unanimous Supreme Court of Canada decision reaffirming the right of public interest organizations to mount constitutional challenges in *British Columbia (Attorney General) v. Council of Canadians with Disabilities*.



July 12

Our Digital Privacy for Youth project, including a new video and full-colour booklet, is launched with the online event Privacy Rights in Canada.

July 28

Advocates from the immigration detention coalition join the BCCLA press conference in response to BC's historic decision to end their CBSA immigration detention agreement.

July

August

August 24

BCCLA speaks out against Premier of BC's proposal to involuntarily detain drug users in British Columbia.

September 8

A coalition of advocates join Ruby Marks on the 5-month anniversary of her brother Haida Elder Jimmie Johannesson's death following violent actions by the Surrey RCMP to demand that BC and Canada urgently reform policing.

September

October

October 7

In our joint-submission in Phase Three of the Mass Casualty Commission in Nova Scotia, the BCCLA and East Coast Prison Justice Society call for a community-focused approach to public safety and a strengthening of police governance and accountability.

December 6

Speaking out against proposals in City of Vancouver and Delta for body-worn cameras for police, which do not provide real accountability and pose serious privacy risks.

December 9

We joined PIVOT Legal in calling for urgent response to forced evictions at the Hastings Street Encampment during an extreme weather storm to protect the health and human rights of unhoused people in the Downtown Eastside.

December 19

The BCCLA publishes Pulling Back the Curtain on Canada's Mass Surveillance Programs – detailing a decade long case that exposed Canada's mass surveillance of Canadians' telephone and internet communications, resulting in vast improvements to the oversight of Canada's spy agencies.

November 7

The BCCLA and partners call on Vancouver and Richmond city councils not to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism, which is extremely vague and will severely chill political expressions of criticism of Israel as well as support for Palestinian rights.



December

Defending Your Privacy Rights in the Courts

Privacy is a fundamental human right. We all deserve to communicate and move through society free of surveillance and with a sense of personal security. From exposing government overreach to advocating for proper safeguards, the BCCLA is stepping up to protect your privacy rights in courtrooms across Canada.

Providing Guidance on Undercover Police Investigations Online

In May of 2022, the BCCLA intervened at the Supreme Court of Canada in *R v Ramelson, Haniffa, Dare, and Jaffer*, a group of cases involving police investigations online.

We submitted that undercover police investigations conducted in the virtual world pose unique threats to privacy and freedom of expression. We argued that State scrutiny into activities online enhances the risk that individuals will self-censor and withdraw from online participation altogether. We also urged the Court to affirm that these important *Charter* interests of privacy and freedom of expression are interconnected.

When the Court rendered its decision in November, we were encouraged that it considered our submissions in providing important guidance on limits to police investigation powers in virtual spaces. We should all be able to enjoy and expect a certain degree of anonymity and freedom on the internet free from state interference. Online spaces, including chatrooms, message boards, and social networking sites, provide a crucial medium for people to express themselves and find a sense of community. At the same time, the internet allows police to impact these interests

on a broader scale previously unseen in the physical world. The Court agreed on these points, emphasizing that online spaces have unique and distinct features that do not align with any simple analogue in the physical world.

Protecting Your Right to Online Privacy

In 2022, the BCCLA was granted leave to intervene by the Supreme Court of Canada in the case of *R v Bykovets* to argue that there is a reasonable expectation of privacy in Internet Protocol (IP) addresses. Essentially, the question in this case is whether police need to seek a search warrant before obtaining this personal information. While an IP address may at first appear to be a string of meaningless numbers, it is, in reality, unique and specific information that can reveal a person's identity and, by extension, our most personal and private online behaviour. In this appeal, the BCCLA is showing the inherent imbalance of power between internet users and police conducting searches, as well as companies that provide services online. People have no choice but to use an IP address to access the Internet and participate freely in modern society. Police should need a warrant to access such personal information. After accessing services through the internet, we should be able to decide for ourselves whether our IP addresses should be shared with others.



The corporations that run the websites we visit are able to set conditions on how they use the data they collect about us. When the police are able to go to those corporations to obtain this information, without oversight, that represents an expansion of police powers."

– Vibert Jack, BCCLA Litigation Director

What else are we doing to fight for your privacy rights?

