

Canadian Centre on Statelessness

Annual Report

2019



# table of contents

I. Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles	2
II. Letter from the Board of Directors	3
III. Board of Directors	4
IV. Operations	5
Research	5
Advocacy	6
Events	6
Networking and Raising Awareness	9
V. Financial Report	10
VI. Our Supporters	11
VII. Contact Us	12

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 exists to defend and promote the wellbeing of stateless persons, in particular those within the Canadian context. We aim to

- Bring together allies in a community of partners committed to overcoming societal, political and legislative challenges in the area of statelessness.
- Co-generate knowledge and foster horizontal and reciprocal exchanges of knowledge.

## CCS VISION: where we are going

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. For those stateless persons, and potential stateless persons, who seek Canadian citizenship, we advocate the acquisition of citizenship. We are working towards

- A Canada committed to the protection of stateless persons and prevention of statelessness by ratifying and adhering to international human rights standards including but not limited to the 1954 *Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons* and the 1961 *Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness*; and
- A Canada committed to law and policy reform including but not limited to implementing statelessness determination procedures; and
- A community that works toward societal, political and legislative change that is informed by sound participatory research and policy analysis.

## 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 an eventful one for CCS, both in terms of programming and personnel. CCS continued its focus on researching statelessness in Canada, while also mobilising the issue of statelessness on the international stage. We are grateful for the opportunity to present our research at Canadian and international events and gain invaluable feedback on our projects. CCS raised its profile and enhanced its networks through its participation in The World Conference on Statelessness in The Hague in June, and a fundraiser for homelessness in Toronto, in August. In the area of advocacy, CCS lent its support for statements two cases of international statelessness: one related to statelessness in Venezuela, and another on mass citizenship deprivation in Assam, India. Finally, CCS continued relationship-building and raising awareness at various opportunities throughout the year.

In terms of personnel, 2019 was the final year in which CCS had the privilege of having Jocelyn Kane as Executive Director. Over the past five years, Jocelyn has worked tirelessly to establish CCS as a leader on statelessness discussions in Canada. While overcoming hurdles and challenges that beset the emergence and growth of a fledgling not-for-profit organisation, she continued to strengthen CCS' capacity and reach. CCS is proud of the many achievements that Jocelyn has made possible through her work. Her kindness, leadership and commitment to ending statelessness in Canada will be remembered. CCS is looking forward to being a part of Jocelyn's future, as she starts a new phase in her career.

CCS is excited to welcome our new Executive Director, Yuriko Cowper-Smith. Yuriko brings to the CCS team strong experience in refugee, statelessness, and activism issues in Canada and beyond. As an emerging scholar in political science, focusing on Rohingya activism in Canada, Yuriko is able to bridge the fields of 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. We look forward to learning from Yuriko and working with her in the next phases of CCS' journey!

Yours Sincerely,

Board of Directors, Canadian Centre on Statelessness

## board of directors

**Aleksandra Barry** has experience with statelessness and provides a valuable perspective on behalf of stateless persons in Canada and beyond.

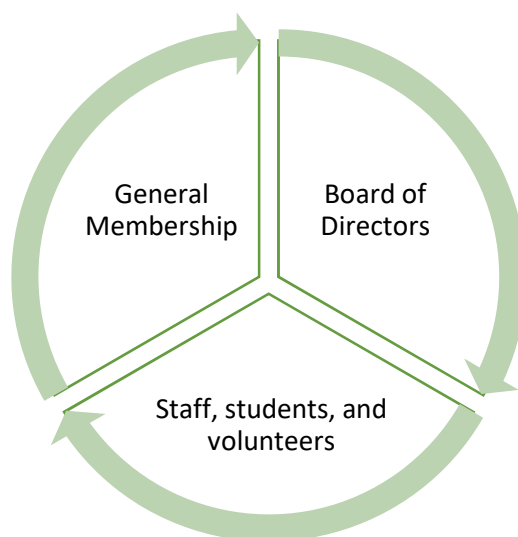
**Y.Y. Brandon Chen, Treasurer**, is an Assistant Professor at the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law (English Common Law Program). He holds a Bachelor of Science from Emory University, as well as a Master of Social Work and a Juris Doctor from the University of Toronto. He has been a licensed lawyer in Ontario since 2011. He is currently completing his Doctor of Juridical Science at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Law. Y.Y.'s scholarly interests lie at the intersection of health care and international migration. He also works closely with racialized newcomers living with HIV/AIDS.

