

www.jccf.ca



Justice Centre
for Constitutional Freedoms

Annual 2025

— We Defend
Freedom in Canada

Report





Justice Centre

for Constitutional Freedoms

www.jccf.ca
253-7620 Elbow Drive SW, Calgary, AB, T2V 1K2



"I thank every donor and supporter who made it possible for us to carry out our mission in 2025. Freedom is never guaranteed. Rather, freedom is the prize of courage, persistence, and, in many cases, great personal sacrifice. Fortunately, the many Canadians who have suffered personal and professional losses for challenging government abuses of power are, whether they know it or not, surrounded by thousands of Canadians who care about the free society."

John Carpay, B.A., LL.B.
President and Founder

[Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms](#)

Table of Contents

About the Justice Centre	5
Our beliefs	6
Letter from the President	7
Letter from the Chairman of the Board	8
2025 by the numbers	9
Notable litigation achievements	
Ontario’s highest court rules against total ban on outdoor gatherings	11
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation reverses unjust banishment of member	12
Tribunal dismisses \$10,000 discrimination complaint of transgender activist	13
Defending the right to object to Aboriginal land acknowledgements	14
Defending the public’s right to access information	14
Freedom Convoy peaceful protestor Harold Jonker acquitted of all charges	15
Nova Scotia Supreme Court confirms that being offended is not discrimination	16
Toronto police were wrong to censor speech at Santa Claus parade	17
Ongoing litigation to defend freedom in Canada	
Matt and Nicole Alexander fired for refusing to celebrate LGBTQ issues	19
Jeffrey Evely fined \$28,872 simply for walking in the woods	20
Challenging the Prime Minister’s decision to prorogue Parliament for 11 weeks	21
Defending Canadians punished for championing the rights of women and girls	22
Amy Hamm ordered to pay \$93,639 in legal costs for defending women’s rights	23
Protecting the safety and dignity of vulnerable female inmates	24
Defending peaceful protestor Chris Barber against a political prosecution	25
Education and Advocacy	
The 2025 George Jonas Freedom Award	27
Educating Canadians about freedom	28
Advocating for laws and policies that respect <i>Charter</i> rights and freedoms	30
Thank you to our donors and supporters	31

About the Justice Centre

Founded in 2010, the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms is Canada's leading defender of *Charter* rights and freedoms.

Our vision is a free society where governments uphold human dignity by respecting fundamental rights and freedoms, and where Canadians can realize their potential and fulfil their aspirations. Our mission is to defend the constitutional rights and freedoms of all Canadians through litigation and education.

Our Charitable Registration Number is 817174865RR0001.

Our Code of Conduct

We rigorously apply professional standards in our research, education, campaigns, and events, and we always strive for accuracy.

We are funded entirely by voluntary contributions and do not accept any funding from government.

We are independent of all partisan, institutional and religious affiliations.

We seek to work cooperatively with other organizations that share our vision of Canada as a free society.

We protect the privacy of our donors. Any personal information is stored using secure technology. We do not, under any circumstances, publish, sell, lend or exchange any personal information that we have received from donors.

We treat our employees and contractors respectfully and fairly at all times.

Our beliefs

Freedom of expression: All Canadians must be free to express their thoughts, opinions, and beliefs without fear of censorship or punishment.

Access to information: Governments must not control or interfere with the ability of Canadians to access information about the world and from around the world.

Freedom of conscience and religion: All Canadians must be free to live their lives in accordance with their religious beliefs and conscientious convictions.

Freedom of peaceful assembly: All Canadians must be free to gather together in person, publicly and peacefully.

Freedom of association: All Canadians must be free to create, join and support the associations of their choice, and must also be free from compulsion to join or support an association.

Freedom of mobility and travel: All Canadians must be free to travel within Canada, free to leave Canada, and free to re-enter Canada.

Privacy: No government has a default right to private information about citizens. Law-abiding citizens must be free from state surveillance.

Parental rights: Parents must be free to educate, direct, and be fully informed about their children.

Equality before the law: All Canadians are equal before the law and must be treated as such by the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. Police and Crown prosecutors must enforce the law impartially.

Responsibility: Every Canadian has a responsibility to recognize, protect and preserve the rights and freedoms of all citizens.

Justice: Justice requires that governments and government authorities respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of each citizen.



Letter from the President

John Carpay, B.A., LL.B.
President and Founder

Canadians saw grave threats to their rights and freedoms in 2025, including the introduction of tyrannical legislation in Parliament that, if passed into law, risks turning Canada into a police state. This federal legislation expands government control over the internet and would usher in a surveillance state. Universities continue to censor speech while accepting billions of dollars from taxpayers. Zealous Crown Prosecutors seek exorbitant sentences for peaceful protestors. Despite these challenges (which, over the past five years, have begun to feel commonplace), our team of lawyers and advocates secured significant victories in courts of law and in the court of public opinion.

We secured a welcome and long-overdue victory in April 2025, when the Ontario Court of Appeal ruled unanimously that Ontario's total ban on all peaceful outdoor protests in 2021 unjustifiably violated Canadians' freedom of peaceful assembly. "The Constitution does not fade from view in times of crisis," wrote the Court.

The Supreme Court of Nova Scotia rejected a frivolous discrimination complaint against an opinion column: "being upset or offended is not discrimination" and "freedom of expression is a *Charter* protected right in Canada." Ontario's Human Rights Tribunal dismissed a discrimination complaint that would have seen young girls be forced to share changerooms with "trans-identifying" males with intact genitals. The Alberta Legislature passed Bill 13, the *Regulated Professions Neutrality Act*, in response to Justice Centre advocacy to protect the free speech of doctors, lawyers, nurses, teachers, and all regulated professionals in the province. In Manitoba, the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation reversed its five-year banishment of a father who refused to allow a dog to search his vehicle during a roadside checkstop.

