Annual Report

2022-2023

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ANNUAL REPORT 2022–2023

In 2022–2023, Canadians for a Civil Society (CCS) advanced key initiatives aimed at promoting human rights, gender equality, and systemic change across local and national platforms.

From organizing major regional symposia and national alliance initiatives to hosting the 2022 Daughters Day celebrations and action forums, CCS continued to cultivate community partnerships.

Organizational governance was significantly strengthened through updated bylaws, a new conflict of interest policy, and active preparations for obtaining registered charitable status.

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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IGNITE CHANGE CONVENTION

75th Anniversary of UN Human Rights Declaration

Major 10-Day Convention (December 2023):

Partnered with John Humphrey Centre and Righting Rights Canada to convene 'Ignite Change', focusing on strengthening community capacity for human rights action.

Key Themes & Dialogues:

Sessions addressed colonization, Indigenous rights, racial/gender discrimination, community policing, diversity, disability justice, and poverty reduction.

Keynote Addresses:

Featured Lt. Gov. Salma Lakhani, Mayor Amarjeet Sohi, Prof. Yasmeen Abu-Laban, and Leslee Udwin. Concluded with a U of A reception featuring Chief Justice Richard Wagner.

DAUGHTERS DAY 2022 & ACTION FORUM

Annual Celebration ("A New Horizon"):

Held at City Hall with keynote Cheryl Whiskeyjack and awards presented to 6 outstanding women: Chanelle Cluett-Alstad, Delmy Garcia-Hoyt, Tonia LaRiviere, Laura Murphy, Jayanti Negi, and Mercedes Messinger.

Taking Action Forum:

Hosted two months later by Lt. Gov. Salma Lakhani, bringing together past award winners and community leaders to commit to concrete steps for gender equality.

Founder Recognition:

Honoured CCS founders Gurcharan Bhatia, Charan Khehra, Satya Das, and Didar Singh Pannu while unveiling custom lapel pins.

NATIONAL ADVOCACY & MEDIA OUTREACH

National Daughters Day Initiative:

Working with Hon. Randy Boissonnault and federal representatives to introduce a Private Member's Bill declaring a national Daughters Day across Canada.

Media & Broadcast Collaborations:

Partnered with V4U Radio and CEO Anupam Srivastav for regular broadcasts, alongside press outreach to CBC, Global News, CTV, and Edmonton Journal.

Community Support:

Funded professional recording of Paula Kirman's official Daughters Day song and donated $1,000 to Red Cross earthquake relief efforts in Syria and Turkey.

EDUCATIONAL & COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Democracy & Civil Society Booklet:

Developing a free educational resource compiling charters, covenants, and responsibilities defining Canadian civil society for digital and print release.

Public Speakers Series:

Launched dedicated forums featuring expert speakers on equality, non-discrimination, and civic engagement.

Women's History Month:

Partnering with Canadian Multicultural Education Foundation to host celebratory dialogues at Government House.

GOVERNANCE & FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Updated Bylaws & Conflict Policy:

Finalized new organizational bylaws with assistance from David Ridley and Peter Faid, alongside drafting a new Conflict of Interest Policy.

Charitable Status & Building Reserve:

Preparing Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) application for registered charitable status and allocated $50,000 in AGLC proceeds toward acquiring permanent office premises.

Capacity Expansion:

Hired a part-time communications coordinator to enhance website content and social media presence.