Canadian Constitution Foundation

2026 Annual Report

THECCF.CA



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About the Canadian Constitution Foundation

The Canadian Constitution Foundation (CCF) is a national and non-partisan charity.

We are dedicated to defending the constitutionally protected rights and freedoms of Canadians, and to maintaining Canada's constitution, including its federal structure and division of powers, as intended in the *Constitution Act, 1867*.

Our charitable registration number is: 86617 6654 RR0001.



The CCF in Ottawa in 2026



Our Mandate

The CCF is dedicated to defending the constitutionally protected rights and freedoms including:

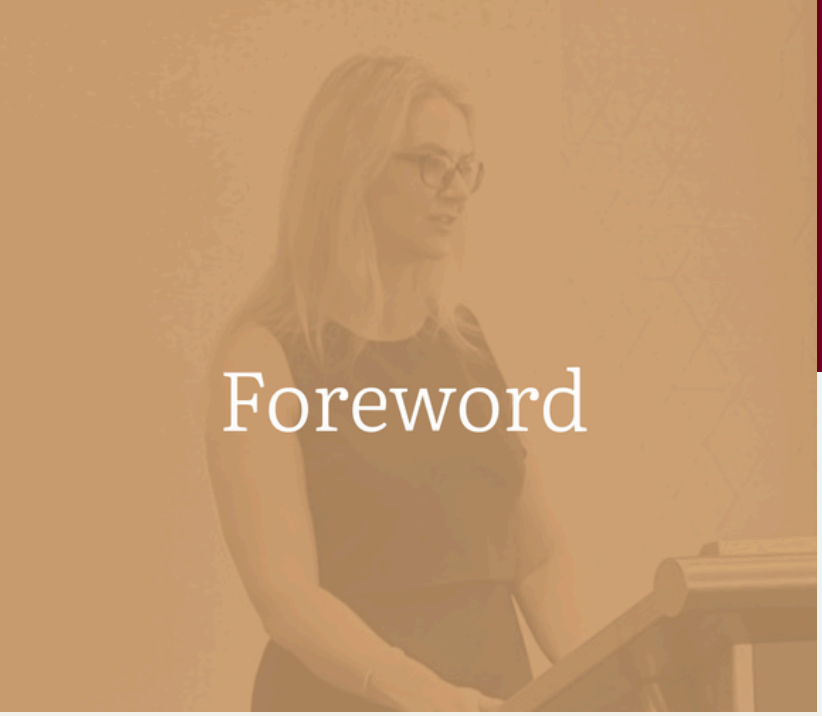
INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS
(Section 2 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*):
Freedom of conscience and religion
Freedom of thought, belief, opinion, and expression
Freedom of peaceful assembly
Freedom of association



LIBERTY
(Section 7 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*):
The right to life, liberty and security of the person.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
(Section 15 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*):
The right to equality before the law for all individuals.

FEDERALISM
(Sections 91, 92 and 92A of the *Constitution Act, 1867*):
Defend the federal division of powers between Parliament and the Provinces.
Minimize government overreach that upsets the constitutional compromise reached by Canada's Fathers of Confederation.



Foreword

This has been an extraordinary year for the Canadian Constitution Foundation...

We have expanded our litigation, secured important victories for constitutional rights, and continued to establish the CCF as Canada's leading voice in defence of fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.

The highlight of the year was our second major victory in the *Emergencies Act* litigation. In January 2026, the Federal Court of Appeal upheld the finding that the federal government's invocation of the *Emergencies Act* in response to the Freedom Convoy protests was unlawful and violated the *Charter*. This decision affirmed a fundamental principle of our constitutional democracy that governments cannot simply set aside the ordinary limits on their powers when faced with political opposition or public disorder. Even in an emergency, the government is bound by the law. With the federal government now seeking to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada, this important fight continues.

Over the past year, the CCF took on ten new cases, secured eight victories, and argued seven hearings. We successfully challenged restrictions on political expression, defended Canadians against unreasonable government surveillance, and pushed back against municipal bylaws that exceeded lawful authority. We also continued our work in the Supreme Court of Canada on questions involving federalism, parliamentary privilege, mobility rights, equality rights, and the proper constitutional roles of courts and legislatures.



Foreword

What makes the CCF's work especially important is that we defend constitutional principles consistently, regardless of whether the individuals involved or the political positions they hold are popular. Freedom of expression must protect controversial speech. The rule of law must constrain governments of every political stripe.

And courts must enforce the Constitution without assuming the policy-making responsibilities that belong to elected legislatures. These principles are not always politically convenient, but they are essential to a free society.

Behind each of our cases is a real person whose life has been affected by government action. Whether it is a teenager waiting years for medically necessary surgery, a homeowner facing overwhelming costs imposed by government, or a Canadian threatened with punishment for peaceful political expression, our litigation is about ensuring that constitutional protections have practical meaning. We are proud to stand with these Canadians, often against governments with vastly greater resources.



Delivering remarks at the rally to Stop Bill C-9 in March



Through the Runnymede Society, we are helping cultivate a new generation of lawyers who value intellectual diversity, rigorous debate, and the rule of law. This year, Runnymede celebrated its tenth anniversary and its most active year ever in Canadian law schools. Through PrimaryDocuments.ca, our educational initiatives, and our growing communications platforms, we are also making constitutional history and legal ideas more accessible to Canadians.

None of this work would be possible without our donors. The CCF does not rely on government funding to hold governments accountable. Our independence, and our ability to take on difficult cases that others may be unwilling to pursue, depends on the generosity of Canadians who believe that constitutional rights are worth defending.

As I reflect on this year, I am enormously proud of our talented legal team, our staff, our volunteers, and the lawyers across Canada who contribute their expertise to our cases. I am equally grateful to our supporters, whose commitment allows us to pursue ambitious litigation and to think about the long-term protection of constitutional freedoms.

The Constitution is not self-enforcing. Its protections depend on people and institutions willing to insist that governments respect the limits of their authority. That is the work of the Canadian Constitution Foundation, and with your continued support, it is work we will keep doing.