Our work is far from over. Thanks to the persistence and generosity of our donors, Canadians like Amy Hamm, Chris Barber, Matt and Nicole Alexander, Bryony Dixon, and Amy McKay (and dozens more) can enter 2026 confident that they are not alone.

I thank every Canadian who believed in and fought for a free Canada in 2025. So long as we remain focused and resolved, we will see truth, justice, and freedom prevail in Canada.



Letter from the Chairman

Peter Stock
Chairman of the Board

The free society depends on healthy and ongoing public discussions among citizens about the way we should live together. For this reason, I am so grateful for the work of the Justice Centre. Regardless of opinions held about assisted suicide, transgenderism, socialism, drug use, or mandatory land acknowledgements, the Justice Centre stands strong in defending our right to debate these matters publicly.

The Justice Centre devotes a large portion of its resources to defending free speech, an obviously essential element of democracy. Free speech is taking a beating on university campuses, in professional associations (including even those that regulate lawyers!), at school board meetings, in the government-funded media, and by omission through what the federal government censors online. The government's multi-billion tax-dollar subsidies to "establishment" media outlets continues, and few if any will bite the hand that feeds them. Serious criticism of government typically comes only from independent media.

On the heels of federal legislation including the *Online Streaming Act* and the *Online News Act*, which control what news you might find online, in the spring of 2025 came Bill C-9, the *Combatting Hate Act*. (Who could possibly be for "hate"?) Yet, "combatting hate" is not what C-9 will do. In fact, the *Criminal Code* already has plenty of provisions to address speech that advocates violence. Instead, C-9 will effectively criminalize portions of the Bible, the Torah, the Koran and the texts of other religions in an attempt to silence public criticism of various aspects of the "woke" agenda the government supports.

The unique value of the Justice Centre is that, as an independent advocacy organization which takes no government funding, we are never beholden to a particular partisan agenda and will fight for greater freedom for all Canadians, no matter what parties are in power. Our extremely talented team of lawyers, paralegals, researchers and advocates are making the best arguments in court and winning cases on behalf of brave Canadians, as well as fighting successfully in the court of public opinion.

Please continue to support us generously so that we can effectively defend the free society.

2025 **by numbers**

Our team

34

Directors
of the Board

4

Education,
communications,
development, and
administrative staff

12

Full-time lawyers
funded by the
Justice Centre

14

Paralegals
funded by the
Justice Centre

4

Our impact in the media

117

News releases

202

Media interviews

34

Speaking engagements

80

Columns published (English and
French) in online and print media

55,000

Facebook followers

128,000

X followers

663,000

Website visits

Notable litigation achievements

In 2025, Justice Centre lawyers handled 86 active cases across Canada, in support of the fundamental freedoms of expression, association, peaceful assembly, conscience and religion, as well as the right to life, liberty, and security. We fight for the right of parents to raise, educate, nurture and protect their children, and their right to be fully informed about what happens with and to their children at school. We support the right of Canadians to choose freely what medical treatments they wish to receive (or not), without coercion, duress or pressure. We defend privacy, and freedom from state surveillance.

In this section, we highlight notable examples of our litigation achievements in 2025, resulting from our advocacy before courts and tribunals across Canada.

Ontario's highest court rules against total ban on outdoor gatherings

In 2021, the Ontario government outlawed outdoor gatherings of even two people – one of the most stringent Covid lockdown restrictions in the world. That spring, former Member of Provincial Parliament Randy Hillier attended peaceful protests in Kemptville and Cornwall, Ontario. Police promptly charged him for violating the outdoor gathering restrictions.



Ontario Provincial Police confront Randy Hillier in Kemptville, Ontario

With help from the Justice Centre, Mr. Hillier launched a constitutional challenge against the restrictions, arguing that they violated Canadians' freedom of peaceful assembly – protected by section 2(c) of the *Charter*. Four expert reports were presented to the Superior Court of Ontario, including the report of renowned researcher Dr. Kevin Bardosh, who showed that Covid lockdown restrictions were causing alarming mental health deterioration, including rising psychological distress, insomnia, depression, fatigue, suicidal ideation, self-harm, anxiety disorders, drug overdoses, obesity, unemployment, and deterioration in life satisfaction among the Canadian public.

While the Superior Court dismissed this challenge in November 2023, the Ontario Court of Appeal overturned that decision in April 2025, accepting Mr. Hillier's argument that the outdoor gathering restrictions were excessive. The Court even declared, in a powerful rebuke of the Ontario government's abuse of power, that the "Constitution does not fade from view in times of crisis."



"It is refreshing to see a court do its job of protecting our *Charter* freedoms, by holding government to a high standard. There was no science behind Ontario's total ban on all outdoor protests."
– Justice Centre President John Carpay

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation reverses unjust banishment of member

Terry Francois, miner and father of five daughters, has lived in Nelson House, Manitoba, on the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) reserve for more than a decade. In December 2024, during a routine roadside check stop, Terry refused to allow officers to search his vehicle with a dog. He drove home but was later arrested by the RCMP, charged, and then immediately removed from his home and family.