- ***BC Civil Liberties Association v. Attorney General of Canada.*** We are continuing to pursue our 2014 complaint against CSIS for spying on peaceful land defenders. In 2022 we went to court to fight against the governments efforts to withhold information from us and keep us out of the courtroom during portions of the hearing. We're awaiting a decision from the Federal Court on these issues.
- We spoke out against a failed Vancouver City Council motion for ***the vast expansion of CCTV surveillance in Vancouver***, and the City of Vancouver's decision to research police-worn body cameras. We are concerned these proposals will take up resources better used for community-building work, and substantially interfere with the day-to-day privacy of citizens.
- ***We launched our Digital Privacy Rights for Youth project*** to educate the next generation on their right to privacy on electronic devices in searches in the classroom, in police searches, and with regard to their freedom of expression online.



Confronting Systems of Criminalization

The State has the power to make substantial change that could address the root causes of societal issues. Instead of investing in these solutions, we see police budget increases, increased criminalization and further limitations of civil liberties. These tactics, used time and time again, only push vulnerable people further into the margins.

We know that over-policing and criminalization disproportionately affects already vulnerable populations and do not address the root cause of problems like the toxic drug supply. The government can no longer hide behind the moralistic ideal that treats over-policing and criminalization as a way to “keep everyone safe” when we know it puts the lives and safety of drug users, sex workers, and other marginalized people at risk.

Drug Policy

In 2022, the BCCLA continued our ongoing support for the rights of people who use drugs. The federal government’s response to the drug poisoning crisis has been inadequate and irresponsible. The moralization of drug use fundamentally disregards the truth that when drugs are used with non-coercive access to a regulated, consistent, reliable, and legal safe supply of drugs, people do not die.



Graffiti at corner of Frances Street & Salsbury Drive, Vancouver, BC / Unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətat̓ (Tsleil-Waututh). Removed by construction.

In June, the federal government passed Bill C-5, which removes mandatory minimum penalties for all drug offences under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA)* and the *Criminal Code*. However, Bill C-5 does not fully decriminalize simple possession. It is only an inadequate half measure.

The BCCLA urged the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs to make amendments to Bill C-5 to allow for meaningful change. These amendments included repealing all mandatory minimum sentences; removing unnecessary restrictions on the availability of conditional sentence orders; repealing section 4 of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and decriminalizing necessity trafficking; and ensuring that the implementation of diversion measures is consistent with human rights.

We also worked with the National Decriminalization Working Group (and BC Working Group) to push for meaningful change to current drug policy. One of the major areas of focus in 2022 was BC’s new pilot project for a partial decriminalization of substance use, for which the Working Group provided input and argued for the province to adopt a human rights-based approach at every stage of the process.

We know we are right. The government can’t keep making the same mistakes while people die. The war on drugs isn’t working; we need to stop criminalizing people. The BCCLA will continue to support drug users in the fight for their rights!

Sex Work Law Reform

Decriminalizing sex work allows sex workers to protect their health and safety and makes them less vulnerable to violence and exploitation. The criminalization of sex work only serves to create more dangerous conditions.

The BCCLA supported the *Canadian Alliance for Sex Work Law Reform* in challenging Canada’s sex work regime before the Ontario Superior Court. The Alliance argued that the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act (PCEPA)* failed to meet its stated objectives, and provided court-tested evidence to demonstrate that PCEPA has worsened the harms faced by sex workers, making sex work less safe and more precarious.

The BCCLA intervened to argue that *Charter* rights are not isolated compartments, but influence and support each other to encourage more complex and nuanced

understandings of the law. Given this, equality analysis involves a consideration of (1) the full context of the group’s situation; (2) the actual impact of the law on that situation; and (3) the persistent systemic disadvantages that have operated to limit the opportunities available to that group’s members. **The government’s approach fails to recognize how sex workers are impacted by systemic racism, sexism, and classism, and how the law itself only serves to reinforce, rather than remedy, those structural inequalities.**

This realistic understanding of how the law affects people should inform how section 7 Charter rights are interpreted and the courts’ determination of whether PCEPA deprived sex workers of the right to life, liberty, or security of the person.

We know that the criminalization of sex workers pushes people into more unsafe and precarious circumstances, and that the law threatens sex workers’ security of persons. We anxiously await the court’s decision and hope it acknowledges the real implications and impacts of the PCEPA.





Thank You

The BCCLA is a small organization that has an enormous impact thanks to the incredible support we receive across the country. Our work to change the landscape of civil liberties and human rights across Canada has been made possible by our volunteers, pro bono counsel, and former staff and board members. Thank you for making our work possible.

