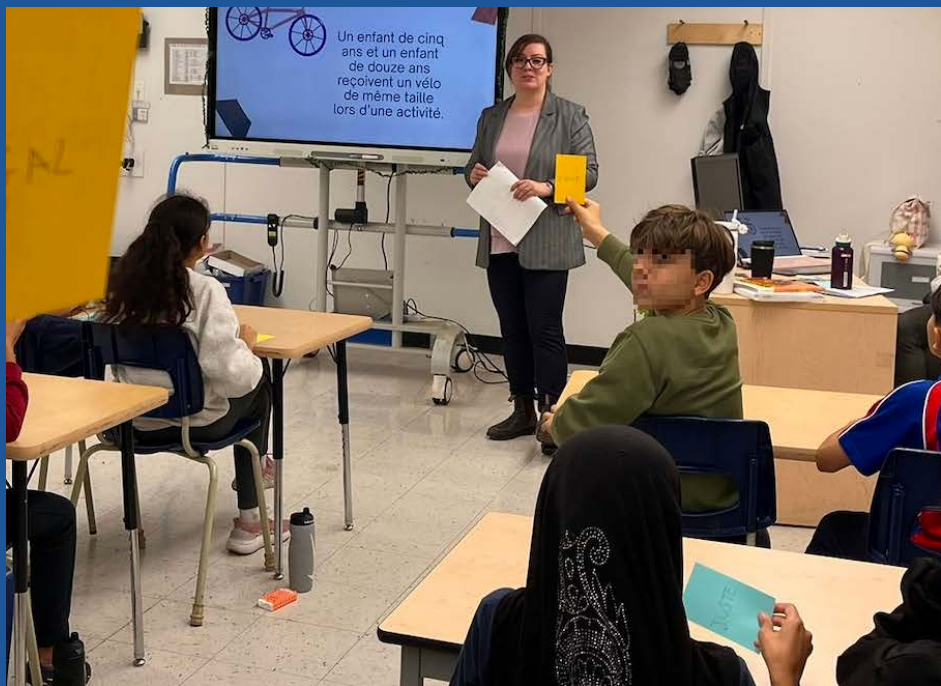




2025

ANNUAL REPORT

CCLET 

CANADIAN CIVIL LIBERTIES EDUCATION TRUST
FONDATION CANADIENNE POUR L'ÉDUCATION
EN MATIÈRE DE LIBERTÉS CIVILES



Message from the Director

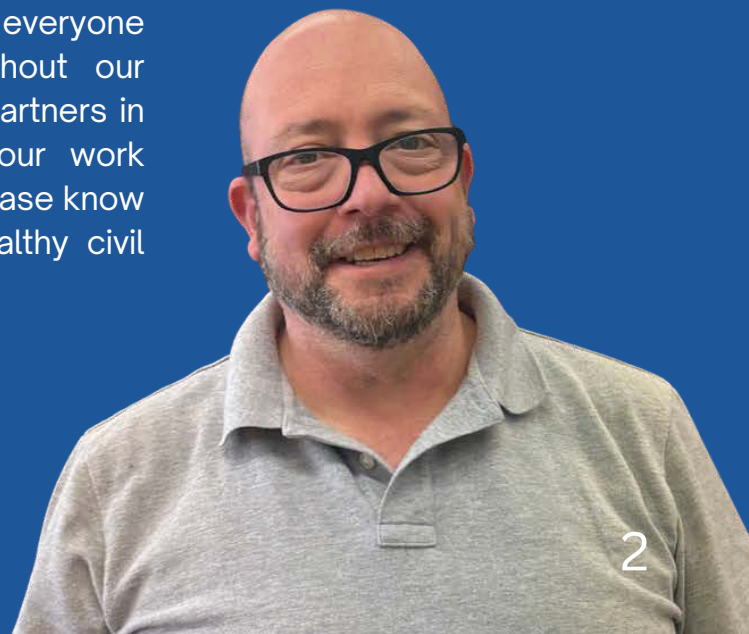
Hello, and thank you for your interest in the Canadian Civil Liberties Education Trust! As the public education arm of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, we work from the simple idea that our democracy is worth defending. Civic engagement has never been more important. Observers all around the world continue to document threats to the very fabric of democracy, as the rise of authoritarianism, concentration of media, political scapegoating of the vulnerable, and powerful actors seeking to evade transparency and accountability work to shrink the public sphere and discourage public faith in the rule of law.