Terry Francois with his daughter

Soon after, NCN imposed a sweeping banishment order against him without any notice or hearing, prohibiting Terry from all NCN lands for five years. The order exiled him from his home and separated him from his family. With help from the Justice Centre, lawyers filed a motion asking the court to allow Terry to return to his home while his legal challenge proceeded. On October 14, 2025, the very day that NCN was required to file its written response to that motion, NCN retracted the banishment order.

Terry said, “I am happy that my banishment is rescinded, and so are my girls. I look forward to going home, visiting cousins, and seeing my grandbaby.”

Although Terry’s banishment order has been rescinded, our lawyers will continue to pursue a constitutional challenge to NCN’s broad banishment and check stop laws at the Federal Court in 2026. This case raises important questions about transparency, accountability, and due process within Indigenous governance.



“Banishing people from their homes and communities for years was a grievous punishment. Imposing this punishment without any notice or an opportunity to be heard was an egregious violation of basic principles of justice.” – Constitutional lawyer Marty Moore

Tribunal dismisses \$10,000 discrimination complaint of transgender activist

In 2019, transgender activist Jessica Simpson (formerly Jonathan Yaniv) applied to compete in a Canada Galaxy Pageants (CGP) beauty content. CGP requires all transgender contestants to have completed a full surgical transition to female before competing. When CGP asked Simpson if a full transition had occurred, Simpson refused to answer and filed a discrimination complaint with the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal, seeking \$10,000 in damages for “injury to dignity and feelings” and an order requiring CGP to allow biological males to participate (and access changerooms) alongside biological females, including young girls.



Transgender activist Jessica Simpson (formerly Jonathan Yaniv)

Over the next several years, the matter dragged on while CGP prepared to defend itself against the discrimination complaint before the Tribunal. With help from the Justice Centre, six parents planned to testify that it is not appropriate or safe for persons with intact male genitals to participate in women’s and girls’ beauty pageants.

On July 28, 2025, the Tribunal dismissed Simpson’s complaint for repeated failures to file materials on time, despite multiple extensions.

The Justice Centre commends Canada Galaxy Pageants for standing up for parental rights and the right of women and girls to access female-only safe spaces.



“Sometimes, justice is served before the parties set foot into a hearing. After five years of delays on the Tribunal’s end and then giving Jessica Simpson many chances to properly prepare for the hearing, the Tribunal did the right thing to dismiss Simpson’s complaint of discrimination based on gender identity and expression.”

- Constitutional lawyer Allison Pejovic



*Mother and school council member
Catherine Kronas*

Defending the right to object to Aboriginal land acknowledgements

In April 2025, Ontario mother and elected school council member Catherine Kronas respectfully objected to Indigenous land acknowledgements at school council meetings, stating that she considered them to be controversial and political. She had been assured at a previous council meeting that open dialogue and diverse perspectives were welcomed by the council.

On May 22, 2025, however, the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board suddenly suspended her, without any warning or notice, for “causing harm” and violating its Code of Conduct. Lawyers funded by the Justice Centre sent the Board a legal warning letter. In a significant free speech victory, the Board reinstated Catherine on July 16.

Defending the public’s right to access information

Just months later, the principal of Ancaster High Secondary School (where the children of Catherine Kronas attend) banned all recordings of school council meetings. Once again, lawyers funded by the Justice Centre sent the School Board and principal a legal warning, cautioning that recording bans on public meetings violate the *Charter*-protected freedom of expression and undermine transparency in school governance.

In another victory for freedom of expression, the school council announced on November 12, 2025, that it had reversed the recording ban.

“I’m pleased that the Ancaster High School Council upheld transparency by reversing its recording ban,” said Catherine. “The ability to document public meetings accurately is what ensures transparency and builds confidence between parents, schools, and the broader community. This is an important victory made possible thanks to the generous support and legal guidance funded by the Justice Centre.”



“Photography, as well as audio and video recording, are forms of expressive activity protected by section 2(b) of the *Charter*. The ability to record increases the community’s understanding of Council deliberations beyond the small number of parents who can attend in person.” - Constitutional lawyer Hatim Kheir

Freedom Convoy peaceful protestor Harold Jonker acquitted of all charges

Harold Jonker, a trucking company owner from West Lincoln in Ontario’s Niagara region, travelled to Ottawa as a “road captain” for the Niagara contingent of the Freedom Convoy peaceful protest in 2022. He stayed in the capital for three weeks, parking away from the downtown core. He was not charged while in Ottawa.



Peaceful protestor Harold Jonker at the Freedom Convoy

Fifteen months after the protest ended, in May 2023, police laid charges against Harold: mischief, counselling mischief, intimidation, and counselling intimidation. The Crown argued that he helped organize and lead part of the Convoy and that multiple trucks associated with his trucking company were present in downtown Ottawa. Harold’s trial in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice in Ottawa took place in May 2025 – more than three years after the peaceful protest. The Crown called four witnesses, including two police officers and two civilians. In his oral judgment on May 20, 2025, Justice Kevin B. Phillips rejected two key arguments advanced by the Crown. First, the Crown argued that the interviews Harold gave during and after the protest amounted to “counselling mischief.” Justice Phillips rejected this, finding that Harold was acting like a “foreign correspondent”—someone describing events as he witnessed them. The Court found that, although Harold supported the protest, his words were opinions, not an incitement to unlawful action.

Second, the Crown argued that Harold was responsible for company vehicles seen in the downtown. The Court was not convinced that he had control over those trucks. In a victory for the freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly, Justice Phillips acquitted Harold on all charges.