**Jamie Chai Yun Liew, Secretary** until October 2019, is an immigration and refugee lawyer and an associate professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa. She is the co-author of *Immigration Law* published by Irwin Law. Her research focuses on how immigration, refugee, and citizenship law is experienced by marginalized groups (migrants with mental health, LGBTQ migrants, refugee claimants who base their claims on gender). Jamie has appeared in the Supreme Court of Canada, the Federal Court of Appeal and the Federal Court, and has testified in both Parliamentary and Senate Standing Committees on a variety of issues facing immigration, refugee and citizenship policy. Personally, Jamie is touched by this area of the law, being the daughter of a previously stateless person.

**Yuriko Cowper-Smith** is a PhD candidate in Political Science and International Development at the University of Guelph. Her area of research concerns the Rohingya community in Kitchener-Waterloo. She brings to CCS extensive experience in community based research and a long-standing commitment to people who have refugee and/or statelessness experience.

## 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 2019 were to enhance our research programme by presenting our findings and obtaining feedback from stakeholders, expand our presence at Canadian and international research and advocacy events, and continue our efforts in building relationships with allies across Canada and beyond.

## 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.

Our **INDIGENOUS STATELESSNESS IN CANADA** study made great strides this year. We presented our project at two conferences and received invaluable feedback. We aim to publish our article by the end of 2020.

## advocacy

### **EXPERT STATEMENT ON THE PREVENTION AND ERADICATION OF STATELESSNESS IN THE AMERICAS**

Organised by the [Americas Network on Nationality and Statelessness](#) at the 2019 World Conference on Statelessness, CCS signed an Expert Statement to States in the Americas on the right to nationality and statelessness in relation to mixed migratory flows from Venezuela. Read the full statement [here](#).

### **JOINT CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT ON THE MASS CITIZENSHIP DEPRIVATION IN ASSAM**

In September, CCS was one of 125 Civil Society Organisations that condemned the exclusion of 1.9 million people from the Assam National Register of Citizens in India, and called for urgent action to protect everyone's right to a nationality. Read the full statement [here](#).

## events

### **WORLD CONFERENCE ON STATELESSNESS**

From June 26 to June 28, 2019 CCS participated in the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion's [World Conference on Statelessness](#). Held in The Hague, The Netherlands, the conference was an interdisciplinary collection of workshops, panel discussions, and artistic interventions that addressed diverse aspects of statelessness, and featured 290 researchers, activists, civil society practitioners, lawyers, government representatives, artists, and formerly stateless individuals.

Collectively, CCS members and Board members participated in five panel presentations that addressed statelessness in political theory, law, Indigenous identity and the Canadian colonial context, and transnational activism.

CCS Board member Jamie Liew presented on a panel that addressed challenging the status-quo of subject – state relations. The Conference launched the inaugural issue of the journal [Statelessness and Citizenship Review](#) in which Professor Liew has an article on “Homegrown Statelessness in Malaysia”.



Jocelyn Kane and Jamie Liew



Fareed Khan, of Rohingya Human Rights Network, Yuriko Cowper-Smith, John Packer of University of Ottawa and HRREC

Yuriko Cowper-Smith presented her doctoral research on the political activism of the vibrant and passionate Rohingya community in Canada, who has been tirelessly advocating for international justice concerning the genocide in Myanmar and the humanitarian crisis in Bangladesh.

CCS Member Fiorella Rabuffetti shared her research on how narratives of statelessness have an important impact on stateless persons and scholarly research. Using the cases of the Bidoon – literally, without a nationality – and the ‘Erased’ in Slovenia she discussed the effect of terminology on stateless persons’ acts of resistance and exercise of agency.



Fiorella Rabuffetti and Jocelyn Kane



Thanks to the generous support of the Human Rights Research and Education Centre at the University of Ottawa, Jocelyn Kane was able to present on the conceptual and practical implications of voluntary statelessness, and CCS was able to present its research on the causes and consequences of Indigenous statelessness in Canada. Hilary Perry and Victoria Perrie represented the CCS research team presenting on the systemic barriers to accessing birth certificates and Canadian citizenship, as well as the practice of Indigenous parents in Canada refusing to register the births of their children so as to resist colonialism.