Christine Van Geyn

Christine Van Geyn
Interim Executive Director



Key Metrics & Milestones

10
new cases filed

8
case victories

7
hearings argued



Christine on CTV's The Social promoting Maple's Garden

2025–2026 Highlights

SECOND *EMERGENCIES ACT* VICTORY

The Federal Court of Appeal upheld our successful challenge to the Trudeau government's use of the *Emergencies Act*, securing a second major victory for the CCF and confirming that the government failed to meet the strict legal threshold for invoking emergency powers.

INTRODUCING THE CARTIER-MACDONALD AWARD

In March, we presented the first ever Cartier-Macdonald Award to former Saskatchewan Attorney General Bronwyn Eyre for her leadership in advancing freedom and constitutional principles.

MAPLE'S GARDEN ON NATIONAL TELEVISION

Christine joined the hosts of CTV's *The Social* to talk about *Maple's Garden*, her children's book about a young girl who uses the *Charter* to stand up for her wild, pollinator-friendly garden.

369,800+

Views on our reel celebrating the *Emergencies Act* win

HIRED NEW COUNSEL

We strengthened our litigation team by welcoming Counsel Alexander Surgenor, who brings courtroom experience from his time as a criminal defence lawyer in Ontario and Saskatchewan.



New Litigation

In the last year, the CCF has taken on ten new cases.

PROFESSIONAL REGULATORS CENSORING POLITICAL SPEECH

British Columbia realtor Corbin Chivers was cautioned by the BC Financial Services Authority over social media posts expressing his views on political issues. The regulator said Chivers' posts fell below professional standards and could factor into future disciplinary matters, leaving him fearful of speaking publicly on political issues.



The CCF wrote to the BC Financial Services Authority demanding the letter be removed from Chivers' file. A few days later, they replied confirming the letter had been withdrawn.

ONLINE REVIEWS AND FREE EXPRESSION

Prescott v Benchwood Builders

The CCF intervened at the Supreme Court of Canada in a case surrounding Ontario homeowners sued for defamation by a renovation company after posting negative online reviews. A lower court dismissed the lawsuit under Ontario's anti-SLAPP law, which protects expression on matters of public interest, but the Court of Appeal allowed it to proceed after finding that online reviews are not automatically matters of public interest.

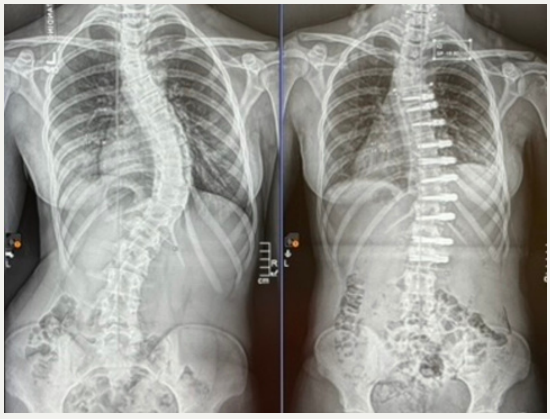
Consumer reviews are an important form of public expression and Canadians should not face the threat of costly lawsuits for sharing their experiences online.

New Litigation



TEEN'S YEARS-LONG SURGERY DELAY

Alberta teenager Vienna Pedatella waited more than two years for scoliosis surgery while her condition got worse and worse. When the government refused to fund surgery in the U.S. through its out-of-country care program, Vienna's family paid $200,000 for the treatment themselves.



Vienna's spinal curve, before and after

The CCF is fighting to have Vienna's family reimbursed and to establish that excessive waits for medically necessary care violates patients' section 7 *Charter* rights to life and security of the person.

RIGHT TO BIKE LANES

Cycle Toronto v Ontario

Victory!



The CCF intervened in the Ontario government's appeal of a decision that blocked the province from removing bike lanes on major streets in Toronto. The lower court had ruled the removals would violate cyclists' section 7 *Charter* rights to life and security of the person.

The ruling improperly expanded section 7 by turning existing government policies into positive constitutional rights and allowing courts to override ordinary policy decisions. In August 2026, the Ontario Court of Appeal overturned the ruling, finding there is no *Charter* right to bike lanes and affirming that governments remain free to make policy choices.

New Litigation

FIREARMS LAW AND LEGAL CERTAINTY

Canadian Coalition for Firearm Rights v Canada

In 2020, the Trudeau government issued federal regulations prohibiting certain firearms and their "variants" but the government has never clearly defined what counts as a variant. Instead, the RCMP maintains a Firearms Reference Table identifying prohibited models while the government claims the list is non-binding, leaving firearms owners at risk of criminal prosecution if they get it wrong.

At the Supreme Court, the CCF will propose a clear framework for when government policies and guidelines carry the force of law.

GOVERNMENT MANDATED ARCHAEOLOGICAL COSTS

After 1,000-year-old human remains were discovered on Christine and Daniel Reio's Port Colborne property during renovations, the Ontario government required them to fund archaeological investigations and Indigenous consultations that could end up costing more than $1 million.

With CCF support, the Reios are challenging the government's refusal to provide financial assistance, seeking to establish a precedent that homeowners should not be left with crushing costs for obligations imposed in the public interest.



Christine Reio stands in front of the property she and her husband have been unable to use for more than two years.

New Litigation



AYLMER, ONTARIO ELECTION SPEECH RESTRICTIONS

Victory!

Ahead of its municipal election, the Town of Aylmer, Ontario, issued guidance restricting how candidates could campaign in public spaces, including filming campaign videos featuring splash pads and bandshells or campaigning at private events in public parks.