“We are very thankful for the excellent legal support provided by the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms, and thankful that the judge saw through the Crown’s weak case and had the courage to do the right thing.” – Harold Jonker

Nova Scotia Supreme Court confirms that being offended is not discrimination

In a 2019 article posted to the website of the Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship, professor John MacKinnon at St. Mary's University in Halifax recounted his experience with "student Q" – an Indigenous student taking one of his classes. Q had been allowed to withdraw from a course she was failing ten days after the withdrawal deadline. Normally, accommodations like this are granted only in extreme circumstances, such as medical issues or the death of a family member. In his article, professor MacKinnon questioned, "How many academic regulations have been relaxed or ignored, how many transcripts tampered with, how many grades inflated and pseudo-subjects concocted in deference to the imperatives of 'indigenization'?"



Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia

Later that year, the student realized that "Q" referred to herself. Thirteen months after she had first read the article, she filed a discrimination complaint with the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission against the University and the Society. In her complaint, she reported feeling demeaned, mocked, and labeled by the article. The Human Rights Commission then escalated the case to determine whether discrimination had occurred under Nova Scotia's *Human Rights Act*.

On April 17, 2025, Justice Denise Boudreau of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court dismissed the complaint. She wrote that "being upset or offended is not the same as discrimination," and added, "Let us recall that freedom of expression is a *Charter* protected right in Canada."



"My client and I are elated with the decision. The Court rightly agreed with our submission that freedom of expression is not to be interfered with, even in the context of a human rights complaint. This is a significant victory for Canadians overall, and particularly for those who seek to express controversial opinions." - Constitutional lawyer Chris Fleury

Toronto police were wrong to censor speech at Santa Claus parade

On November 26, 2023, street preacher Jeffrey Sapocinik attended Toronto’s 119th annual Santa Claus Parade. While the parade was passing by, he criticized the secularization of the religious holiday. Some bystanders were offended and called the police, who charged Jeffrey with disturbing a social gathering under section 176(2) of the *Criminal Code*.



The annual Santa Claus Parade in Toronto, 1934

With help from the Justice Centre, Mr. Sapocinik fought back. Lawyers funded by the Justice Centre argued that section 176(2) of the *Criminal Code* only prohibits disrupting private social gatherings (e.g., at a banquet hall) or other orderly or solemn private events, and that it does not apply to a public gathering like a parade. In 2005, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that “streets are clearly areas of public, as opposed to private, concourse, where expression of many varieties has long been accepted.” Further, mere annoyance or disagreement on the part of listeners cannot justify a criminal conviction or charges.

Mr. Sapocinik’s trial was scheduled for April 2025. Recognizing the weakness of its case, however, the Crown withdrew the charge the very day the trial was scheduled to begin.

“I would like to personally express my utmost gratitude to the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms for choosing to fund my legal defense. They secured my freedom of expression and alleviated what would likely have been an impossible financial burden,” said Jeffrey.



“Charging Mr. Sapocinik under section 176(2) of the *Criminal Code* was perverse and unprecedented. We were not able to find a single reported case where a religious leader or practitioner had been prosecuted under this section for allegedly disturbing a purely social gathering. We are pleased to see the Crown withdraw all charges.”

- Constitutional lawyer Chris Fleury

Notable ongoing litigation

As our donors and supporters know, litigation sadly and almost always takes years to conclude, when citizens ought to receive court rulings in weeks or months. It was only in 2025 that Canadians secured a legal victory against the Ontario government's ban on peaceful protests in 2021.

In 2026, lawyers funded by the Justice Centre will continue to defend the rights and freedoms of dozens of Canadians, in courts of law and in the court of public opinion.

In this section, we highlight our notable ongoing litigation efforts across Canada. To learn about our many other cases, visit www.jccf.ca/cases.

Matt and Nicole Alexander fired for refusing to celebrate LGBTQ issues

Matt and Nicole Alexander had taught elementary and middle school students for a combined two decades in Cobden, Ontario. In 2023, their lives were turned upside down after their teenage son Josh questioned his school's policy of allowing biological males who identify as females to use girls' washrooms at school. Though Josh attended a school within a different school district, the fallout reached his parents.



Matt and Nicole Alexander



Josh Alexander

In April 2023, the Renfrew County District School Board suddenly suspended Matt over social media posts attributed to him, even though Matt had no public social media accounts at that time. Shortly after, in May 2023, the Board suspended Nicole after she quietly removed an LGBTQ pride poster that had been taped to her classroom door without her knowledge or consent. No such poster had been taped to the doors of other classrooms. The Alexanders were not accused of mistreating any student in their classroom at any point during their careers. They were fired only for declining to “celebrate and affirm LGBTQ issues.”

On October 26, 2023, the School Board terminated both teachers. The consequences were catastrophic. The Alexanders chose to sell their family home rather than lose it, and they had to begin training for new careers. They asked their union, the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, to help them defend their freedoms of conscience, religion, and expression – protected by section 2 of the *Charter*. But their union refused to advance their case or advocate for their rights. With help from the Justice Centre, the Alexanders have launched a human rights complaint against their School Board for discrimination on the basis of religious belief, and a legal challenge against their union for failing to represent them.



“For unionized employees, the only way to access their *Charter* rights in relation to their employer is through the union. Matt and Nicole were ignored by their union in their hour of need, and we are hopeful that the Labour Relations Board will remedy this serious breach of the union's duty of fair representation.” - Constitutional lawyer Darren Leung

Jeffrey Evely fined \$28,872 simply for walking in the woods

On August 5, 2025, Nova Scotia Premier Tim Houston announced a sweeping ban on entering wooded areas for activities like walking, hiking, camping, fishing, and swimming, claiming this to be necessary to prevent forest fires. With roughly 75% of the province classified as “woods,” this ban effectively shut down access to most of Nova Scotia. A simple ban on smoking and campfires would have achieved the purpose of preventing forest fires.



