

Canadian Centre on Statelessness

Annual Report

2016



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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

Based on an inclusive approach, 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 who seek 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,

In 2014, our Executive Director Jocelyn Kane had an idea. After studying immigration and settlement in Canada it became clear that there was little research and advocacy being done on statelessness, and there was the need to get those of us who were working on these issues together, to meet and learn from each other, and join forces.

After that “aha” moment, there was no stopping. The more people Jocelyn pitched the idea of the Canadian Centre on Statelessness the more came forward to take part in the initiative. Activists and practitioners all over the country in academia, law, immigration, criminology, and politics helped build CCS every step of the way. The Canadian Centre on Statelessness was launched in November 2014 and a year later we incorporated as a federally registered non-profit organisation.

In the two years since that first idea, CCS has surpassed our expectations: building a network of allies, raising awareness on multiple continents, completing Canada’s first study on the data collection of stateless persons, engaging with students and universities, UNHCR training, joining a regional network and global campaign to end statelessness, and – most importantly - working with and learning from stateless persons. The advice and support received from stateless persons was, and continues to be, invaluable. Young, old, stateless, formerly stateless, Canadian born, foreign born, indigenous, shy, vocal – stateless persons from all over Canada have provided CCS with motivation, confidence, and inspiration to move forward.

To further crystalize our passion into action, at our first Annual General Meeting on November 2, we will be putting in place the framework — adopting our by-laws, electing our Board of Directors, discussing our financials and discussing future strategies — that will help to propel us towards our goal of ending statelessness.

This journey could not be possible without the support of several people. CCS would like to especially thank Elder Marcelo Saavedra-Vargas who selflessly guided the Board of Directors in the creation of the CCS by-laws, mission and vision statements, and guiding principles. We are indebted to Marcelo for his wisdom, patience, and his commitment to putting the needs of stateless persons always at the forefront of our discussions and our very beings.

Please join us. With your help we can end statelessness in Canada and around the world.

Yours Sincerely,

Founding Board of Directors
Canadian Centre on Statelessness

Board of Directors

The Canadian Centre on Statelessness (CCS) founding Board of Directors is unelected and comprises Maria Basualdo, Y.Y. Chen, Jocelyn Kane and Marc Valade. At the inaugural Annual General Meeting in November 2016 an election for all board members will take place.

Maria Basualdo has been a member of the founding board since May 2016. Maria has extensive experience in community-based research using participatory methodologies, and forming alliances with community partners, university and student researchers. She has been involved with community development strategies that supported activities to engage and reconnect people, contribute to environmental sustainability, socioeconomic development and cultural revitalization, and exploring alternative livelihoods.

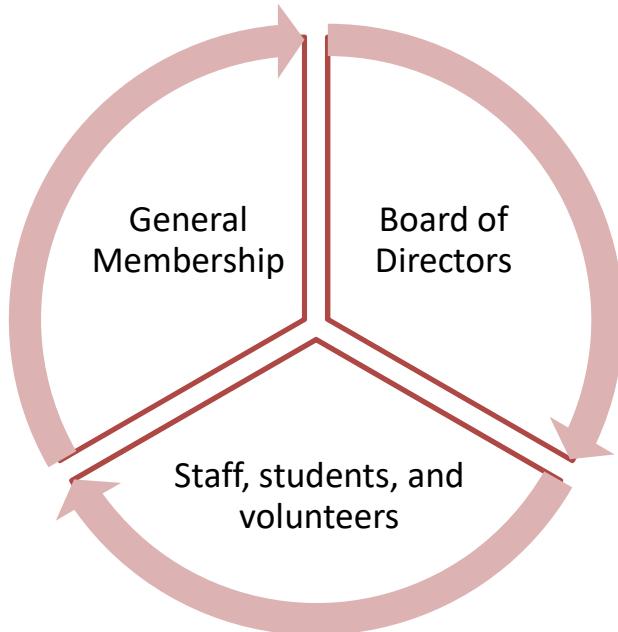
Y.Y. Brandon Chen has been a member of the founding board since May 2016. Y.Y. is an Assistant Professor at the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law (English Common Law Program). He holds a Bachelor of Science from Emory University, as well as a Master of Social Work and a Juris Doctor from the University 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.

Jocelyn Kane, Treasurer, has been a member of the founding board since November 2015. Jocelyn's experience in the social justice sphere is diverse, focusing specifically on immigration and civic engagement research. Jocelyn created CCS and is committed to investigating issues related to statelessness in Canada and mobilising this knowledge to others. Jocelyn is a Doctor of Political Science student at the University of Ottawa.