Pro Bono Counsel:

Adriel Weaver	Greg McMullen
Akosua Matthews	Jake Babad
Alana Crouse	Jeff Beedell
Alison Latimer	Jeremy Opolsky
Amanda Manasterski	Jessica Orkin
Bijon Roy	Joan Bell
Brodie Noga	Julia Riddle
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Gabrielle Wolf	Nicholas Sayed
Katherine Benson	Nishtha Girotra
Martin Shi	

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Greta Lin, Supporter Engagement & Development Manager
Jessica Magonet, Litigation Staff Counsel
Katherine Benson, Summer Law Student
Nick Sayed, Summer Law Student
Niki Bains, Policy Staff Counsel
Sambriddhi Nepal, Director of Engagement & Development
Stephanie Goodwin, Interim Executive Director
Stephen Chin, Staff Counsel

Former Board of Directors:

Anisa White
Lisa Kerr
Paul Champ
Paul Tétrault

Thank you to our funders:

BCCLA gratefully acknowledges the financial and in-kind assistance of our major funders and community partners for the 2022 calendar year. Their contribution enables the advancement of civil liberties and human rights in BC and Canada through our litigation, law reform, and public legal education.

Allard Hall Law School
BC General Employees' Union
Canadian Bar Association
Canadian Internet Registry Association (CIRA)
Court Challenges Program
Law Foundation of BC

Law Foundation of Ontario
Notary Foundation of BC
Province of BC Community Gaming
University of Victoria, Faculty of Law
Vancouver Foundation

Join Us

We wouldn't have been able to advance any of this work without our supporters standing with us.

There are many ways to join our fight:

Become a donor

None of our work would be possible without our donors' generosity and we need this support now more than ever. Achieving lasting change can take months and even years and, as a small organization, we rely on donations to achieve the impact you are reading about today.

Become a donor today and support us to continuing defending civil liberties and human rights for all: act.bccla.org/ARDonate



We have 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 act.bccla.org/email-sign-up

Volunteer

Join us in our office, at our events, or out in the community! Find out more at bccla.org/volunteer



Leave a Legacy Gift

Leaving a bequest to BCCLA in your will is an important way to leave a legacy of freedom and justice, providing long-term support to civil liberties and human rights in Canada. Legacy gifts can be in any amount and can also take the form of life insurance, real estate, appreciated securities, retirement plans, art or trusts. bccla.org/take-action/legacy-gifts/



Financial Statement

Statement of operations and changes in fund balances

Year ended December 31

	2022				2021
	General Fund	Stabilization Fund	Trust Fund	Total	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
REVENUE					
Grants earned	484,325	—	—	484,325	275,694
Membership and donations	430,234	—	—	430,234	748,607
Distributions from BCCLA Legacy Trust Fund	400,000	—	—	400,000	—
Law Foundation of B.C. – operating grant	380,000	—	—	380,000	380,000
Litigation recovery	63,270	—	—	63,270	451,753
Amortization of deferred contributions	10,200	—	—	10,200	10,200
Endowment distributions	7,400	—	—	7,400	6,316
Miscellaneous and special events	150	—	—	150	7,169
Net investment income	875	(33,687)	(100,445)	(133,257)	281,679
	1,776,454	(33,687)	(100,445)	1,642,322	2,161,418
EXPENSES					
Salaries and benefits	1,154,199	—	—	1,154,199	1,317,909
Office operating	137,207	—	—	137,207	121,122
Rent and utilities	73,047	—	—	73,047	69,084
Contract fees	67,428	—	—	67,428	64,171
Amortization	42,463	—	—	42,463	41,839
Partner contributions	24,140	—	—	24,140	15,000
Litigation costs	12,494	—	—	12,494	35,463
Newsletter	9,160	—	—	9,160	9,903
Meetings, publications, events	8,036	—	—	8,036	5,764
Fundraising	7,436	—	—	7,436	23,136
Bank and donation processing charges	7,315	—	—	7,315	9,760
Insurance	5,352	—	—	5,352	4,223
Departmental development	4,168	—	—	4,168	11,638
	1,552,445	—	—	1,552,445	1,729,012
Excess of revenue (expenses) for the year	224,009	(33,687)	(100,445)	89,877	432,406
Interfund transfers	(15,425)	15,425	—	—	—
	208,584	(18,262)	(100,445)	89,877	432,406
Fund balances, beginning of year	562,853	147,759	1,291,409	2,002,021	1,569,615
Fund balances, end of year	771,437	129,497	1,190,964	2,091,898	2,002,021

The 2022 Financial Statements have been approved by the BCCLA Board and will be presented to our membership at the 2023 AGM on June 15th.

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 Canada.

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The BCCLA's main office is located on the unceded and ancestral territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.



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