Jeffrey Evely with his dog

Just days later, retired Master Warrant Officer Jeffrey Evely – a veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces who served in two overseas tours – went for a walk in the woods and immediately became the first person in the province to receive the maximum penalty: a hefty \$28,872.50.

For Jeffrey, this case is personal. He wrote, “I believe that it is important to have the woods ban proclamation reviewed in light of our *Charter* rights because I served in Afghanistan and Iraq. So, I know how hard-won these freedoms really are, especially once they are lost. I find the cavalier attitude with which these freedoms have been impaired to be a gross indignity to our fallen soldiers, and a moral injury to those of us still here. This moral injury serves to exacerbate my PTSD symptoms, which I have been managing with therapy, medication, and daily outdoor activity, which I normally conduct in the woods.” With help from the Justice Centre, Jeffrey is arguing that the ban violates his right to liberty and security of the person – protected by section 7 of the *Charter*.



“Nova Scotia’s travel ban did not target risky activities, but rather treated people as the problem, and banned them from the woods for any purpose. Nova Scotia’s limit on people’s liberties under a blanket claim of ‘safety’ was not rational and had no logical limit.”
– Constitutional lawyer Marty Moore

Challenging the Prime Minister’s decision to prorogue Parliament for 11 weeks

On January 6, 2025, former Prime Minister Trudeau announced his resignation and advised the Governor General to prorogue Parliament for 11 weeks to allow the Liberal Party of Canada time to host a federal leadership election. Prorogation ends a parliamentary session and immediately halts all parliamentary work.

On January 7 – the very day that President Trump announced that his administration would consider using “economic force” to annex Canada, lawyers funded by the Justice Centre helped Nova Scotians David MacKinnon and Aris Lavranos file a constitutional challenge to the Prime Minister’s decision to prorogue Parliament. They argued that the Prime Minister had undermined democracy, the rule of law, and the ability of Parliament to respond to existential threats from foreign governments. Most importantly, they argued that the Prime Minister had exceeded his authority and had obstructed Parliament’s ability to hold the government accountable for its actions. As constitutional lawyer James Manson put it, “It is for Parliament to oversee and supervise the government; it is not for the government to oversee and supervise Parliament.”



Constitutional lawyers Darren Leung, James Manson, and Andre Memauri at the Federal Court hearing

While the Federal Court dismissed parts of this constitutional challenge on March 6, 2025, the Court did agree that the power to prorogue Parliament is reviewable by courts. This case is now before the Federal Court of Appeal, which must decide if a Canadian prime minister has broad powers to prorogue Parliament for any reason.



“The prime minister does not have unlimited power to close Parliament on a whim. He cannot stymie the important constitutional role of Parliament just because it is inconvenient to his personal goals.”

– Constitutional lawyer Darren Leung

Defending Canadians punished for championing the rights of women and girls



Bryony Dixon

Across Canada, parents, educators, nurses and other professionals frequently suffer adverse consequences for advocating for the safety, privacy, and dignity of women and girls.

In British Columbia, mother-of-two Bryony Dixon successfully participated in her school district’s “Homestay” program during the 2023-2024 school year, opening her home to an international student. When she applied again in 2024, however, her school district ignored her application. After months of unanswered emails, she discovered through a Freedom of Information request that school district officials had intentionally rejected her application because she had spoken publicly about the importance of female-only spaces, and about her concerns with the controversial Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) curriculum, which instructs teachers to support a student’s chosen gender identity, including opposite-sex names or pronouns, without notifying parents. With help from the Justice Centre, Bryony submitted a discrimination complaint against her school board.

“The district’s ongoing discrimination against me has denied female students contact with one of the few adults willing to stick their neck out for their rights to safety, dignity, and fairness.” – BC mother Bryony Dixon



Amy McKay

In Ottawa, former teacher and mother-of-two Amy McKay is facing similar consequences after expressing concerns with gender ideology and with harmful and irreversible gender transition surgeries on minors. The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board banned her from teaching in its school and even filed a complaint against her with the Ontario College of Teachers. In 2025, the College demanded that she permanently surrender her teaching license or face a formal investigation. With help from the Justice Centre, Amy rejected that ultimatum and asserted her freedoms of expression and conscience. She now awaits the College’s decision.

“In a diverse and multicultural country, everyone’s rights must be considered, and all are important. Attempting to silence, intimidate, or punish anyone for speaking about their experiences and their rights is wrong.” – Ontario mother Amy McKay

Amy Hamm ordered to pay \$93,639 in legal costs for defending women’s rights

Amy Hamm spent more than 13 years working in healthcare and rose to the role of Nurse Educator. Starting in 2018, she began to publicly express her growing concerns about the imposition of gender ideology in healthcare and public policy.



Nurse Amy Hamm

In 2020, she co-sponsored a Vancouver billboard that read, “I love JK Rowling,” in reference to this author’s support for women’s rights and the right of women to access female-only spaces, such as washrooms, crisis centres, sporting events, and prisons. Complaints quickly followed from activists and a Vancouver city councillor. The billboard was immediately removed. Activists (not patients) filed two formal complaints with the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives, accusing Amy of transphobia and hate speech.

The College launched an investigation that produced a 332-page report reviewing Amy’s public statements, including tweets, articles, and podcasts. A lengthy disciplinary hearing followed: 22 hearing days spread over 18 months. The disciplinary panel ultimately ruled that four of Amy’s statements amounted to unprofessional conduct. It also imposed significant penalties: suspending her nursing licence for one month and ordering her to pay \$93,639.80 in legal costs.

