

Canadian Centre on Statelessness

Annual Report
May 2021 to Aug 2022



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 organisation.
- 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.

board of directors

DAWA BHUTI

Dawa is a policy advisor with the federal government. She has lived experience of being a stateless person and the issue of statelessness, especially childhood statelessness, is close to her heart. She has a Master of Arts in Asia Pacific Policy Studies from the University of British Columbia.

JOCELYN KANE

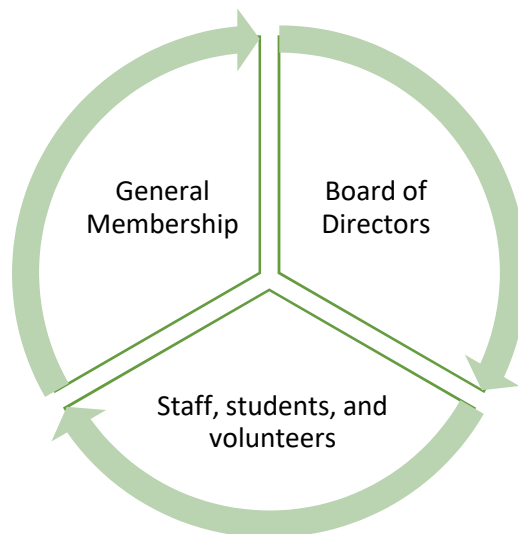
Jocelyn is the founder of CCS and is a PhD candidate in Political Studies at the University of Ottawa where she researches voluntary statelessness.

ANAM RASHID

As a development practitioner, Anam is particularly interested in understanding how displacement and forced migration impacts the livelihoods of diverse groups of individuals around the world. Having worked and volunteered with organisations that work with refugees and newcomers in Toronto, Anam understands the importance of providing meaningful support and resources to refugee girls who are often victims of violence. Anam’s goal is to support refugee girls around the world by providing meaningful and sustainable resources for their livelihoods and she hopes to drive this work forward at CCS.

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.



research

Our **NATIONAL BELONGING AND HEALTH OUTCOMES OF NON-CITIZENS IN CANADA** project is nearing completion. We are happy to report that we are working on two substantial reports. The first details the healthcare experiences of stateless persons in Canada and focuses on access to physical, mental, and specialist healthcare, self-care strategies, as well as the role that immigration status plays as a determinant of health. Our research team will have a draft of this report by the end of September 2022.

The second report explores the role that stateless persons' conceptions of belonging play in their health, specifically mental health, as well as the relationship between one's sense of self and their legal status. We aim to have a draft of this report completed by the end of December 2022.

Our Indigenous Statelessness in Canada project has reached two important milestones this past year. First, the study evolved from Indigenous statelessness in Canada to, more specifically, **INDIGENOUS CITIZENSHIPS IN CANADA** and their role in internal self-determination. We found that statelessness as a choice for some Indigenous people in Canada could be considered a form of self-determination. Secondly, we have submitted our draft article to an academic journal and are awaiting their review. If all goes well, the article will be published by the end of 2022, and we hope to promote the article through a CCS event.

In November 2021, we submitted our draft article **MAPPING STATELESSNESS DETENTION IN CANADA** to an academic journal. We received excellent feedback and are working towards making the report into a scoping review of Canadian literature concerning the detention of stateless people in Canada. Our report will be more detailed, more thorough, and provide a more comprehensive view of the problem. We aim to finish our final analysis by the end of 2022.

In 2015, we began researching **STATELESSNESS DETERMINATION PROCEDURES** around the world in the hopes of informing the development of one in Canada. In early 2022 we reengaged with that project and made progress in our understanding of what a Canadian SDP could look like. We will continue this project, likely through 2023.

advocacy

In June 2022, CCS was happy to submit an application for membership in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees **GLOBAL ALLIANCE TO END STATELESSNESS TASKFORCE**. The Taskforce is charged with supporting the establishment of the Global Alliance Against Statelessness, and will comprise a small number of stakeholders in civil society, academia, international organisations, and foundations. The Taskforce will be in operation from July 2022 to September 2023. We met with the UNHCR for an interview in July, and the UNHCR will make its decision in late July.

The Canadian government has made recent strides related to the **REGULARISATION OF NON-STATUS AND STATELESS PEOPLE** in Canada, something not seen in decades. CCS is developing advocacy materials in response.