We believe in the rule of law. When people better understand our rights, freedoms and responsibilities, everyone is better prepared to protect the health of our communities so that everyone can participate and thrive. At CCLET, we work with learners of all ages in school- and community-based settings to build the habits of democracy – critical thinking, civil discourse, empathy, inclusion, commonality, and fairness – so they can push back against power.

We are pleased to report that 2025 was a strong year, with growth in the numbers of people we reached, the geographic range in which we met them, and the scope of the issues we addressed together. We added core staff as well as independent contractors supporting our work in their home communities. We partnered with new organizations, developed new teaching resources, and travelled to new communities. We helped people understand many of the key legal cases and issues of the day, and how different organizations and actors can, and do, respond to these. Finally, we made the law and the justice system less intimidating for our audiences, including a significant expansion of our work with newcomers to Canada.

On behalf of the CCLET team, thank you to everyone who helps make this work possible. Without our colleagues, funders, donors, volunteers and partners in teaching, justice, and community service, our work would not be possible. As you read further, please know that you are a vital part of protecting a healthy civil society. Democracy demands vigilance!

Nat Paul
Director



Our Activities in 2025



9,801

participants
engaged



337

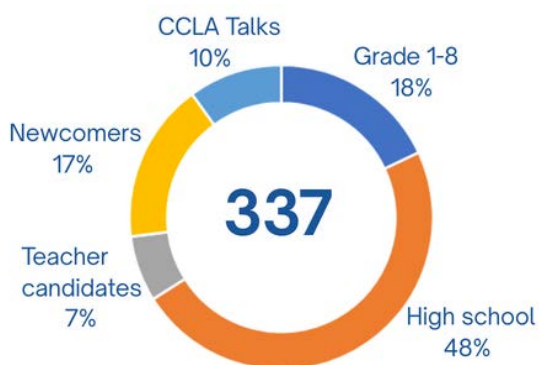
workshops
facilitated



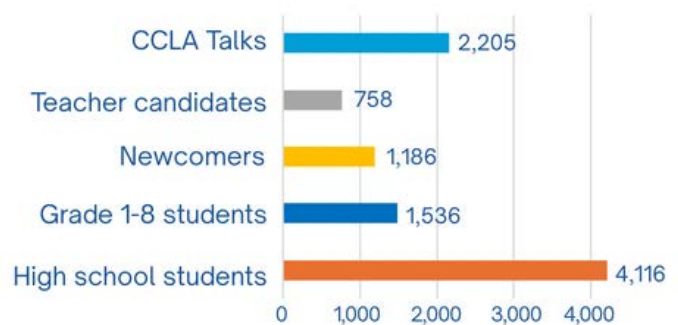
185

schools and
organizations
reached

Workshops

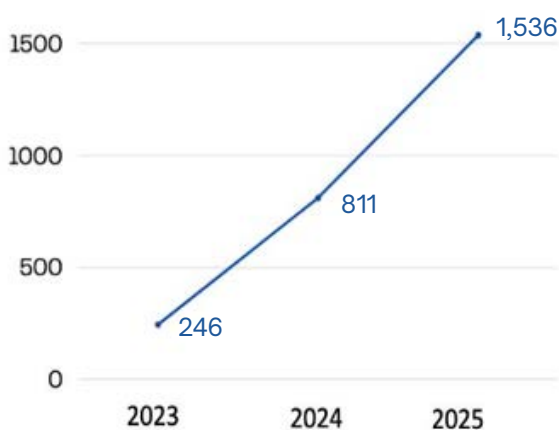


Participants



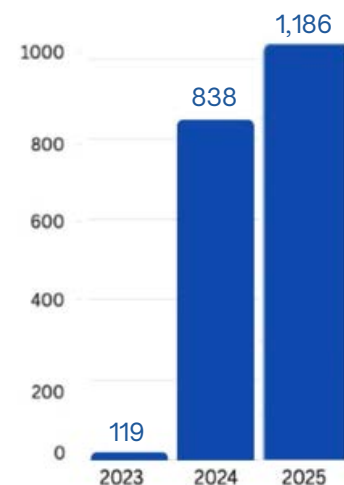
Growing our Programs

Elementary and Middle School



Number of participants 2023-2025

Newcomers



Number of participants 2023-2025

What We Do

Develop **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, CONCEPTS, AND TOOLS**