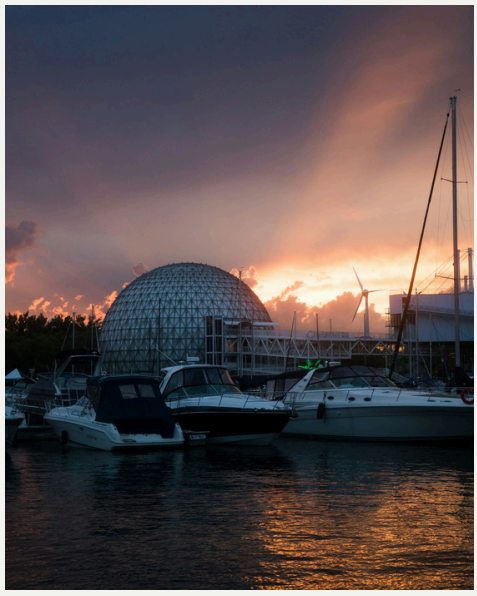
The CCF wrote to the Town warning that the restrictions violated candidates' freedom of expression and calling for their removal. Aylmer quickly reversed course and dropped the restrictions.

ROLE OF LEGISLATURES IN ONTARIO PLACE CASE

Ontario Place Protectors v Ontario

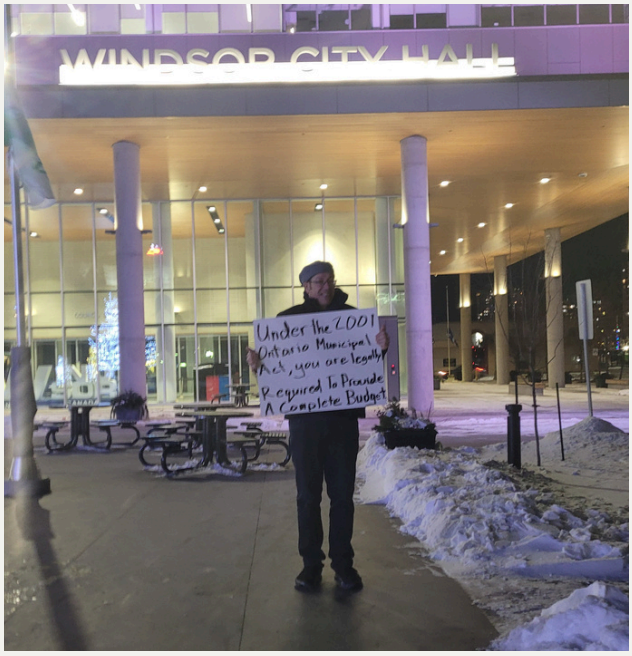
The Ontario government's *Rebuilding Ontario Place Act* exempts the redevelopment of Ontario Place from certain environmental and heritage requirements and limits some legal claims against the government, while preserving judicial review and constitutional remedies. Ontario Place Protectors argue these limits violate section 96 of the *Constitution Act*, 1867 by interfering with the role of superior courts.

At the Supreme Court, the CCF will argue that Section 96 protects the essential judicial function – interpreting and applying law – but does not restrict a legislature's power to create, modify, or eliminate specific causes of action or remedies.



Ontario Place in 2021, before re-development construction

New Litigation



Spencer Allossery with his sign at Windsor City Hall

SKATING PROTESTER ARRESTED

Windsor resident Spencer Allossery was handcuffed and ticketed for "trespassing" for skating outside City Hall while holding a sign criticizing the City's lack of budget transparency in view of a council meeting. The CCF is assisting Allossery, whose peaceful protest in a public space is protected by his section 2(b) *Charter* right to freedom of expression. The CCF is working to have the charge dismissed and demands an apology from the City and Windsor Police for violating Allossery's constitutional rights.

EQUALIZATION FORMULA CHALLENGE

Newfoundland and Labrador v Canada

Victory!

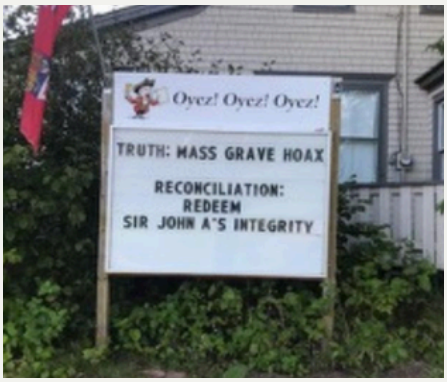
Newfoundland and Labrador sought to have the federal equalization formula declared unconstitutional under section 36(2) of the *Constitution Act*, 1982. The province claimed the current formula failed to account for the higher cost of delivering services to a sparsely populated province.

The CCF intended to argue at the Supreme Court of Newfoundland that the Constitution commits the federal government to equalization but leaves decisions about how payments are calculated and distributed to elected governments, not judges. In May 2026, Newfoundland discontinued the challenge.

Recent Litigation

FREEDOM TO TRAVEL BETWEEN PROVINCES
Taylor v Canada

Nova Scotia resident Kimberley Taylor was barred from entering Newfoundland in 2020 to attend her mother's funeral because of COVID-19 restrictions. Her case reached the Supreme Court, where the CCF defended the principle that section 6 of the *Charter* protects Canadians' freedom to travel between provinces. In February 2026, the Supreme Court agreed, rejecting the government's narrower interpretation of section 6 and confirming a broad constitutional right to interprovincial mobility.



John Roberson's sign as it appeared in September 2023

P.E.I. COUNCILLOR'S SIGNBOARD
Robertson v Murray Harbour

Victory!

Murray Harbour, P.E.I. councillor John Robertson was fined, suspended and removed as a committee chair after posting a controversial message on a sign outside his home: "Truth: Mass grave hoax. Reconciliation: Redeem Sir John A's integrity." With CCF assistance, Robertson challenged the sanctions as a violation of his *Charter* right to freedom of expression.

Although Robertson's court challenge was dismissed for procedural reasons, the province ultimately dropped its inquiry into Robertson's conduct in July 2026.



Recent Litigation

NOVA SCOTIA WOODS BAN

Victory!

