

Canadian Centre on Statelessness

Annual Report

2020



canadian centre
on statelessness

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On November 17, 2015, Industry Canada under the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act* recognized Canadian Centre on Statelessness as a non-profit corporation. The Corporation Number is 951450-3.

Canadian Centre on Statelessness is located at 57 Louis-Pasteur, Room 550, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5.

CCS MISSION: why we exist

The Canadian Centre on Statelessness envisions a society in which a sense of existence and belonging of all people, however they define themselves, is reciprocally recognized and protected.

CCS VISION: where we are going

The Canadian Centre on Statelessness exists to defend and promote the well-being of persons with lived experiences of statelessness, in particular those within the Canadian context, through:

- Research: We co-generate and foster reciprocal exchanges of knowledge created by lived experiences of statelessness, participatory research, and policy analysis.
- Community: We work together as stateless persons and allies in a community that practices and cultivates respect for the rights, choices, and belonging of persons with experiences of statelessness.
- Advocacy: We amplify emancipatory knowledges and action, through intersectional allyship, for the purpose of influencing legislative, policy and social change.

CCS Guiding Principles

CCS is inspired by the voices of people experiencing statelessness and guided by the following principles:

- Everyone deserves the same level of support in having their right of belonging recognized, especially those who struggle in having this right fully acknowledged.
- To the extent possible, and as defined by the by-laws, every member benefits from the same right to participate in the decision-making processes of the organization.
- All members are encouraged to voice their opinions, share their perspectives, and honour their values in a respectful manner so as to build a strong, participatory, and consensual decision-making process.
- Every member is responsible for fostering a learning environment conducive to supporting individual and collective participation, commitment, and engagement.
- Collective decision-making will be informed by a commitment to truthfulness and it shall be congruent with the vision, mission and principles of CCS.

letter from the board of directors

Dear Members,

This past year was unlike any other, that has profoundly affected us all, in ways unimaginable.

Due to so many uncertainties, it was strategically pertinent for CCS to focus internally during the past year. With vigorous input from the Management Board, CCS focused on revising its mission and vision, and adopting a Strategic Plan.

While mostly focused on internal, foundational priorities, CCS continued its focus on researching statelessness in Canada, while also mobilising the issue of statelessness on the international stage. In the area of advocacy, CCS lent its support for the following campaigns: a joint alternative report with the Canadian Citizens Rights Council to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, #HealthCare4All, the Joint civil society statement on statelessness and COVID-19, a Letter in Support of Rohingya people, and we shared a letter written by Deepan Budlakoti on our website. Finally, CCS continued relationship-building and raising awareness at various opportunities throughout the year.

In terms of personnel, in 2020, CCS welcomed its new Executive Director, Yuriko Cowper-Smith. She brought to the CCS team strong experience in refugee, statelessness, and activism in Canada and beyond. As an emerging scholar in political science, Yuriko bridges theory and practice, as she is skilled in ground-level, community-based research. Bringing together academic and practical research speaks directly to CCS' mandate of mobilising knowledge on statelessness to multiple stakeholders and audiences. Although it was difficult to get a running start in her position due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she is optimistic about CCS' future plans.

Yours Sincerely,

Board of Directors, Canadian Centre on Statelessness

board of directors

Aleksandra Barry (March 2019 – May 2021) has experience with statelessness and provides a valuable perspective on behalf of stateless persons in Canada and beyond.

Patrick Balazo (March 2020 – July 2020) was CCS' first intern in 2015 and was a part of the Board for five months in 2020. He was heavily involved in research on statelessness in East Asia, particularly China, North Korea, and Sri Lanka, for CCS' Data Collection study, and separately, worked on statelessness issues in Thailand for approximately 6 months in 2019.

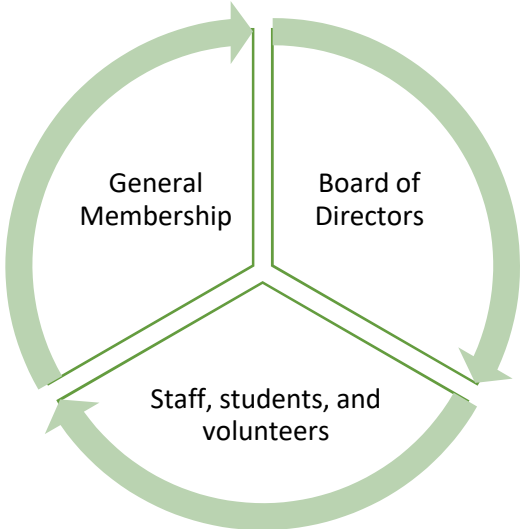
Patrick Ciaschi is a PhD candidate at the New School for Social Research, in the department of Politics. He has worked with and on migration related initiatives at the Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility and the Emerging Scholars and Practitioners of Migration Issues Network over the past several years. His doctoral work looks at the changing governance of social housing and neighborhood regulations in contemporary Hungary and how these shifts affect racialized vulnerable groups. His broader interests are in subjective conceptions of home, digital welfare in social housing, the injustices of global domicide, and legal architecture of the Canadian immigration regime.