Marc Valade, Secretary, has been a member of the founding board since November 2015. Marc is a Doctoral candidate in Policy Studies under the Immigration, Settlement and Diaspora stream at Ryerson University. Marc brings a decade of work experience in public administration as an executive director of a socioeconomic regional development agency in Quebec. Marc is currently involved in several research projects, including a study on the integration trajectories of immigrant families in the Greater Toronto Area.

Operations

The CCS organisational structure is based upon an inclusive and 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 2014 focused on network building and research. In year one CCS expanded its network to include academia, legal practitioners, organisations and individual advocates from across Canada and throughout the Americas. CCS implemented its research programme and initiated its inaugural research study, *Data Collection on Stateless Persons in Canada*. As CCS activities intensified in the last half of 2014 Theresa Dillon joined the CCS team as Manager, Operations and Communications.

CCS operational targets for 2015 were incorporating the organisation and developing its short-term and long-term strategies. Following its incorporation in November 2015 the Board of Directors developed its by-laws, mission and vision statements, and principles that guide the work CCS carries out. CCS prioritized the development of a communications and branding strategy, and this resulted in the implementation of the CCS newsletter, Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Achievements

During the first two years of operations CCS has participated in several events and has joined forces with a number of partners in collaborative knowledge mobilisation activities. CCS director Jocelyn Kane has made community presentations at Ryerson University, University of Toronto, University of Ottawa, Ontario Public Interest Research Group – Toronto, and the City of Toronto Immigrant and Refugee Housing Committee.

Our work with students since 2014 has contributed to much of CCS' activities and growth. CCS' engagement with Ryerson University, University of Toronto, and the University of Ottawa has resulted in fruitful learning experiences both for students and the organisation. CCS would like to recognise the commitment and efforts of our interns Patrick Balazo, Fabiola Limon-Bravo, Taraneh Etemadi, Sarah Marshall, Tearney McDermott, and Yana Zabalotnikava.

Multiple media outlets covering print, television and online have featured CCS in stories reporting on statelessness in Canada. These include:

- [First Nations mother's citizenship caught in limbo for years due to bureaucratic inaction](#) National Observer, Feb 4, 2016
- [No Country to Call Home](#) City TV News, Jan 10, 2016
- [Being stateless in Canada: 'less rights than a dog'](#) Yahoo! News, Dec 18, 2015
- [Man Trying to Prove his Identity](#) Al Jazeera Canada, Mar 27, 2015

Memberships and Campaigns

In November 2014, CCS became a founding member of the Americas Network on Nationality and Statelessness (ANNS). The Network of civil society organizations, academic initiatives, and individual experts is committed to addressing statelessness in the Americas. ANNS believes that all human beings have a right to a nationality and that those who lack nationality are entitled to adequate protection.

Americas Network on
Nationality and Statelessness

For a right to nationality for all



In November 2015, CCS joined the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights as a coalition member. The Campaign mobilises international action to achieve law reform in the 27 countries that prevent mothers from conferring their nationality on their children on an equal basis with fathers; and to achieve law reform in the 50+ countries which deny women equal nationality rights with men, including conferral of nationality to non-national spouses.

Events

FIRST SUMMIT ON STATELESSNESS IN CANADA

Ottawa, Canada, February 2016

With United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Canada (UNHCR), University of Ottawa, Ontario Public Interest Research Group – Ottawa, and the Human Rights Research and Education Centre, CCS co-hosted the First Summit on Statelessness in Canada, which brought together academics, students, legal practitioners, policy makers, and stateless persons in Canada's first formal and public discussion on statelessness. Over one hundred participants and twenty panelists discussed topics including international and Canadian human rights and citizenship legislation, statelessness research, and experiences of statelessness. For a copy of the post-summit proceedings please contact summit@statelessness.ca.



UNHCR and AMERICAS NETWORK ON NATIONALITY AND STATELESSNESS TRAINING
WORKSHOP
Santiago, Chile, June 2016

CCS attended the Training Workshop on Nationality and Statelessness for NGOs and Legal Clinics of the Americas. The workshop addressed the international and regional legal framework on statelessness, jurisprudential developments of the [Inter-American Human Rights System](#), and best practices in order to strengthen capacities of NGOs and practitioners to contribute to the implementation of the [Brazil Action Plan](#). CCS thanks the UNHCR for their financial contribution that allowed CCS to participate in this event.



GLOBAL IDEAS INSTITUTE (GII), THE MUNK SCHOOL OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Toronto, Canada, December 2015



CCS director Jocelyn Kane was invited to present at this innovative program, which is a collaboration between the Munk School of Global Affairs, the University of Toronto Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering, The Learning Partnership Canada, and the University of Toronto Schools. Students from Toronto-area high schools were exposed to the challenges of birth registration and attempted to solve global issues with innovative solutions.