The Supreme Court of Nova Scotia agreed with the CCF that the province's summer 2025 ban on entering the woods was unreasonable and unlawful. Implemented to reduce the risk of forest fires, the ban restricted access to vast areas of the province and carried fines of $28,872.50 and up to six months in jail. In April, the court found the government failed to consider mobility rights protected by section 6 of the *Charter* and raised further concerns that the ban was vague and overbroad.



Ruck with John Mather and Lauren Baker of DMG Advocates for the CCF

NATURALIZED GARDEN DESTROYED BY CITY

Ruck v City of Mississauga

Victory!

Mississauga homeowner Wolf Ruck created a naturalized garden containing tall, native plants to express his views on biodiversity and environmental protection. After neighbours complained, the City entered his property and mowed down his garden, citing the "Nuisance Weeds and Tall Grass Control By-law," and added the costs to his property tax bill. After Ruck initially lost his challenge, the CCF supported his appeal.

In January 2026, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice struck down key provisions of Mississauga's bylaw, finding Ruck's garden was protected expression under the *Charter* and the restrictions were not justified.

Recent Litigation

PARLIAMENTARY FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Alford v Canada

The CCF intervened in Lakehead University Professor Ryan Alford's Supreme Court challenge to section 12 of the *National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians Act* (NSICOP), which strips committee members of Parliamentary immunity if they disclose certain information obtained through the committee – even when speaking in Parliament – threatening MPs' freedom of speech.

In May 2026, the Supreme Court upheld the law in an 8 to 1 decision. Justice Côté dissented, agreeing with the CCF that the law undermined Parliamentary independence.



KINGSTON POLICE DRONE SURVEILLANCE

Victory!

Kingston police used a drone to zoom in on drivers inside their vehicles during a distracted driving blitz, capturing close-up footage of their hands, arms and phone screens. One woman received a $500 ticket plus fees after she noticed the drone hovering outside her car and picked up her phone to take a photo of it while stopped at a red light.

The CCF assisted the woman in fighting the ticket on the basis that secretly recording drivers inside their vehicles violates the section 8 *Charter* protection against unreasonable search. In December 2025, the Crown withdrew the ticket.



Recent Litigation

SCOPE OF EQUALITY RIGHTS

Québec v Kanyinda

The CCF intervened in a Supreme Court of Canada case considering whether the government of Quebec's policy not to provide unverified asylum seekers with subsidized daycare violated section 15 of the *Charter*, equality under the law. The CCF argued that when considering section 15 claims, there when should maintain consistency in how they define and compare groups across both steps of the section 15 analysis.

In March 2026, the Supreme Court found that Quebec's policy discriminated against female asylum seekers, expanding the scope of section 15 and opening the door to more discrimination claims over access to government programs.



Roxham Road at the border of New York and Quebec where refugee claimant Ms. Kanyinda crossed into Canada in 2018. Image by Daniel Case, used under CC 3.0.

Recent Litigation

"IMPLIED LICENSE" OF POLICE ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

R v Singer

The CCF intervened at the Supreme Court in a case involving RCMP officers who entered private property without a warrant while investigating suspected impaired driving. Officers found Mr. Singer asleep in a truck in the driveway and opened the door, leading to impaired driving charges.

In March 2026, the Supreme Court ruled 5 to 4 that police can rely on the "implied license" for investigative purposes. The implied license normally allows visitors to approach a home for the purpose of communication. But the dissent agreed with the CCF that homeowners cannot reasonably be assumed to consent to police entering their property to investigate them.

FEDERAL REGULATION OF PLASTICS

Responsible Plastic Use Coalition v Canada



The CCF intervened in a challenge to the Trudeau government's plastics ban, which listed all "plastic manufactured items" as toxic under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*, giving the federal government the power to ban products such as single use plastic bags and straws. The Federal Court initially struck down the listing as unreasonable. In January 2026, the Federal Court of Appeal overturned that decision, but confirmed that future regulations targeting plastics must still fall within federal criminal law.



Ongoing Litigation



EMERGENCIES ACT CHALLENGE

Victory!

Two courts have now confirmed that the Trudeau government unlawfully invoked the Emergencies Act in response to the 2022 Freedom Convoy protests. The Federal Court ruled in January 2024 that the government had not met the strict legal threshold required to invoke the Act and that measures including freezing bank accounts and restricting participation in protests violated *Charter* rights.

In January 2026, the Federal Court of Appeal upheld that ruling, siding with the CCF. On the last possible day, the Carney government announced its intention to appeal to the Supreme Court. If leave is granted the CCF will be there to continue the fight.

MONETARY DAMAGES FOR NOTWITHSTANDING CLAUSE USE

Hak v Attorney General of Quebec

Quebec's Bill 21 bans certain public sector employees from wearing religious symbols at work, invoking section 33 of the *Charter*, the notwithstanding clause, to shield parts of the law from *Charter* challenges. The CCF's intervention at the Supreme Court focused on whether courts can still award *Charter* damages for laws protected by section 33, paid by taxpayers. Awarding damages in those circumstances would effectively circumvent the notwithstanding clause and upset the constitutional balance between courts and elected legislatures.

Ongoing Litigation



Dr. Brian Day

CAMBIE CASE LITIGATION COSTS

Cambie Surgeries Corporation v Medical Services Commission

Dr. Brian Day and the Cambie Surgery Centre launched a constitutional challenge to British Columbia healthcare restrictions that prevented patients from seeking private care when they faced lengthy waits in the public system, with support from the CCF. After the Supreme Court declined to hear the case, the British Columbia government was awarded $1.6 million in legal costs from the CCF and its partners.

The CCF is not giving up. With the support of our donors, we will keep pushing for meaningful healthcare choice and standing with those who fight for meaningful reform.

UBC ACADEMIC FREEDOM CHALLENGE

Four professors at the University of British Columbia, supported by the CCF, are challenging the university's increasingly political approach to hiring and academic affairs. British Columbia's *University Act* requires universities to remain "non-sectarian and non-political in principle," yet UBC has required some job candidates to commit to DEI values and its Okanagan Senate passed a resolution condemning Israel's actions in Gaza as genocide. The professors are asking the Supreme Court of British Columbia to require UBC's administration to comply with its statutory requirement to remain non-political, protecting freedom of expression and academic freedom.