Explore
Charter rights
and freedoms



Recognize that
limits on our
rights and
freedoms must
be reasonable



Discuss tensions
between
competing rights



Apply a legal
framework to
think critically
about rights
limitations

Support **EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS**

Build the legal capability of learners and the capacity of teachers and facilitators to support their learning audiences

Increase **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

- Critical thinking as informed, healthy citizenship
- Skills to push back against incivility, algorithms, and bad information
- Practicing civil disagreement
- Demystifying the justice system
- Comfort questioning authority
- Law as imperfect, fluctuating and participatory



What Educators Are Telling Us

“Yay! The kids are super excited to have you back, they literally cheered when I mentioned [it] in class recently.”
Peel District School Board

“[The workshop] really helps bring the Charter alive for the students.” *Toronto District School Board Summer School*

“Students were very engaged in a range of case study topics. They even wanted to continue the conversation by setting up class debates on the subject matter (religious freedom vs. safety), etc.” *Grade 6 Teacher, North York*

“Your presentation today was excellent and lit a fire... let me know if you are ever back in town (Alberta needs you!)”
Calgary Catholic School District

“CCLET was fantastic with the students and presented the material in an engaging way. The workshop was developmentally appropriate and fostered critical thinking skills and deep discussions. Highly recommend!” *Grade 4 Teacher, Whitby*

“The engagement and participation was great during the workshop. Our group was enthusiastic, engaged, and had a blast while learning important content.” *Coordinator, 2SLGBTQI+ Family Service Toronto*

Civil Liberties in Schools

We believe that as soon as you have the capacity to say “that’s not fair,” you can think critically about rights and responsibilities.

The CCLET supports classroom teachers with workshops and resources for students in grades K–12, challenging learners to think critically about their rights and freedoms under the Canadian Charter.

Our programming spans from discussions about fairness, rules and responsibilities in the primary and junior grades, to constitutional analyses of court cases in high school civics and law classes.

At every grade level, students are introduced to an accessible version of the legal framework Canadian courts use to evaluate the impact of laws on individual rights. This equips them to think critically not only about legislation and government action, but about the rules that shape their everyday lives — from household expectations to broader civic obligations, like laws.

In 2025 we engaged over 4,000 high school students while continuing to grow and expand our work in elementary and middle schools, reaching over 1,500 students in grades 1-8.



Teacher Training

CCLET's workshops focus on current and future teachers with an introduction in the critical and evolving area of civics and democratic engagement. CCLET's workshops focus on providing pre-service teachers with an introduction to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and demonstrate its relevance to their lives and to the teaching profession. In addition, the Teaching Civil Liberties platform represents a powerful instrument in CCLET's toolbox for establishing relationships with teachers as they enter their careers as educators, so that we can make the most of these allies as they work in our schools and communities.

In 2025 we collaborated with 10 universities to reach over 750 teacher candidates.





Newcomer Program

Meeting People Where They Are

In partnership with settlement organizations and public libraries, CCLET's Newcomer Program brings rights-based education to communities across the GTA and Canada. Through interactive workshops, participants build knowledge of their rights and actively engage with rights issues that come up in everyday life.

We are dedicated to making rights education accessible to all newcomers. Adding visual context and simplified language, our newcomer workshops are adaptable to differing English language levels from CLB 4 and up. Workshops are also offered in French and Spanish.

Our goal is that through interactive engagement with Charter rights and freedoms, newcomers feel an increased sense of belonging and civic participation, creating more dynamic and inclusive communities for everyone.

In 2025 we worked with 41 settlement organizations to deliver 59 workshops to 1,186 newcomers.

CCLA Talks



Challenging Conversations that Matter

Delivered by CCLA lawyers, CCLA Talks take various forms — professional development workshops, panel discussions, keynote presentations, and “ask an expert” sessions. Each presentation is carefully tailored to engage and challenge the audience, providing both in-depth analysis and practical application of the principles. More than just “an interesting speaker,” CCLA Talks also equip in-service professionals to protect the rights of the clients and communities that they serve — including teachers, police officers, lawyers, real estate agents, and frontline social service providers. They challenge community members to understand different perspectives on critical debates and encourage individuals to engage critically with contemporary issues.

In 2025, the CCLA Talks program delivered 33 presentations and engaged over 2,000 participants.