AMERICAS NETWORK ON NATIONALITY AND STATELESSNESS INAUGURAL REGIONAL MEETING
San Jose, Costa Rica, June 2015

The UNHCR, the Center for Justice and International Law, and Open Society Foundations organised a regional meeting of the Americas Network and other NGOs to enhance the function of the Network and discuss the role of civil society organisations in implementing the Brazil Plan of Action, and the UNHCR Global Action Plan to End Statelessness: 2014-2024. CCS attended this meeting and became a steering committee member of the Network. CCS thanks the UNHCR for their financial contribution that allowed CCS to participate in this event.



STATELESSNESS IN CANADA: AMERICAS NETWORK ON NATIONALITY AND STATELESSNESS WEBINAR June 2015



CCS presented this webinar to allies from three different continents and outlined the challenges and recent developments in the fight to end statelessness in Canada. CCS director Jocelyn Kane discussed issues including Canadian legislation, current efforts against statelessness and case studies.

Research

During 2015 CCS conducted its inaugural research study on statelessness data in Canada. Co-written by Jocelyn Kane and Patrick Balazo, a CCS intern and a Master's student at the University of Dalhousie, the study explored how data on stateless persons in Canada is collected and reported by Statistics Canada, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Canada Border Services Agency, and Immigration, Refugees, Citizenship Canada. For a copy of the report please contact info@statelessness.ca.

In the summer of 2015 CCS embarked on a second study and joined forces with the University of Ottawa and Ontario Public Interest Research Group and launched the Mapping Statelessness in Canada Project (MSC). MSC aims to undertake ground-breaking research on stateless people in Canada, and to create a network for stakeholders that can consolidate, disseminate and share scholarly, activist, and other specialized knowledge about statelessness.

Programme Development

Building on the operational target of developing short-term and long-term strategies CCS recognised the need to identify and measure its impact on stakeholders. In September 2015 CCS was awarded, through Ontario Centres of Excellence, an Ontario Social Impact Voucher, worth \$3000, to develop an impact reporting framework. The voucher was facilitated by SAMETRICA, a software developer and the creator of an award-winning impact and outcome reporting software, and included one-on-one coaching as well as access to outcome reporting software. This programme has allowed CCS to identify the areas in which it seeks to have impact paving the way for an informed discussion on future CCS programme development.

Financial Report

CCS is in its second financial year. The sole expense for year one and two was the office space lease at the Centre for Social Innovation, which was terminated on August 31, 2016. As of October 5, 2016 CCS has no expenses. The following statement is unaudited.

Canadian Centre on Statelessness Statement of Financial Income and Expense December 2015 through October 2016

Accrual Basis

	Unclassified	TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Direct Public Support		
Individ, Business Contributions	<u>1,035.00</u>	<u>1,035.00</u>
Total - Direct Public Support	1,035.00	1,035.00
Investments		
Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	<u>0.69</u>	<u>0.69</u>
Total - Investments	<u>0.69</u>	<u>0.69</u>
Total Income	1,035.69	1,035.69
Expense		
Facilities and Equipment		
Rent, Parking, Utilities	<u>600.00</u>	<u>600.00</u>
Total - Facilities and Equipment	600.00	600.00
Other Types of Expenses		
Other Costs	<u>15.00</u>	<u>15.00</u>
Total - Other Types of Expenses	<u>15.00</u>	<u>15.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>615.00</u>	<u>615.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>420.69</u>	<u>420.69</u>
Net Income	<u>420.69</u>	<u>420.69</u>

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.

Jocelyn Kane
Treasurer, Board of Directors
Ottawa, ON
October 31, 2016

Our Supporters

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 in its first two years of operation.

Americas Network on Nationality and Statelessness

Patrick Balazo

Maria Basualdo

Andrew Brouwer

Deepan Budlakoti

Don Chapman

Chinese Canadian Military Museum

European Network on Statelessness

Claire Delisle

Theresa Dillon

Farishta Dinshaw

Gregg Erauw

Taraneh Etemadi

Rosalie Fournier

Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights

Global Ideas Institute, University of Toronto

Qia Gunster

Human Rights Research and Education Centre, University of Ottawa

Immigration and Settlement Studies, Ryerson University

Institute for Statelessness and Inclusion

Immigration and Refugee Committee, City of Toronto

Jocelyn Kane

Fabiola Limon-Bravo

Sarah Marshall

Tearney McDermott

Donovan McGlaughlin

Ezat Mossallanejad

Ontario Public Interest Research Group - Ottawa

Adam Pomper

Marcelo Saavedra-Vargas

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Marc Valade

Jacob Wawatie

Yana Zabalotnikava

Y. Y. Chen

CCS is also grateful for the efforts of those not named here.

Contact Us

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