Ongoing Litigation

MAYOR OF EMO PRIDE PROCLAMATION

Borderland Pride v Emo

Mayor of Emo Harold McQuaker was ordered to pay $5,000 after the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal determined that comments he made before town council rejecting a Pride Month proclamation were discriminatory. The 1,200-person township was ordered to pay an additional $10,000, and the group Borderland Pride later obtained an order to garnish the mayor's personal bank account.

The CCF is intervening in the judicial review to defend the freedom of elected officials to speak openly during political debate without facing personal financial penalties for expressing their views.



Three women are arrested on June 17, 2025 for holding protest signs at a city council meeting in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Photograph by Ed Smith for The Pointer.

NIAGARA FALLS SIGN BAN

Niagara Falls resident Lauren O'Connor was one of three demonstrators arrested after silently protesting at a city council meeting by holding a small paper sign in her lap that read "The Women of Ontario Say No." Mayor James Diodati refused to begin the meeting until the signs were put away, citing a decorum policy banning all signs and "symbolic materials" from council chambers. The CCF is assisting O'Connor in challenging the policy as an unjustified restriction on freedom of expression.

Ongoing Litigation



ALBERTA CHALLENGE TO IMPACT ASSESSMENT ACT

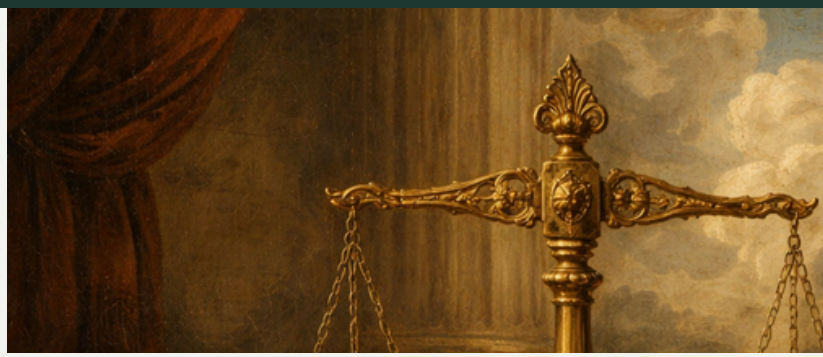
In 2023, the Supreme Court of Canada found most of the Trudeau government's *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) unconstitutional for allowing the federal government to halt and veto projects such as highways, mines, and natural resource developments in provincial jurisdiction. In response, the law was amended, but Alberta is now challenging whether those changes resolved the constitutional conflicts.

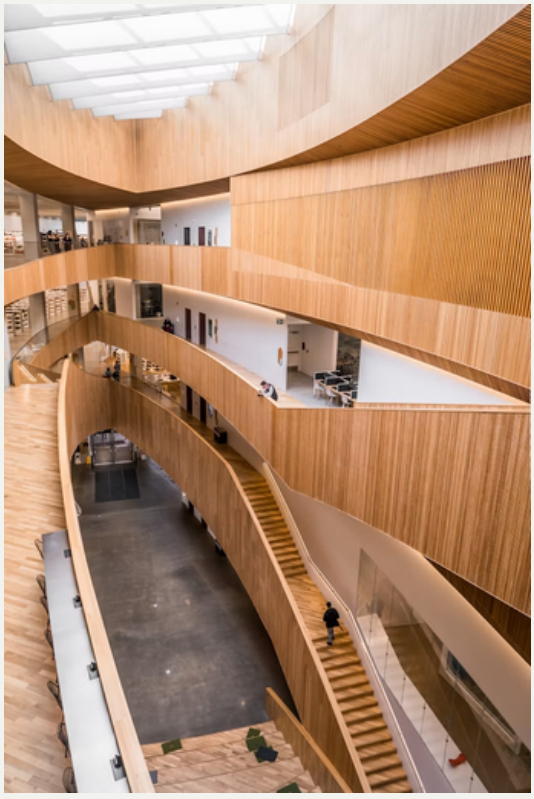
In the new legal challenge, the CCF made a number of arguments in February, including that the IAA seriously threatens Canada's constitutional division of powers and undermines federalism by allowing the federal government to make decisions about provincial projects.

WATERLOO "HARASSMENT" BYLAW

The CCF is challenging a Region of Waterloo, Ontario, amendment to a bylaw that prohibits conduct or comments in public spaces that could "reasonably cause offence or humiliation," with fines up to $5,000. The CCF is seeking to quash this unlawful attempt to criminalize speech on the grounds that it infringes the *Charter* freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly and exceeds the Region's municipal authority.

Ongoing Litigation





Calgary Central Library

CALGARY PROTEST RESTRICTIONS

Calgary's "Safe and Inclusive Access Bylaw" prohibits only certain protests within 100 metres of libraries and recreation centres, with penalties of up to $10,000 and imprisonment. After Larry Heather was ticketed for protesting a drag queen reading event at Calgary's Central Library, the CCF was an intervenor in the challenge to the bylaw as an unconstitutional restriction on freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

The Court of King's Bench upheld Heather's ticket but found parts of the bylaw overbroad and unjustifiably restrictive of *Charter* rights. In July 2026, the Alberta Court of Appeal granted leave to appeal, and the CCF will support Heather as the court considers the constitutionality of the bylaw.



Runnymede Society

The Runnymede Society is a membership-based organization of law and pre-law students, lawyers, legal scholars, and judges committed to upholding constitutionalism, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law in Canada. We invite speakers to illuminate and debate real issues that engage these age-old principles. Our emphasis on depth of argument and viewpoint diversity has made us a venue for the best legal debates in Canada.

