

Canadian Centre on Statelessness

Annual Report

2018



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 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,

In today's political climate the need for the 'truth' is debated, to say the least. In a world where facts are both necessary for an informed discussion and questioned as partisan, it is increasingly important to remain aligned with the ground-level lived experiences of people an organisation works with.

Now in our fourth year, CCS remains committed to highlighting the impact of statelessness in Canada as experienced by a number of groups: refugees, student and worker migrants, victims of trafficking, military babies born abroad, and people whose births have not been registered including Indigenous persons. We are dedicated to communicating the data we come across in our studies, the personal stories we hear, and fostering valuable relationships in new and diverse areas.

We are continuing on our quest to 'prove' that statelessness exists in Canada, that it is harmful, and that Canada is failing to meet its obligations to protect stateless persons and prevent statelessness.

This year was a success in many ways. CCS was able to enhance its programming as well as mobilise the issue of statelessness in Canada on the international stage. With our projects ranging from identifying barriers to health and well-being to exploring the causes and impacts of Indigenous statelessness in Canada, CCS has continued to engage with the topic of statelessness in this country. This year we also turned our attention outwards, to international advocacy, successfully submitting briefs detailing the legislative barriers and impacts of statelessness in Canada to two United Nations Human Rights bodies.

What we achieved this year has also made clear what work remains. On the horizon is continued work on domestic advocacy, and telling the story of statelessness in Canada to Canadians. CCS will continue to work with partners across the country in research, in awareness raising, and communicating our findings to policy- and law-makers.

We look forward to the year ahead!

Yours Sincerely,

Board of Directors

Canadian Centre on Statelessness

board of directors

The Canadian Centre on Statelessness (CCS) Board of Directors was elected on November 1, 2017, and comprises Y.Y. Chen, Michelle Quigg, and Jamie Chai Yun Liew.

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.

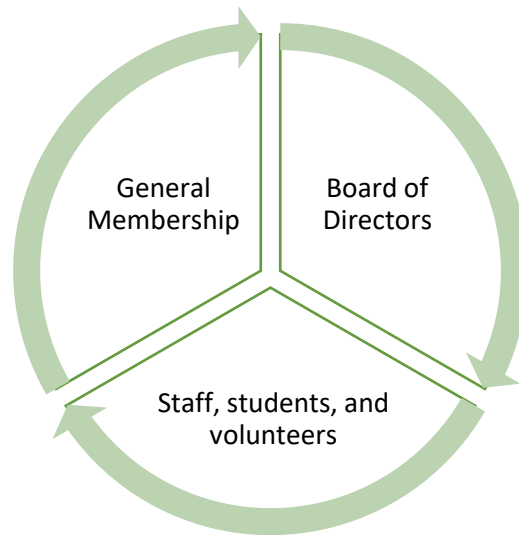
Claire Delisle, until June 2018, Secretary, teaches criminology and sociology at the University of Ottawa. Her experience includes solidarity work for the peace process in Ireland, and anti-prison struggle. Claire's praxis is focused on decolonization, anti-oppression, and horizontality. She has experience in policy analysis and the development of policy alternatives.

Michelle Quigg works as an immigration lawyer at Vancouver Island University. She was formerly a lawyer and program coordinator for the Access Pro Bono Society of British Columbia, where she represented stateless clients. Michelle is passionate about increasing access to justice, particularly as it relates to helping individuals who have fallen through the cracks of Canada's immigration, refugee and citizenship system.

Jamie Chai Yun Liew, Secretary since June 2018, 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.

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 2018 were to enhance our research programme, expand our international advocacy efforts, and continue our efforts in building relationships with allies across Canada and beyond.

research

In an effort to further develop our understanding of statelessness in Canada, this year CCS turned its attention to its research programme. This year marked the completion, continuation, and commencement of several research projects. We finalised our Education Pilot, bringing this two-year project to an end; we entered the second stage of our project on health, and well-being study; and we began analysing the impact of statelessness in two new impact areas: detention, and Indigenous statelessness. Finally, we began preparing a guide for understanding and preparing Ministerial grants applications for citizenship.

In the 2016/2017 school year, CCS created an **Education Pilot** where we explored the possibility of engaging with primary and secondary school teachers in Ontario to introduce statelessness into classrooms. We developed a plan for stateless education that met Ontario curriculum standards and objectives for classes at the primary and secondary grade levels. Classes included Civics, Canadian Studies, Geography, World Issues, Equity and Social Justice, and Law. In July of this year we applied for a 2018 Ontario Trillium Foundation Seed Grant but we were not successful. This was a great learning opportunity and we will continue to work with educators to ensure that children learn about the causes and consequences of statelessness.

Partnered with Y.Y. Chen, CCS Board member and Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa, CCS received a Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR) Planning and Dissemination Grant in order to carry out research into the relationship between the **National Belonging and Health Outcomes of Non-citizens in Canada**. Earlier this year we carried out several interviews with stateless persons in Canada, building a rich knowledge base of how statelessness, health and well-being are connected. We aim to release our findings in 2019.

This year CCS began looking into the **detention of stateless persons** in Canada. With undergraduate students at the University of Ottawa we explored the academic, community, NGO, government, and international organisational literature concerning where stateless people are detained in Canada, their conditions in detention, and their access to justice and services.

A second project that CCS began this spring looks at the causes and implications of **Indigenous Statelessness** in Canada. With a team of five volunteers from four cities we are exploring elements of statelessness as experienced by Indigenous persons in Canada including gender, identity, family, self-determination, colonisation, and status. CCS will present the findings of this research project to the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion's World Conference in June 2019.

