

# The Canadian Constitution Foundation's Annual Report 2014



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The Canadian Constitution Foundation envisions a country where every Canadian is empowered to be a free and responsible member of society. Our mission is to defend Canadians' constitutional rights and freedoms.

# MESSAGE

## From the executive director

When I joined the Canadian Constitution Foundation in April of 2014, I told people I was going to be heading up a small team. This was technically true, but it didn't take long working with the dedicated and passionate CCF staff to realize that while we may be few in numbers, our contribution to freedom in Canada is massive.

In 2014, we defended Canadians' constitutional rights in eleven cases, including two at the Supreme Court of Canada, and we touched tens of thousands of minds with our education and communications initiatives. We really are working for freedom in every sense of the word. And we couldn't be more grateful to the donors and volunteers who make this work possible.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marni Soupcoff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marni Soupcoff, JD  
Executive Director

# WE ARE FREEDOM'S DEFENCE TEAM

## Litigation

In the eleven legal cases we worked on pro bono in 2014, the CCF defended economic liberty, private property rights, the rule of law, and healthcare freedom.

- ◆ We stood up for Bruce and Donna Montague, whose home the Ontario government is trying to seize and sell.
- ◆ We took on the case of Gerard Comeau, a retired steelworker charged for violating protectionist liquor laws when he bought beer and spirits in Quebec and drove them to his home in New Brunswick.
- ◆ We intervened in two Supreme Court of Canada cases to defend the presumption of innocence and to argue against reading new positive rights into the Charter.

In the landmark Irvin Leroux case, we fought for the principle that the Canada Revenue Agency owes a duty of care to taxpayers – and we won.



# Walid's mom says his life will never be the same because of wait lists.

In 2004, eight-year-old Walid Khalfallah was diagnosed with a degenerative spinal disease. He spent two and a half years on wait lists, in pain and with the curvature of his spine getting worse each day. Walid ended up paralyzed. In 2014, Walid and the CCF helped prepare the court case to fight B.C.'s ban on access to private healthcare.



Walid Khalfallah is one of the four patient plaintiffs we are supporting in a B.C. constitutional healthcare challenge.

# WE ARE FREEDOM'S TEACHING TEAM

## Education

In 2014, the CCF helped nurture Canadians' understanding and appreciation of their constitutional rights and history by speaking at seminars and meetings across the country, publishing journal articles and think-pieces, and creating opportunities for debate and discussion.

- ◆ We revived our annual law conference, planning an event that would go on to attract 70 scholars, lawyers and students alike.
- ◆ We gave six seminars alerting Canadians to the dangers of civil forfeiture abuse.
- ◆ We published an e-book on the inequitable treatment of fathers in family law.

Over one thousand pages of historical documents relating to the Canadian Constitution were painstakingly curated, coded and uploaded to our Primary Documents website in 2014

# Two attendees said they'd be returning to law school full of new ideas.



In 2014, we decided to revive our annual Law and Freedom Conference after several years' hiatus. Columnist Andrew Coyne, Institute for Justice lawyer and author Clark Neily, professors Carissima Mathen and Dwight Newman, and former Justice Ian Binnie were some of the first speakers to say they'd join us for the panels and debates, which came off successfully in January 2015.

Former Supreme Court Justice Ian Binnie was among the prominent speakers who signed on for our law conference.

# WE ARE FREEDOM'S PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

## Communication

In 2014, the CCF spread the word of freedom, and sounded the alarm about government infringement of rights, by publishing pieces in national newspapers and online, and making frequent appearances on radio and television.

- ◆ We were on television discussing breaking news and constitutional questions more than 50 times in 2014, including appearances on The National and The Agenda.
- ◆ After the Charlie Hebdo attacks, CCF lawyer Derek From was quoted about free speech in the Wall Street Journal's law blog.
- ◆ We challenged the government healthcare monopoly on CBC's The 180 radio show.

# 120

articles about constitutional freedoms and the rule of law were published by our staff in newspapers, magazines, and blogs in 2014



## Most of our volunteers find us through our media stories and spots.

George Orwell said that freedom is the right to tell people what they don't want to hear. We'd like to think that our significant media presence in 2014 was met with a bit more eagerness, but the key is that we were out there consistently, connecting with new supporters – several have become volunteers – and shining a light on the constitutional issues that are crucial to our freedom.



CCF Staff Lawyer Derek From defending freedom of speech on The Agenda with Steve Paikin.

# 2013/2014 FINANCIALS

## Revenue

Contributions	\$649,303
Grants	\$152,374
Other Revenue	\$15,177
Realized Contributions	\$4,388
Interest	\$2,357
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$823,599</b>



These are the **audited** totals for our 2013/2014 fiscal year ending March 31, 2014. Totals for our fiscal year 2014/2015 will be available in June.

# 2013/2014 FINANCIALS

## Expenses

<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$576,672</b>
Salary and compensation	\$311,317
Litigation (disbursements and outside counsel)	\$251,1918
Other operating expenses	\$13,437
<b>Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>\$205,146</b>
Wages and benefits	\$102,266
Consulting fees	\$15,375
Office and general supplies	\$11,689
Other administrative expenses	\$75,816
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$781,818</b>



These are the **audited** totals for our 2013/2014 fiscal year ending March 31, 2014. Totals for our fiscal year 2014/2015 will be available in June.

# THANK YOU

Thank you to every one of our supporters for making each of our incredible achievements possible this year. We're very proud and grateful to be working with you to defend and promote freedom.

The CCF gives special thanks to all of our top donors, including those that wished to remain anonymous.

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