In Canadian law schools, 2025-26 was Runnymede's most active year ever. Runnymede pre-law and law school student chapters held 64 events, with total attendance of almost 2,700. For the second year in a row, an estimated 10% of all law students in Canada attended at least one Runnymede event. In addition, Runnymede lawyer chapters held 10 events across Canada, with some 300 total attendees. Notable events include the following:

- **Western University Faculty of Law: "Testing the Notwithstanding Clause: The Constitutional Battle over Quebec's Bill 21,"** a panel examining the use of the notwithstanding clause, the interaction between sections 28 and 33 of the *Charter*, and federalism, featuring Professor Ryan Alford (Lakehead University), Professor Kerri Froc (University of New Brunswick), and Derek Ross (Christian Legal Fellowship). Attendees stayed after the panel to continue the discussion and engage further with the speakers. **The event won Runnymede's inaugural Platinum Award.**





Runnymede Society

- **University of Guelph: “Constitutional Totalism and Its Consequences,”** featuring Justice Malcolm Rowe of the Supreme Court of Canada for a lecture on the expanding reach of constitutional law. **The event drew 165 attendees. The Guelph chapter won Gold in Runnymede’s 2025–26 Overall Chapter Award.**

- **University of Toronto Faculty of Law: “Indigenous Self-Governance: Fireside Chat,”** discussing the current state and future of the Indigenous right to self-government in Canada, featuring Professor John Borrows (University of Victoria), Renée Pelletier (Olthuis Kleer Townshend LLP), and François Joyal (Department of Justice Canada). **The University of Toronto chapter won Silver in Runnymede’s 2025–26 Overall Chapter Award.**

- **University of Alberta Faculty of Law: “Clause and Effect: Section 33 and the Constitutional Conversation,”** a friendly debate on competing interpretations of section 33 of the *Charter* and the proper relationship between courts and legislatures, featuring Justice Eric Adams (Court of King’s Bench of Alberta), then a professor at the University of Alberta, and Professor Dwight Newman (University of Saskatchewan), moderated by Professor Gerard Kennedy (University of Alberta). **The event drew a standing-room-only audience.** The Alberta chapter won Bronze in Runnymede’s 2025–26 Overall Chapter Award.

- **McGill University Faculty of Law: “Positivism & Natural Law: Competing Foundations of Legal Order,”** a bilingual panel examining legal positivism and natural law and their implications for public law and the role of jurists, featuring Professor Maxime St-Hilaire (Université de Sherbrooke) and Professor Victor Muñiz-Fraticelli (McGill University). Attendees continued the discussion for almost an hour after the event, which was a finalist for Runnymede’s inaugural Platinum Award.

Runnymede Society

- **Toronto Lawyer Chapter: "Freedom of Expression and Aboriginal Law: A Conversation with Justice Harry LaForme,"** a fireside chat on rising antisemitism, ideological narrowness in legal education, and Aboriginal law, featuring the Honourable Harry LaForme (Olthuis Kleer Townshend LLP), former Justice of the Ontario Court of Appeal and the first Indigenous person to sit on an appellate court in Canada, in conversation with Dylan Gold. **The event drew an engaged audience of dozens at the Albany Club.**

Law & Freedom

In late January 2026, more than 200 attendees gathered for a special 10th-anniversary edition of the Law & Freedom Conference, celebrating **Runnymede 10: A Decade of Dialogue in Pursuit of Principle**. Excerpts of conference presentations were made available on our podcast, *Runnymede Radio*, while full versions were made available online exclusively to Runnymede members.

Justice Suzanne Côté of the Supreme Court of Canada took the stage at the University of Toronto's Hart House to deliver the keynote address. She discussed the Supreme Court's approach to stare decisis and to making incremental changes to the common law.



The Honourable Suzanne Côté addresses Law & Freedom 2026



Runnymede Society

More than 30 speakers and moderators delivered eight other sessions: one debate, one fireside chat, and six panels:

- **Featured Debate on the Notwithstanding Clause**, which considered whether the Supreme Court of Canada should recognize more extensive legal limits on the notwithstanding clause than it did in *Ford v. Quebec (AG)* [1987], featuring Professor Kerri Froc (University of New Brunswick) and Michelle Biddulph (Greenspan Humphrey Makepeace LLP) versus Professor Dwight Newman (University of Saskatchewan) and Professor Dave Snow (University of Guelph), moderated by Christine Van Geyn (Canadian Constitution Foundation);

- **Uses and Abuses of Judicial Rhetoric: Judicial Fireside Chat**, which explored the uses and abuses of rhetoric in judicial reasoning and the development of the law, featuring Justice Peter Lauwers (Court of Appeal for Ontario) and Justice David Stratas (Federal Court of Appeal);

- **Aboriginal Title, Property Rights, and Reconciliation**, which examined the relationship between Aboriginal title, property rights, and reconciliation in Canadian law, featuring Charles Dumais (PrimaryDocuments), Karen Restoule (Macdonald-Laurier Institute), Michael Scott (PrimaryDocuments), and Thomas Isaac (Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP), moderated by Erik De Lorenzi (Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP);

- **A Changing World: Geopolitics and Canada-US Trade**, which examined Canada's trade relationships and economic position amid a changing geopolitical environment, featuring Professor Nicolas Lamp (Queen's University), Jessica Horwitz (Bennett Jones), and Michael Solursh (Government of Ontario), moderated by Professor Camden Hutchison (University of British Columbia);



Runnymede Society

- **Fair Vote BC, Working Families, and Democratic Rights**, which examined recent developments in democratic-rights litigation and electoral fairness, featuring Professor Michael Pal (University of Ottawa), Professor Jamie Cameron (Osgoode Hall Law School), Devin Drover (Canadian Taxpayers Federation), and Kerry Sun (University of Oxford), moderated by Professor Gerard Kennedy (University of Alberta);



- **Projet de loi 1, Loi constitutionnelle de 2025 sur le Québec: une « Constitution » ou une « dérive » ?,** which examined competing perspectives on Quebec's proposed provincial constitution and its constitutional significance, featuring Professor Félix Mathieu (Université du Québec en Outaouais), Professor Maxime St-Hilaire (Université de Sherbrooke), and Lise Brun (Université Laval), moderated by Alexandre Petitclerc (Université de Montréal);