National Highlights

In 2025 we delivered 70 workshops to schools and organizations outside Ontario - a 67% increase over 2024.

In Alberta we partnered with the University of Alberta's Centre for Constitutional Studies. In 2025 we recruited four CCLET Fellows who facilitated 26 workshops in Edmonton. With an additional 11 workshops in Calgary, we reached over 1,100 participants in Alberta.

In Quebec we hired two staff and partnered with the Université de Montréal branch of Pro Bono Students Canada. Our French-language programming reached over 150 students.

In Nova Scotia we reached over 180 students and newcomer participants in and around Halifax.

In Manitoba, we forged a new partnership with the University of Manitoba Faculty of Law and brought two CCLET Fellows on board.

Bernard Chernos Contest

Each year, the CCLET presents a bilingual nation-wide high school essay/video contest on rights and freedoms in Canada to commemorate Bernard Chernos, a dedicated civil libertarian, lawyer and lover of lively debate. Contest finalists are selected by a panel of volunteer judges with expertise in law, education, civil liberties and human rights from across the country.

This year's topics included the use of A.I. in high schools to detect those at risk of dropping out; whether the Notwithstanding Clause needs reform; and human rights issues in students' communities. This school year, we received over 80 entries from coast to coast.

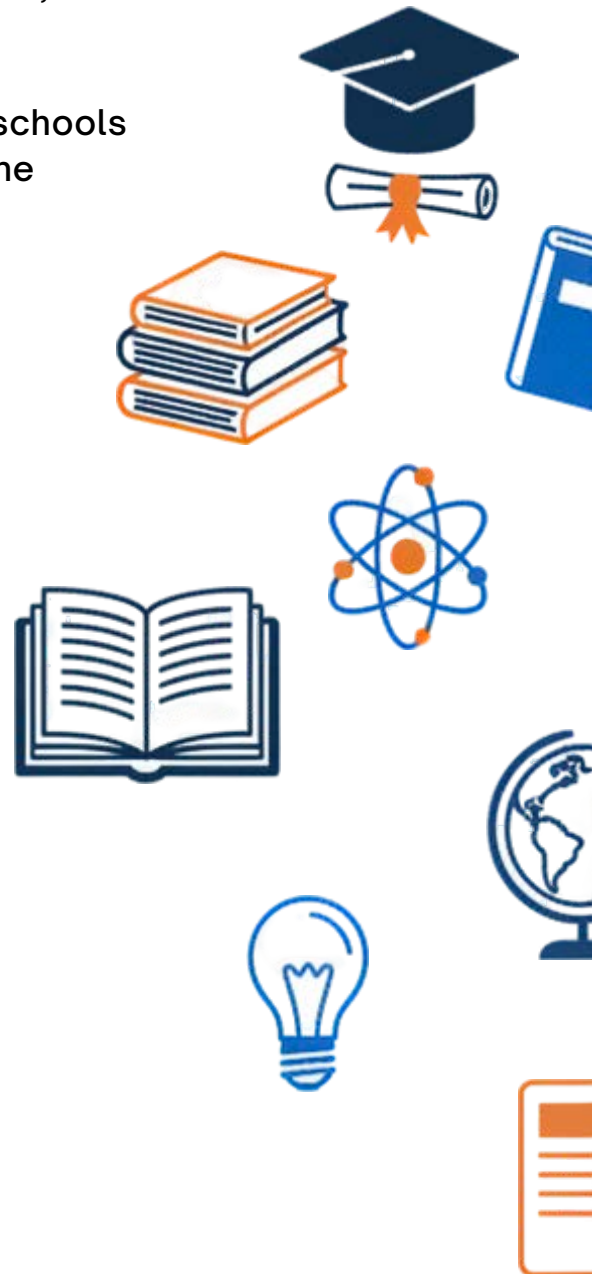
Congratulations to this year's winners!