- In December 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau asked the Immigration Minister to “Build on existing pilot programs to further explore ways of regularizing status for undocumented workers who are contributing to Canadian communities”.
- In May 2022, Parliament unanimously passed a motion asking the Immigration Minister to create a plan by September 8 to release “a comprehensive plan to expand the economic immigration stream to allow workers of all skill levels to meet the full range of labour needs and pathways to permanent residency for temporary foreign workers, including international students, with significant Canadian work experience in sectors with persistent labour shortages”.
- Finally, in June 2022, Canada signed, along with 20 other countries in the Americas, the *Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection*, a commitment to “strengthen national, regional, and hemispheric efforts to create the conditions for safe, orderly, humane, and regular migration and to strengthen frameworks for international protection”. Furthermore, the Canadian government committed to “protecting the safety, dignity, human rights, and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and displaced and stateless persons regardless of their migratory status.”

In June 2022, CCS signed on to the Migrant Rights Network petition that calls for full and permanent immigration status for all irregular migrants in Canada, including stateless people. We will also provide a report that details the findings from our CIHR status, health, and well-being study, which will provide a detailed overview of the egregious harms to health caused by statelessness in Canada. We hope to submit this report to Canadian government authorities in September 2022.

communications

CCS has **redesigned our website!** After seven years, we decided to update our online look. The new site is more visually appealing, less word-heavy, and condenses information in an easy-to-read way. Our website stays true to our principles of mobilising information on statelessness in Canada in a technically accurate way but without legal jargon. We've also added copies of British and Canadian citizenship legislation to easily access the law.

We also added **testimonials** to our site! We have had the privilege of working with some wonderful people over the years, and we are happy to hear that they love CCS and are willing to share their positive experiences with the world. We have published a few on our home page, and we will add more as they come.

We also added an important statement of support from a teacher we worked with on our Education Pilot project a few years ago. We have added that to our Education Pilot page in our Research section.

Each day CCS receives a number of emails to our general inbox from individuals looking for support to immigrate to Canada. We used to respond with tailored individual replies but this is unsustainable as the demand is too high. So, this year we decided to create a response to those who reach out to CCS looking for assistance in their immigration to Canada. We now offer the following as an **automatic reply** and have translated the message into French, Spanish, and Arabic.

Thank you for contacting the Canadian Centre on Statelessness.

If you are contacting us regarding an immigration issue for yourself or your family, please note that the Canadian Centre on Statelessness cannot in any way request or facilitate a visa for anyone who is either inside or outside of Canada. If you would like to apply to reside in Canada you must apply through any of the following:

To apply for refugee status in Canada from outside of Canada, please consult the Government of Canada website here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees.html>

To apply to immigrate to Canada as skilled worker or through family sponsorship, for example, consult the Government of Canada website here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada.html>

networking and raising awareness

CCS continued to maintain and build relationships with its supporters and allies worldwide. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic slowed our progress in this respect though we did reconnect with critical allies and worked towards new partnerships.

- In the winter of 2022, CCS became a member of the **CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR REFUGEES (CCR)**. The Council is a national non-profit umbrella organisation committed to the rights and protection of refugees and other vulnerable migrants in Canada and around the world and to the settlement of refugees and immigrants in Canada.
- In the summer of 2022, we applied to become a member of the **MIGRANT RIGHTS NETWORK**, a migrant-led network of individuals working towards the regularisation of non-status people in Canada. Our application is pending.

financial report

	Jan - Jul 22	Jan - Dec 21	Jan - Dec 20
PROFIT AND LOSS 2020 - 2022			
INCOME			
Individual Donations	75.00	500.00	0.00
Interest	0.11	0.36	0.51
Bank Refund	0.00	1.95	0.00
Membership Dues	25.00	175.00	175.00
Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	100.11	677.31	175.51
EXPENSE			
Business Expenses (business cards, annual corporation registration, CCR membership, events)	148.88	12.00	276.57
Communications (website)	0.00	0.00	235.20
Other (PayPal fee)	3.20	23.46	2.31
TOTAL EXPENSE	152.08	35.46	514.08
NET INCOME	-51.97	641.85	-338.57
BALANCE SHEET 2020 - 2022			
ASSETS			
Current Assets		1,655.55	1,013.70
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			
Current Liabilities		-108.58	-108.58
Equity			
Unrestricted Net Assets		1,122.28	1,460.85
Net Income		641.85	-388.57
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		1,655.55	1,013.70

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, July 24, 2022, Toronto, Ontario Canada.

contact us

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