- **Free Thought and Expression in the Modern University**, which examined the cultural, institutional, and professional pressures affecting free thought, expression, inquiry, and dissent on university campuses, featuring Professor Jacqueline Leighton (University of Alberta), Professor Jeffrey Sachs (Acadia University), and Professor Maxime St-Hilaire (Université de Sherbrooke), moderated by Kristopher Kinsinger (SV Law); and

- **Original Meaning and the Supreme Court: What TELUS Tells Us,** which examined what the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in *TELUS Communications Inc. v. Federation of Canadian Municipalities* revealed about original meaning and contemporary constitutional interpretation, featuring George Avraam (Baker McKenzie), Ewa Krajewska (Henein Hutchison Robitaille LLP), and Asher Honickman (Advocates for the Rule of Law), moderated by Professor Mark Mancini (Thompson Rivers University).

Runnymede Society

Chapter Leaders

The Law & Freedom conference allows Runnymede volunteer chapter leaders from across the country to visit in person. These student and lawyer volunteers, who are essential to Runnymede's continuing success, regularly report that the conference is a highlight of their year.

In addition, last fall, Runnymede hosted our third annual lawyer chapter retreat in Montreal, where lawyer chapter leaders worked together on a plan for the year ahead.

In July, Runnymede hosted the annual student leadership summit in Ottawa. There, more than 30 student chapter leaders were joined by several professors and members of the judiciary and heard from guest speakers about the importance of civil discourse on contentious subjects.



National Student Summit 2026

Dicey Law Review



Volume 6 of the Dicey Law Review is set to publish in 2026, with two issues. Authors include students, esteemed scholars, and members of the judiciary. For the second year running, the Runnymede Society will be recruiting a team of assistant student editors to serve on the Dicey editorial board.



Runnymede Society

Graduate Fellowships and the Blackstone Prize

The Runnymede Society is proud to facilitate a scholarship program for graduate students in law. In 2025-26, we granted a $25,000 award to two S.J.D. candidates at the University of Toronto. Allison Jandura received the Jack Major Fellowship and Christoph Pike received the Marshall Rothstein Fellowship.

In 2025, Runnymede received 11 submissions to the Blackstone Prize student essay competition. The law professors who served as jurors were very impressed by both the winner and runner up. In addition to receiving cash prizes, their contributions are being published in the Dicey Law Review.

Message from Tim Haggstrom





"Year after year, the Runnymede Society is drawing more students, lawyers, scholars, and judges to join in safeguarding and restoring constitutionalism, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law. To pursue this critical project, Runnymeders bring together leading legal minds to hold the best legal debates across Canada. These discussions are consistently marked by sincere, open, and rigorous interrogation of the most pressing legal matters of the day."

- Tim Haggstrom, National Director

PRIMARYDOCUMENTS.CA

A searchable database of historical documents relating to the drafting and adoption of the Constitution of Canada.

PrimaryDocuments in the Supreme Court of Canada

This year, PrimaryDocuments was used three times in Supreme Court this year, including, prominently in the English Montreal School Board, et al. v. Attorney General of Quebec, et al—where our commentary "Mapping the Limitations of the Notwithstanding Clause: The PrimaryDocuments.ca Drafting History for Section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms" was used in oral arguments and in file documents. PrimaryDocuments reports and documents are also being used in Attorney General of Québec v. SGS Canada inc. and Government of Saskatchewan as represented by the Minister of Education v. UR Pride Centre for Sexuality and Gender Diversity

Commentaries and Section Reports

Our team has published an updated drafting history for notable sections of the Constitution Act, 1982. This was used with recently discovered archival material. These are:

- "Mapping the Limitations of the Notwithstanding Clause: The PrimaryDocuments.ca Drafting History for Section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms"
- "Understanding an Ambiguous Clause: The PrimaryDocuments.ca Drafting History for Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982"
- "The Drafting of Section 1 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and The Foundations of Oakes"

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The Alberta Independence Referendum Collection

With the upcoming referendum on Alberta independence in October, our team has put together a collection of historical materials on this issue. We hope to add more in the near future. Thus far, our collection includes: debates on the creation of the Alberta Act, the federal and provincial debates on the Quebec referendum in 1980 and 1995, debates on the Clarity Act, debates on Quebec's Bill 99, our report on Section 35, the Numbered Treaties, a report on the development of local constitutions, and a report on unwritten principles: the protection of minorities.

Publications

Charles Dumais, The Quebec Resolutions, Second Ed. 2025 (Print Edition)

The Quebec Resolutions of 1864 form the embryonic text of Canada's constitution, the British North America Act, 1867. This volume presents an exhaustive collection of the relevant primary documents, including some drafts and preparatory materials previously unknown to the academic literature. The Quebec Resolutions also features substantial additional primary documents for historical context. In addition, the volume contains links to permit readers to directly view each archived document. The first edition of The Quebec Resolutions was originally published on the PrimaryDocuments.ca website in eBook format in 2021. The second edition is now available both as an eBook (free) or a print book (for purchase at cost of materials).

PRIMARYDOCUMENTS.CA

A searchable database of historical documents relating to the drafting and adoption of the Constitution of Canada.

Currently, we are preparing, among others, Les Débats sur la Confédération dans la Province du Canada, 1865, which is now available on the PrimaryDocuments.ca website as a book-in-progress. We hope this new volume of this important and foundational text will serve the French-speaking community of Canada's legal and historical community. The Confederation Debates are among the most cited confederation-era primary sources in Canadian constitutional jurisprudence. Lawyers, judges, and students, as well as the general public, will undoubtedly welcome the French republication of the Confederation Debates, which has been long overdue. This new edition updates the archaic formatting of the original publication that appeared in 1865, facilitating access to this original. Our goal is to publish a first edition eBook in the near future, followed by a print edition.



