Annual Report

2019-2020

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ANNUAL REPORT 2019

In 2019, Canadians for a Civil Society made significant progress on core vision initiatives before adapting operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our board transitioned to virtual platforms, restructured governance models, and reviewed financial priorities to maintain long-term organizational sustainability.

Despite challenges, key community engagements, educational collaborations, and advocacy efforts continued to strengthen human rights, equity, and civic participation.

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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DAUGHTERS DAY 2019

"Balance for Better"

Eighth Annual Celebration (September 14, 2019):

Held at Edmonton City Hall highlighting that gender balance is crucial for all of society. Keynote address delivered by Audrey Poitras, President of Metis Nation of Alberta.

Daughters of the Year Awards:

Six awardees selected from 13 nominations: Tracy Folorunsho-Barry, Michelle Nieviadomy, J'lyn Ramsankar, Charu Ranjan, Megha Sharma, and Sherri Smith.

Event Leadership & Community Fair:

Led by Dr. Vivian Abboud with board members Vasant Chotai, Mita Das, Charan Khehra, and event coordinator Jim Gurnett. Features included 15 organizational displays and performances.

ACADEMIC COLLABORATIONS & SPEAKERS

Civil Society Speaker Series (NorQuest College):

Featured keynote speaker Jamil Jivani inspiring youth on leadership and civil society. Included a student essay contest with awards presented by Vasant Chotai and judging by Satya Das.

EDI Week (MacEwan University):

Hosted a weeklong exposition on Canadian values, diversity, and equity. CCS board members led sessions on Indigenous solidarity circles, overcoming gender discrimination, and men's role in eliminating inequality.

DIALOGUE FOR PEACE & BECA 2019

Dialogue for Peace (August 2019):

Convened 50 participants to establish an ongoing forum for peace in South Asia, sponsored by the Edmonton Community Foundation. Facilitated by Candy Khan, Satya Das, and Zaheer Lakhani.

Edmonton Declaration Vision:

Formulated plans for a second session to finalize concrete action steps for regional and local harmony.

BECA IV Planning:

Initiated consultations for 'Welcoming Newcomers; Honouring First Peoples' to address newcomer-Indigenous intercultural dialogue and combat racial discrimination.

HUMAN RIGHTS & GLOBAL INITIATIVES

Alberta Legislature Human Rights Day (December 4, 2019):

Celebrated the 6th annual Legislature observance coordinated by Prabhjot Punnia. Recognized eight Alberta leaders nominated for contributions to peace, justice, and community building.

Think Equal Translation Project:

Funded the French translation of Think Equal's early childhood social-emotional learning curriculum to expand its reach across Canada and French-speaking nations internationally.

GOVERNANCE & TECHNICAL REBUILDING

Priorities & Strategies Committee:

Established under Chair Charan Khehra, producing the 'Reflection to Action' report with 63 general recommendations and 9 strategic priorities for post-pandemic implementation.

Website Rebuilding & Modernization:

Technical Lead Minni Sharma spearheaded the complete redesign and launching of the Daughters Day website in partnership with 3Techno Digital.

Finance & Sustainability:

Successfully appealed AGLC proceed decisions, secured the City of Edmonton Community Investment Operating Grant, and finalized 2019 financial reporting.