With support from the Justice Centre, Amy has appealed this ruling to the BC Supreme Court. “The College has chosen to punish me for statements that are not hateful, but truthful. I’m appealing because biological reality matters, and so does freedom of expression. I want to express my thanks to the thousands of Canadians who continue to fund my legal case through donations to the Justice Centre,” said Amy.



“This decision effectively penalizes a nurse for expressing mainstream views aligned with science and common sense. The Panel’s ruling imposes a chilling effect on free expression for all regulated professionals.” – Constitutional lawyer Lisa Bildy

Protecting the safety and dignity of vulnerable female inmates

Since 2017, Correctional Service Canada has allowed male inmates who identify as women to be transferred into federal women’s prisons across Canada, without requiring surgical transition. Before 2017, such transfers generally occurred only after sex reassignment surgery had been completed.



The Grand Valley Institution for Women in Ontario

Since 2019, Canadian Women’s Sex-Based Rights (CAWSBAR) has advocated for a Canada “where women and girls can be assured that their sex-based rights to bodily privacy, dignity, fairness, and security are upheld both in law and in public policy.” Over 90% of trans identifying male inmates have been convicted for a violent crime; 41% have been convicted for homicide; 30% have been convicted for sexual offences. CAWSBAR has documented reports of harms to female inmates serving time alongside trans-identifying male inmates, including sexual harassment and assault, beatings, stalking, grooming, and privacy violations.

With help from the Justice Centre, CAWSBAR filed a lawsuit with the Federal Court on April 7, 2025, seeking an end to the practice of forcibly confining female inmates alongside trans-identifying male inmates. This practice violates female inmates’ *Charter* rights, including security of the person and the right not to be subjected to cruel and unusual treatment. The lawsuit also points out how female inmates rarely complain about the dangers of serving time alongside trans-identifying male inmates. Such complaints “are often viewed by correctional officers and staff as harassment, intolerance, and/or ‘transphobia.’ Female inmates do not speak out for fear of an entry on their institutional record, which...could impact the decision to grant or not grant parole.”



“This matter is especially important to me as a former federal prisoner. We initiated this action to highlight the federal government’s failure to protect women and to raise public awareness about the cruel and unusual punishment that incarcerated women endure as a result of this transfer policy. I firmly believe that all women are entitled to sex-based rights and protections as specified in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.” – CAWSBAR board member Heather Mason

Defending peaceful protestor Chris Barber against a political prosecution

In early 2022, Saskatchewan trucker Chris Barber travelled to Ottawa to peacefully protest federal vaccine mandates. These mandates forced millions of Canadians to choose between compromising their bodily autonomy or continuing with their employment and enjoying the dignity of full and equal participation in society. For his leadership in the peaceful Freedom Convoy protest, police levelled seven criminal charges against him.



Chris Barber



Chris' 2004 Kenworth long-haul truck, "Big Red"

His mischief trial – the longest in Canadian history – lasted 45 days. Justice Heather Perkins-McVey of the Ontario Court of Justice found Chris guilty of mischief and of counselling others to breach a court order. The judge noted that Chris “came with the noblest of intent and did not advocate for violence,” and described the Freedom Convoy as a “non-violent protest, [with] no property damage, [and] no intent to harm critical infrastructure.” Freedom-loving Canadians were relieved that the Court rejected the Crown’s attempt to see Chris jailed for eight years, but his 18-month conditional sentence (house arrest) and 100 hours of community service were severe punishments.

Crown Prosecutors then sought the confiscation of Mr. Barber’s 2004 Kenworth long-haul truck, “Big Red” - his primary source of income. Crown Prosecutors called it “offence-related property.” “This truck was never a tool of crime,” said Chris’ defence lawyer, funded by the Justice Centre. “It is a working truck, directed by police where to park and moved when they asked. Seizing the very vehicle that Chris and his family rely on to earn a living would devastate a legitimate Canadian business.”

Fortunately, the Court dismissed the Crown’s forfeiture application in December 2025. Chris said, “This truck is my livelihood. Trying to permanently seize it for peacefully protesting was wrong, and I’m relieved the court refused to allow that to happen.”

In 2026, lawyers funded by the Justice Centre will continue to appeal Chris’ unreasonable sentence and continue to defend his freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly.

Education and Advocacy

We defend freedom not only before courts of law but also in the court of public opinion.

Registered charities are permitted to advocate for changes to laws and policies. Our non-partisan advocacy is conducted through education resources, brochures, videos, podcasts, petitions, advocacy actions, papers, reports, and columns published in the *National Post*, *Epoch Times*, *Western Standard*, *Libre Media*, *Québec Nouvelles* and other media - all part of a coordinated effort to inform Canadians about their *Charter* rights and freedoms.

The 2025 George Jonas Freedom Award

Each year, the Justice Centre presents the George Jonas Freedom Award to a remarkable individual who preserves and advances freedom in Canada. This Award celebrates the life and impact of George Jonas (1935-2016). A survivor of both communism and fascism, George Jonas was a journalist, poet, author, columnist, and courageous defender of the free society.

The Justice Centre presented the 2025 George Jonas Freedom Award to Dr. Frances Widdowson – author, academic, and champion of open dialogue and free speech on campus – at Award dinners in Vancouver, Calgary, and Toronto. During her time as policy analyst for the Government of Northwest Territories, Dr. Widdowson challenged what she called an “Aboriginal Industry” in which non-Indigenous consultants and lawyers enjoyed huge profits while Indigenous communities continued to lack housing, education, healthcare, and water. And, during her tenure at Mount Royal University in Calgary, she conducted her own research on the significant socioeconomic disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians.