Hilary Perrie and Victoria Perry

This presentation put Canada's relationship with Indigenous people and statelessness on the map, and succeeded in expanding the conversation from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and South-East Asia regions to the Western hemisphere. This project received further feedback when it was presented at the Indigenous Bar Association Conference in October, where CCS was represented by one of the projects researchers, Leen Amarin.



Leen Amarin

## GIFTS FOR THE HOMELESS

In August, CCS collaborated with a Toronto based NGO Gifts for the Homeless for the POWER OF ART FUNDRAISER in Toronto. There is a strong link between homelessness and statelessness: many people who are stateless have challenges accessing housing, and many people who are homeless do not possess identity documents. Brittany Camilleri, the Founder and Executive Director of [Gifts for the Homeless](#) hosted a fundraiser for her organisation and donated a portion of her proceeds to CCS. The fundraiser was a success! It included artists, music, an art auction, and two art pieces donated to CCS by Stateless HE, a stateless artist in Toronto.



Jocelyn Kane, at the Gifts for the Homeless Fundraiser

## networking and raising awareness

In addition to our research and advocacy work we embarked on several meetings with allies in the field of citizenship and immigration in Canada and beyond. CCS met with academics and researchers from Brazil, the United Kingdom, and the Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness at the University of Melbourne Law School. We also engaged with the Dr. Bronner's Family Foundation in the United States, and Gifts for the Homeless in Toronto. CCS had the privilege of learning from individual lawyers in the United Kingdom as well as ASHURST, a pro bono organisation that provides legal support to non-profit organisations. Through these meetings we communicated CCS activities and objectives, and learned of the advocacy and research practices carried out by those who share similar goals, particularly in a legal context.

## financial report

<b>PROFIT AND LOSS 2018-2019</b>	<b>Jan - Dec 19</b>	<b>Jan - Dec 18</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Corporate Donations	500.00	0.00
Individual Donations	240.00	50.00
Interest	0.44	0.34
Membership Dues	200.00	0.00
Grants	0.00	2,925.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>940.44</b>	<b>2,975.34</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>		
Business Registration Fees	85.26	40.00
Salaries	0.00	3,499.68
Administration	9.39	317.56
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>94.65</b>	<b>3,857.24</b>
<b>BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2019</b>		
	<b>31 Dec 19</b>	<b>31 Dec 18</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets	1,382.85	537.06
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
Current Liabilities	-78.00	-78.00
Equity		
Unrestricted Net Assets	615.06	1,496.96
Net Income	845.79	-881.90
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>1,382.85</b>	<b>537.06</b>

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.

Y.Y. Chen, Treasurer, Board of Directors, Ottawa, ON, February 17, 2020

## our 2019 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.

Michelle Allard	Roseline Buscaglia	Evann Kremer	Jessica Nicholson	Michelle Quigg
Alfonso Mejia-Arias	Brittany Camilleri	Valerie Holliday	Victoria Perrie	Fiorella Rabuffetti
Leen Amarin	Y. Y. Chen	Human Rights Research and Education Centre, University of Ottawa	Hilary Perry	Rachel Reesor
Adrian Arlette	Luke Cole	Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion	Pedro Pina	Marilyn Rochford
Aleksandra Barry	Yuriko Cowper-Smith	Colette Kane	Adam Pomper	Paul Rochford
Americas Network on Nationality and Statelessness	Hailey Dang	Jocelyn Kane	Deborah Pomper	Marcelo Saavedra-Vargas
Patrick Balazo	Theresa Dillon	Raymond Kane	Eugene Pomper	Gezy Schuurmans
Sherwin Bautista	Lynnette Gallucci	Jamie Chai Yun Liew	Sarah Pomper	Stateless HE
Quia Birch	Gifts for the Homeless	Donovan McGlaughlin	Andjela Prole	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Noémie Boivin	Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights	Igor Moisseev	Cassandra Quadrini	David Woodward

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

## contact us

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[www.statelessness.ca](http://www.statelessness.ca)



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