Statistics

PrimaryDocuments has been used in Canadian courts, including the Supreme Court of Canada, in Canadian and international media, and universities across Canada--in syllabi, as a resource for students, and in academic articles. In terms of raw numbers, PrimaryDocuments has substantially increased the holdings in its collection to nearly 5,800 documents, up from nearly 5,400 last year. The amount of unique visitors has increased by over 65% from the past year.



Communications

September 2025 - September 2026

4.3M

Views on our Facebook content

5,000+

Instagram followers since the account's debut two years ago

HIGHLIGHTS

- Joanna, Christine, Josh, and Alexander had a combined **36 op-eds** published between National Post, The Globe and Mail, Toronto Star, C2C, The Hub, The Line, Juno News, and more.

- Our Write Your Representative campaign against Bill C-9's expansion of Canada's hate speech laws drew a record **35,000+ signatures**, our most successful signature collection campaign to date.

- Christine's latest book, *Section 33 on Trial*, was released in eBook and hardcopy, giving Canadians an accessible guide to the notwithstanding clause and the historic Supreme Court challenge to Bill 21, Quebec's ban on religious symbols for certain public sector employees.

- Visibility of the CCF's expertise grew this year, with our Litigation team appearing before four parliamentary committees and Christine speaking to hundreds at the rally to Stop Bill C-9 on Parliament Hill in March.



Christine before giving a speech at the rally to Stop Bill C-9



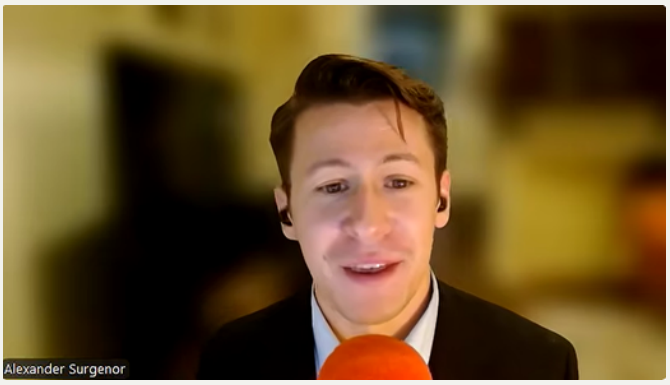
Our Podcast



Not Reserving Judgment continued to grow this year, with tens of thousands tuning in for lively commentary on the constitutional controversies making headlines in Canada.

Each week, Josh Dehaas, Christine Van Geyn and Joanna Baron, along with guest host Alexander Surgenor, cover the latest legal news and close out the show with their Bad Legal Takes of the Week.

The podcast continued to grow its audience this year, with YouTube subscribers climbing from 2,000 last year to **more than 3,700**.



New Counsel Alexander Surgenor occasionally serves as a guest on the podcast

The most-viewed episodes on YouTube this year tackled issues like the Ontario bike lanes ruling and the Freedom Convoy blacklist (21.5K views) and Ontario Premier Doug Ford's proposal to block Alberta oil exports to the U.S. in response to the trade war (20.5K views).



YouTube

130,000+

Views on Christine's YouTube video about Bill C-9

Led by Christine, the CCF's YouTube channel, @TheCCF, reaches tens of thousands of viewers with timely videos explaining our cases and examining new legislation for threats to Canadians' constitutional freedoms.



After surpassing **100,000 subscribers** last year, Christine was sent YouTube's official Silver Play Button.

Canadian Justice

We continued to strengthen our national media presence through Canadian Justice, a weekly TV show hosted by Christine. The program brings advocates and lawyers together to examine the constitutional freedom issues shaping public debate in Canada.

In October 2025, Canadian Justice saw its most-viewed episode yet, with more than **68,000 views**. Christine interviewed University of Saskatchewan Professor Dwight Newman and lawyer Tom Isaac about the landmark *Cowichan Tribes v. Canada* decision in British Columbia and its implications for Aboriginal title and private property rights, subsequently appealed by all three levels of government.



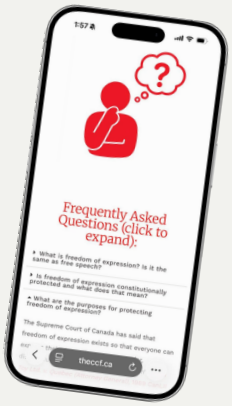
Education

2,000+

Visits to our new guides and reports

- **Legislative Explainers**: We kept Canadians informed about major federal legislation with four explainers on Bills C-2, C-9, C-22 and C-34. These resources outlined proposals ranging from new surveillance and data access powers to changes affecting religious speech and online expression, giving readers the information they need to understand and follow these important legislative debates.
- **Live Town Halls**: We hosted four Town Halls in the last year, giving Canadians direct access to our legal experts to ask their questions about the *Emergencies Act* ruling, their privacy rights, the notwithstanding clause, and Bill C-9.

Guides & Reports



This year, our digital publications continued to make important constitutional principles accessible to Canadians:

- **Know Your Rights: FAQ on Free Speech in Canada**, a webpage providing answers to common questions about freedom of speech and how courts interpret it.
- **Canada's Most Censorious Bylaws 2026**, a downloadable report exposing Canada's growing culture of censorship at the local level, this year awarding the Municipal Muzzle Award to Nanaimo, B.C. for encouraging the cancellation of comedian Ben Bankas's show at a public theatre.
- **2025 Civil Liberties Naughty & Nice List**, our yearly survey of the best and worst behaviour from governments across the country.

Audited Financials

April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026

REVENUE: **100% PRIVATELY FUNDED**

Contributions & Grants	$2,197,902
Restricted Contributions	$782,863
Other Revenue	$232,974
Total Revenue	$3,213,739

EXPENSES:

Project (and/or) Charitable Activities	$2,179,131
Office & Administration	$232,000
Fundraising	$493,845
Total Expenses:	$2,904,976



Contact



The Canadian Constitution Foundation is a national and non-partisan charity. Our mission is to defend the constitutionally protected rights and freedoms of Canadians, and uphold the constitution and its liberty-promoting features, including Canadian federalism.

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