Dr. Widdowson



The George Jonas Freedom Award dinner in Calgary

Dr. Widdowson is a bold advocate for open dialogue and inquiry on university campuses that have become increasingly quick to censor and control public discussion. With help from the Justice Centre, Dr. Widdowson is suing the University of Lethbridge in Alberta after the University cancelled her talk on “How Woke-ism Threatens Academic Freedom.” She combines her quick mind with a critical mission to reclaim Canada’s campuses from censorship and blind consensus.



Previous George Jonas Freedom Award recipients include Mark Steyn, Christie Blatchford, the Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship, Tamara Lich, Dr. Jordan Peterson, and Ezra Levant.

Educating Canadians about **freedom**

The Justice Centre continues to develop a high school curriculum on the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. This curriculum educates high school students, parents, and teachers about the value and dignity of every human being, about the importance of fundamental rights and freedoms, and about Canadian political institutions. The first course became available in 2022, and by the end of 2026 we will have launched a total of four courses about Canadians' fundamental freedoms on an online learning platform.

The Justice Centre released six reports in 2025, alerting Canadians to threats to their rights and freedoms.



Released December 15, 2025, “Death by a thousand clicks: The rise of internet censorship and control in Canada” reviews six federal laws that collectively expand state control over Canada’s internet, including online speech, news distribution, and streaming services. Framed as protecting Canadians from hate, misinformation, and foreign threats, laws passed and pending grant government institutions unprecedented power to manipulate algorithms, compel platform payments, conduct warrantless surveillance, control access to the internet, and expand speech criminalization.



Released November 17, 2025, “Manufacturing consent: Government behavioural engineering of Canadians” examines how the Impact and Innovation Unit (IIU) of the Privy Council Office uses behavioural science and engineering tactics to manipulate citizen’s behaviour. These methods expanded dramatically during the era of Covid lockdowns and vaccine mandates, shifting from public communication to deliberate psychological conditioning aimed at securing compliance with freedom-violating laws and orders. The IIU had a mandate to convince the public that vaccines were safe and effective absent any evidence that they were.



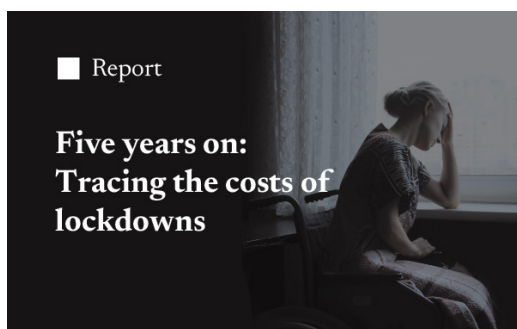
Released October 20, 2025, “Canada’s Surrender of Sovereignty: New WHO health regulations undermine Canadian democracy and *Charter* freedoms” explains how new World Health Organization (WHO) regulations undermine Canadian sovereignty and the democratic will of Canadian voters. Uncritically accepting WHO guidance on public health and pandemic response protocols is unwise. As documented in our other reports, WHO-guided Covid policies caused significant social and economic harms, including persistent high death rates long after lockdowns and vaccine mandates.



■ Report

Post -Covid Canada: The rise in unexpected deaths

Released September 3, 2025, “Post-Covid Canada: The rise in unexpected deaths” exposes three very concerning findings. First, Covid death numbers were significantly exaggerated, largely due to an overbroad and inaccurate definition of Covid deaths. Second, the government’s lockdowns led to excess deaths from drug overdoses, alcohol-related illnesses, and delayed healthcare, among others. Third, there is a disturbing correlation between rushed Covid vaccines and the ongoing trend of higher-than-expected deaths from heart issues, digestive disorders, and neurological diseases. Alarming and more than ever before, many deaths remain unclassified.



■ Report

Five years on: Tracing the costs of lockdowns

Released May 8, 2025, “Five years on: Tracing the costs of lockdowns” examines the immediate and long-term negative impacts of Covid lockdowns, including physical, social, and economic harms. It also underscores the lack of transparent, evidence-based analysis by governments to justify these measures. The report details how policies introduced with the stated goal of saving lives came at an extraordinary cost to Canadians’ mental and physical health, access to healthcare, economic security, and civil liberties.



■ Report

How central bank digital currencies threaten Canadians’ privacy, security, and autonomy

Released March 17, 2025, “Central Bank Digital Currency: What it is and how it could impact your privacy, security and autonomy” analyses central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) and their impact on Canadians’ rights and freedoms, including privacy, security, and autonomy. It explains what CBDCs are and provides lessons from countries with negative outcomes from CBDCs, like Nigeria. The report also addresses the drawbacks of a largely cashless society, as seen in Australia, Sweden, Finland, and Norway.

Advocating for laws and policies that respect *Charter* rights and freedoms

We encourage every Canadian to voice their concerns to their Members of Parliament, Senators, provincial elected representatives, city councilors, school board trustees, university administrations, and professional regulatory bodies. Below follow notable examples of our advocacy efforts in 2025.

In January 2025, we launched a petition demanding that Prime Minister Trudeau “Re-Open Parliament Immediately” after he shut down Parliament for 11 weeks merely to preserve the Liberal Party of Canada regime. In February 2025, Justice Centre President John Carpay delivered the signatures of 66,000 concerned Canadians to the Office of the Prime Minister in Ottawa.