Jocelyn Kane is the founder of CCS and is a PhD candidate in Political Studies at the University of Ottawa where she researches voluntary statelessness and Indigenous statelessness.

Jess Notwell (March 2020 – May 2021) is a Two Spirit Cree/Scots Métis land defender, scholar, and Co-Founder of IGNITE Global Feminist Collective, and has extensive experience in global human rights and decolonial activism. Her PhD research focuses on the ways in which women's everyday decolonial actions contribute to liberation/decolonization, including by addressing settler/colonial violence as genocide, mass incarceration, land theft, and collective punishment including statelessness.

operations

The CCS organisational structure is based upon a participatory approach in which our members, Board of Directors, and staff work together and make decisions within a horizontal consensus model.



CCS operational targets for 2020 were to enhance our internal capacity by working on foundational priorities of the organization. We continue to expand our presence at Canadian and international research and advocacy events and continue our efforts in building relationships with allies across Canada and beyond.

strategic plan

Following our 2019 Annual General Meeting, our newly elected Board of Directors began the process of developing a coherent plan for our future that unites our mission, vision, and guiding principles with our practices in the areas of research, advocacy, and operations. This process began with the revision of our mission and vision statements, something that we had not completed since our founding in 2014. We made changes that we believe better reflect what the organization stands for, and the areas in which we are prepared to work.

We continued with an exploration of our target areas, our three pillars of Advocacy, Research, and Network, and refined what each of these pillars mean to CCS and how we plan on executing our activities in these areas. By Action Planning in each of these three areas, we forecasted our short- and long-term priorities over the next three to five years in areas big and small: resource development, sustainability, project outcomes, staffing priorities, timelines, and ways forward. A special thanks to Jess Notwell, whose deep experience and insights were invaluable in guiding the Board of Directors.

research

Our **NATIONAL BELONGING AND HEALTH OUTCOMES OF NON-CITIZENS IN CANADA** project entered the analysis phase, and we were excited to welcome two student researchers to the team, Miho Kitamura from the University of Ottawa and Gezy Schuurmans from Tilburg University in The Netherlands. We are happy to report that preliminary findings from our study indicate a relationship between status (statelessness and permanent residency) and health and well-being in the areas of mental and physical health, access to health care, and conceptions and experiences of belonging.

Our **INDIGENOUS STATELESSNESS IN CANADA** study made great strides this year. We have learned a great deal on the relationships between colonialism, Canadian and Indigenous status, and refusal of oppression in the contexts of internal and external self-determination. We are in the final drafting phase and aim to publish our article by the end of 2021.

Thanks to the tireless work of our 2020 intern, Lauren Moore, graduate of the Ryerson University Master of Arts programme in Immigration and Settlement Studies, our **MAPPING STUDY: EXPERIENCES OF STATELESS PEOPLE IN CANADIAN IMMIGRATION DETENTION** is nearly ready for submission to an academic journal. Informed by scholarship in Canada and beyond, we will report on gaps and opportunities in scholarship concerning detention and statelessness in Canada, with specific attention on detention conditions and the mental health of stateless detainees.

advocacy

CCS AND CCRC SUBMIT AN ALTERNATIVE CIVIL SOCIETY REPORT to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. In July 2020, the Canadian Centre on Statelessness submitted a joint alternative report with the Canadian Citizens Rights Council to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The report outlines our concerns and recommendations with respect to Ottawa's implementation of the CRC and focuses on the realization of the right of every child to acquire a nationality in Canada, and the right of the child to preserve their identity. This report adds to the growing presence of ground-level data-informed advocacy that specifically challenge Canada's record on statelessness on the international stage. Read the report [here](#).

JOINT CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT ON STATELESSNESS AND COVID-19. CCS joined 83 civil society actors to urge states, donors and other stakeholders to promote and protect the rights of the stateless in their response to COVID-19. Read the full statement [here](#).

COVID-19 PANDEMIC HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR #HEALTHCARE4ALL. CCS supported an open letter to the federal government, urging all levels of government to come together to ensure access to healthcare for all people living in Canada, regardless of immigration and citizenship status. Over 200 organizations across Canada signed the open letter. Read the full statement [here](#).