Essays

- 1.Alexander Sharpe (Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, ON)
- 2.Chelsie Ji (Vancouver, BC)
- 3.Haykon Ho (North Vancouver, BC)
- 4.Noah Sparkes (Cape Breton, NS)
- 5.Jasmine Lazzari (Calgary, AB)

Videos

- 1.Leila Hunter (Toronto, ON)
- 2.Rosario Siu (Toronto, ON)
- 3.Jacob Than (Toronto, ON)
- 4.Noah Marr (Toronto, ON)
- 5.Jeena Aggarson (Calgary, AB)



Financial Overview

Revenue

Grants	\$602,036
Donations	\$72,716
Gains on investments	\$79,372
Other	\$29,460
Total Revenue	\$783,584

Expenses

Programming	\$513,181
Fundraising	\$135,795
Administrative costs	\$77,201
Consultant fees	\$43,006
Building costs	\$17,109
Amortization	\$1,388
Total Expenditures	\$794,582*

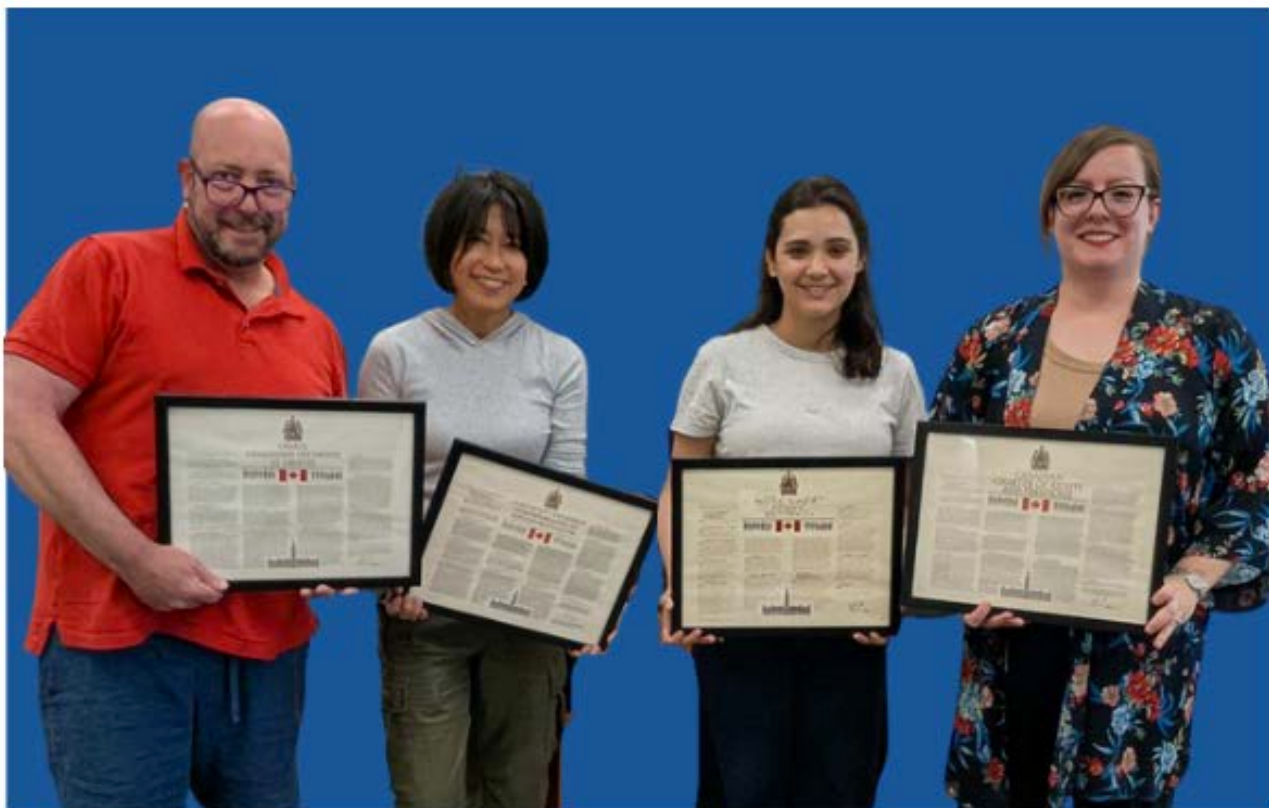
*The overspend of approximately \$10,000 is due to unbudgeted costs related to an executive search - a one time, non-recurring expense. Excluding this cost, CCLET operated within budget in 2025.

Our Funders

CCLET's education programs receive funding from the Law Foundation of Ontario and other donors and supporters.



Meet our Team



Director
Nat Paul

Senior Program Manager
Megumi Harker

Program Coordinator
Mehak Adil

Senior Program Manager
Dr. Erica Petkov

Join our Efforts

Donate to the CCLET today! Your donation ensures that we can continue to educate students and community members about their rights guaranteed by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*!