Finally, CCS Board member Michelle Quigg began preparing a guide for those who wish to submit an application for citizenship through the Citizenship Act's Section 5(4) **Ministerial grant for citizenship**. This guide will be a user-friendly tool that applicants and their representatives can use to navigate the application process, and understand more clearly the documents that are required and the steps that must be taken. The guide will be featured on the CCS website in early 2019.

advocacy

In September 2017, CCS partnered with the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion to submit a brief on statelessness in Canada for Canada's third cycle **Universal Periodic Review** (UPR) at the United Nations Human Rights Council. We discussed statelessness in Canada with respect to the lack of a statelessness determination procedure, children's right to a nationality, and detention. We are excited to report that Canada received recommendations from Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, and Georgia to take the necessary steps to ratify the *Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons*, and a recommendation from Chile to establish a statelessness determination procedure and a protected stateless person status that facilitates the naturalization procedure for stateless persons!

In an effort to continue our international advocacy Work CCS participated at the **11th session of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights Minority Rights Forum** focusing on statelessness. With John Packer, Neuberger-Jesin Professor of International Conflict Resolution, of the Human Rights Research and Education Centre of University of Ottawa, CCS took part in over two days of panel discussions with a record 600 states representatives and NGOs. We discussed the root causes and consequences of statelessness; the roles that conflict and forced migration play in statelessness affecting minorities; ensuring the right to a nationality through facilitation of birth registration, naturalization and citizenship; and advancing gender equality in nationality laws for minority women and children. CCS was able to submit an official statement to the Forum calling on Canada to define statelessness in its immigration and citizenship law, and implement a statelessness determination mechanism.



events

The CCS Board of Directors took part in several conferences in 2018. In April, Michelle Quigg was a panelist in the 14th **National Canadian Association for Refugee Lawyers Conference** where she discussed preparing permanent residency and citizenship applications for stateless people.

In August, Executive Director Jocelyn Kane, and Directors Y.Y. Chen and Jamie Liew presented at the **Citizenship, Legal Pluralism and Governance in the Age of Globalization Conference**, at the University of Ottawa. Jocelyn discussed citizenship and immigration law and policy as it relates to statelessness, and profiles of stateless persons in Canada; Y.Y. presented preliminary findings from our CIHR study on National Belonging and Health Outcomes of Non-citizens in Canada; and Jamie discussed the misapplication of the doctrine of exhaustion (of remedies) in stateless cases in Canada

On November 5, 2018 Jocelyn Kane was invited to participate in the **Statelessness in the U.S. and Emerging Challenges in Nationality Workshop** for civil society organisations and legal clinics in the United States, hosted by the Americas Network on Nationality and Statelessness, Open Society Justice Initiative, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Jocelyn presented on Canada's experience with statelessness including legislation and policy, profiles of stateless persons, and CCS projects.



We also witnessed the official launch of United Stateless, an organisation of stateless individuals in the United States who are committed to tackling statelessness in that country.

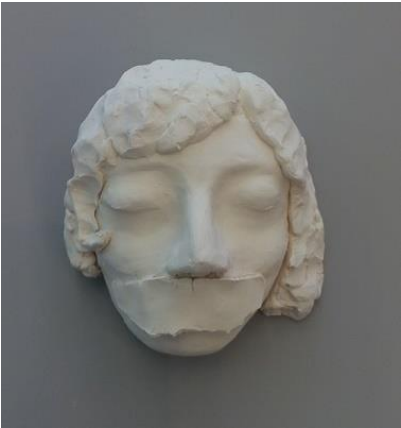
We were delighted to participate, and met several allies in the field, fostering a greater understanding of issues that take place just across our border. For more information visit their website www.unitedstateless.org.



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. Over the course of the year we discussed statelessness with COFFRET and Willowdale Community Legal Services in Canada; Statelessness Dignity Project and United Stateless of the United States; the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion of The Netherlands; and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees office in Geneva. Through these meetings we communicated CCS activities and objectives, and learned of the practices carried out by those who share similar goals, particularly in a global context.

In the summer of 2018 CCS received from Stateless HE, a stateless artist who resides in Toronto, a generous donation of two beautiful pieces of sculpture. Stateless HE donated the pieces so as to raise awareness about the plight of stateless persons, but also to highlight the emotional impact that statelessness can have on a person.



financial report

Profit & Loss 2017-2018 Comparison

Accrual Basis

	1 Jan - 7 Dec 18	1 Jan - 7 Dec 17
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
43400 · Direct Public Support		
43450 · Individ, Business Contributions	0.00	250.00
Total 43400 · Direct Public Support	0.00	250.00
45000 · Investments		
45030 · Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	0.32	0.50
Total 45000 · Investments	0.32	0.50
47200 · Program Income		
47230 · Membership Dues	0.00	125.00
47200 · Program Income - Other	2,925.00	2,925.00
Total 47200 · Program Income	2,925.00	3,050.00
Total Income	2,925.32	3,300.50
Expense		
60900 · Business Expenses		
60920 · Business Registration Fees	40.00	0.00
Total 60900 · Business Expenses	40.00	0.00
65000 · Operations		
65040 · Supplies	183.04	0.00
Total 65000 · Operations	183.04	0.00
65100 · Other Types of Expenses		
65160 · Other Costs	132.77	11.87
Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	132.77	11.87
Total Expense	355.81	11.87
Net Ordinary Income	2,569.51	3,288.63
Net Income	2,569.51	3,288.63

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, December 15, 2018

our 2018 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.

Farnaz Ahanin

Leen Amarin

A. B.

A. B.

Americas Network on Nationality and Statelessness

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Hilary Perry

Adam Pomper

Michelle Quigg

Fiorella Rabafuetti

Rachel Reesor

Marcelo Saavedra-Vargas

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Y. Y. Chen

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

contact us

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