Annual Report

2016-2017

info@ccsorg.ca

ANNUAL REPORT 2016 - 2017

Accomplishments of Year 2016 and part of 2017:

Over the past year, Canadians for a Civil Society (CCS) engaged in key community projects, symposiums, and advocacy events aimed at promoting human rights, empathy, and gender equality.

In 2017, CCS held its first Casino event on March 28-29 with the help of many dedicated volunteers, receiving $74,650 in funding to support CCS goals over the next 18 months.

Through strategic partnerships with MacEwan University, NAIT, ICWA, Amnesty International, and NorQuest College, CCS has expanded its reach across Alberta.

As the current presidential term comes to an end, special thanks are extended to all directors, partners, and volunteers for their leadership, commitment, and support.

VISION, MISSION & WHAT DO WE DO

VISION

A culture of human rights is the foundation of life in a civil society

WHAT DO WE DO?

CCS works to advance a culture of respect for human rights as well as gender equality through community events that celebrate women and foster an inclusive society. With education and advocacy as tools to effect change in society, we seek to cultivate an environment of dialogues and deliberations that strengthen our resolve on freedom from fear and promote the five pillars of civil society – respect, literacy, human rights, the rule of law and meaningful economic opportunity

MISSION

We advocate, share, and celebrate Canadian values and human rights as a way of life by engaging people and communities

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BECA SYMPOSIUM (2016 & 2017)

Building Empathy, Conquering Apathy

May 13–14, 2016: Organized in partnership with MacEwan University, NAIT, and ICWA under Judy Piercey's leadership. The inaugural symposium brought together over 250 educators, policymakers, and human-rights advocates with keynote speaker Leslee Udwin (director of 'India's Daughter').

May 17–18, 2017: The second annual BECA symposium coincided with the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. The event explored approaches to preventing human rights violations, gender-based violence, discrimination, and bullying.

DAUGHTERS DAY & UN DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD

Daughters Day 2016 (August 23, 2016):

The 4th annual celebration recognized six outstanding Albertan women: Yazmin Juarez, Linar Dahir, Teresa Spinelli, Dama Diriye, Michelle Plouffe, and Shawna Grimes. Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish ('Gaza Doctor') delivered an inspiring keynote speech sponsored by Imperial Equities.

UN International Day of the Girl Child (October 19, 2016):

In partnership with ICWA, CCS hosted a public screening of 'Petals in the Dust: The Endangered Indian Girls' at MacEwan University, followed by a Q&A with filmmaker Nyna Pais Caputi and local panelists.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY CELEBRATIONS

Legislature Event (December 5, 2016):

Led by Director Charan Khehra, CCS brought 20 prominent community leaders and activists to the Alberta Legislature for a lunch reception, group photograph, chamber introductions, and all-party member statements on human rights.

International Human Rights Day Screening (December 8, 2016):

Partnered with Amnesty International and Metro Cinema to screen the award-winning refugee documentary 'Fire at Sea', followed by a panel discussion led by Vasant Chotai, Juste Kagisye, and Amrita Gill.

SPECIAL PROJECTS & PARTNERSHIPS

AGLC Casino Funding:

Successfully raised $74,650 through the March 2018 casino event to support CCS community programming over the following 18 months.

NorQuest Lecture Series:

CCS Founder G.S. Bhatia established a partnership with NorQuest College to organize a series of community lectures focused on the Five Pillars of Civil Society: Respect, Literacy, Law, Rights, and Opportunity.