CCS OFFERS LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR COUNCILLOR MARVIN ROTRAND'S motion to urge Foreign Minister Marc Garneau to renew Canada's aid for the Rohingya refugees. The Canadian Centre on Statelessness supported a Montreal City Council motion, urging the renewal of Canada's aid for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. The letter was signed by nine Senators, the Quebec Liberal Party, twenty municipal officials from across Canada and fifty civil society members, including academia and human rights organizations. The motion was adopted unanimously on February 23, 2021 by Montreal City Council. Read Councillor Rotrand's post and motion [here](#).

communications

Recognizing that virtual communications are essentially the only means of communication in 2020 and 2021, CCS invested heavily in renewing its communications channels. In 2020, CCS engaged a Communications Assistant intern, Chalaine Chang, to revise the website, and promote CCS on social media channels. Through her efforts, CCS has raised its online profile and is engaging in several productive online conversations.

- Our Facebook followers increased to 204 followers from July 2020, when we had 181 followers.
- Our Twitter account had 387 profile visits in March 2021, in comparison to six in July 2020. We also gained 76 followers in the same time frame.
- From August 2020, our newsletter sign-ups increased by 72 individual sign-ups, which represents a 77% increase from before this time frame.

Thank you Chalaine!

networking and raising awareness

CCS continued to maintain and build relationships with its supporters and allies worldwide. We supported:

- The organization of a practitioner and academic conference on statelessness¹ by participating in discussions with universities in Canada and emerging scholars in the field of statelessness.
- The organization of a fundraiser event with Jaivet Ealom, a Rohingya activist in Toronto. The event was to feature a Q&A period where we would learn about the Rohingya genocide and ways that Canadians can get involved.
- The growth of a worldwide statelessness movement where we participated in discussions related to global advocacy, stakeholder engagement, and working more directly with stateless individuals in efforts to eradicate statelessness.
- We also engaged with our counterparts in the United States and strengthened our relationships with persons on an individual basis who support our mission and vision.

¹ This event and the fundraiser below were both postponed due to COVID-19.

financial report

| PROFIT AND LOSS 2019-2020 | Jan - Dec 20 | Jan - Dec 19 |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| INCOME | | |
| Corporate Donations | 0.00 | 500.00 |
| Individual Donations | 0.00 | 240.00 |
| Interest | .51 | 0.44 |
| Membership Dues | 175.00 | 200.00 |
| Grants | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 175.51 | 940.44 |
| EXPENSE | | |
| Business Registration Fees | 0.00 | 85.26 |
| Business Expenses (Events) | 276.57 | 0.00 |
| Communications | 235.20 | 0.00 |
| Salaries | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Other | 2.31 | 0.00 |
| Administration | 0.00 | 9.39 |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | 514.08 | 94.65 |
| BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2019 | | |
| | 31 Dec 20 | 31 Dec 19 |
| ASSETS | | |
| Current Assets | 1,013.70 | 1,382.85 |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | | |
| Current Liabilities | -108.58 | -78.00 |
| Equity | | |
| Unrestricted Net Assets | 1,460.85 | 615.06 |
| Net Income | -388.57 | 845.79 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | 1,013.70 | 1,382.85 |

Since its foundation, CCS has received numerous in-kind donations from stakeholders that have allowed CCS to carry out various activities, including office space, promotional tools, and financial assistance for attending international events. A very special thank you is extended to the Human Rights Research and Education Centre, University of Ottawa.

Jocelyn Kane, Treasurer, Board of Directors, April 11, 2021, Toronto, Ontario Canada.

our 2020 supporters!

The list keeps growing! We would like to thank our supporters for their generosity and commitment to working towards eradicating statelessness in Canada and abroad, and for their invaluable efforts in helping CCS grow.

Aleksandra Barry
Americas Network on
Nationality and
Statelessness
Andjela Prole
Chalaine Chang
Citizens Rights Council
Dawa Buti Ghoso
Gezy Schuurmans
Hilary Perry

Human Rights Research
and Education Centre,
University of Ottawa
Jess Notwell
Jocelyn Kane
Lauren Moore
Leen Amarin
Miho Kitamura
Noémie Boivin
Patrick Ciaschi

Quia Birch
Randall Emery Ritesh
Acharya Satere
Karenhatase
United Stateless
Victoria Perrie
Y. Y. Chen
Yuriko Cowper-Smith

CCS is also grateful for our members, and for the efforts of those not named here!

contact us

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