On June 11, 2025, the Justice Centre launched a national petition urging the federal government to “Keep cash legal and accessible” by stopping Bill C-2, the *Strong Borders Act*. The legislation would criminalize the use of cash over \$10,000 and grant law enforcement and intelligence agencies sweeping new powers to access private data without a warrant, including online subscriber information. These measures have nothing to do with border security, and they seriously erode civil liberties. Our petition generated over 35,000 signatures. Following significant public backlash, the federal government has paused this legislation.

In November 2025, the Justice Centre reintroduced its “Stop Digital ID” petition after reports emerged that Canada and the European Union were seeking to strengthen “cooperation on digital identity wallets, digital credentials, trust services and related digital policy areas.” Digital ID systems raise serious concerns about privacy, data security, and government overreach. Many Canadians are rightly concerned that access to essential services could become conditional on participation in digital identity schemes. The national petition quickly gained traction, collecting over 8,700 new signatures in late 2025.

On December 3, 2025, the Justice Centre launched a national letter-writing campaign to assist citizens in calling on their provincial legislatures to stop the politicization of regulated professions. Through an online tool, Canadians were able to send a ready-to-deliver letter to the provincial officials responsible for professional regulation, urging the adoption of legislation that would prohibit professional regulators from advancing political objectives, monitoring members’ lawful speech, or embedding ideology into definitions of competence and ethics. The campaign generated engagement from Canadians in all 10 provinces, with over 1,000 citizens sending letters to their elected representatives.

Thank you to our donors and supporters

Your donations are making a difference in courts, classrooms, and public spaces from coast to coast. When you give, you partner with our team of lawyers, paralegals, researchers, educators, and advocates in defending Canadians' rights and freedoms from harmful laws and policies.

We cannot secure a future of freedom without you. Since our founding in 2010, we have chosen not to accept any government funding. We rely on the generosity of Canadians like you.

Consider giving today!

We accept credit card donations at www.jccf.ca and over the phone at 403-475-3622.

We accept donations by cheque, made payable to “Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms” or “JCCF.” Please mail your cheque to 253-7620 Elbow Drive SW, Calgary, AB, T2V 1K2.

We accept donations by secure e-transfer to etransfer@jccf.ca. Please include your full name, mailing address, postal code, and email address in the notes of your e-transfer or in a follow-up email so that we can issue an official tax receipt to you.

For those interested in including the Justice Centre in your will, please email us at giving@jccf.ca.

You can donate stocks, bonds and other securities, as well as cryptocurrency, and receive an official tax receipt for the total amount that you donate.

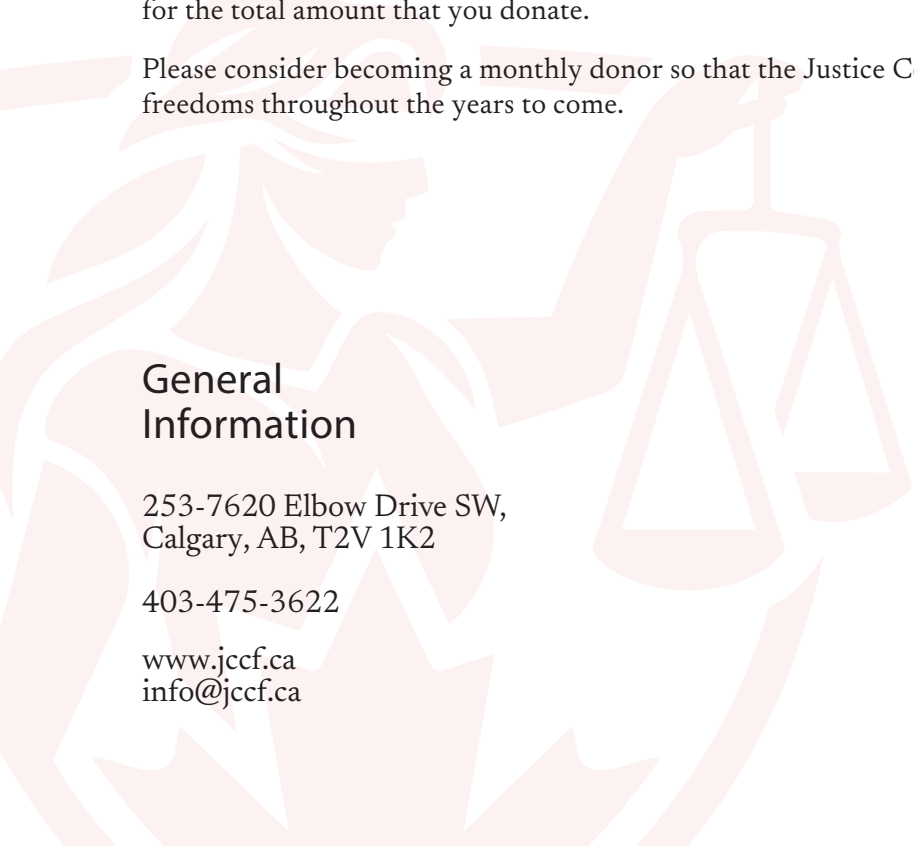
Please consider becoming a monthly donor so that the Justice Centre can continue to defend your rights and freedoms throughout the years to come.

General Information

253-7620 Elbow Drive SW,
Calgary, AB, T2V 1K2

403-475-3622

www.jccf.ca
info@jccf.ca





Justice Centre

for Constitutional Freedoms

www.jccf.ca
253-7620 Elbow Drive SW, Calgary, AB, T2V 1K2