This program is supported by a grant from the Law Foundation of Ontario
Who We Are
The Canadian Civil Liberties Education Trust (CCLET) is a non-profit research and educational organization created by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association with funding from the Law Foundation of Ontario and individual donors.

CCLET’s school program helps to prepare the next generation of Canadians for civic engagement by introducing students to the exploration of civil liberties and encouraging the development of democratic habits.

What We Do
Since the early 1990s, the CCLET has been providing free workshops, seminars, and in-class sessions to teach students about their rights and freedoms.

Through a combination of full-class discussion, small-group cooperative learning, and individual critical thinking strategies, students explore social justice issues and learn to ask questions that may not have easy answers. With resources and programming developed and delivered by certified teachers, academics, and lawyers, our program supports and fulfills curriculum expectations in many subject areas including Civics, History, Social Science, and Law.

Our Unique Approach to Teaching Civil Liberties for Social Justice
The CCLET believes in a value-balancing approach that allows students to examine and debate legal and ethical dilemmas from multiple perspectives. Using principles that inform the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, CCLET provides teachers and students with a simplified framework for questioning many current and historic issues of fairness.

Workshop leaders introduce an array of case studies for classroom discussion, from Supreme Court cases, to morning headlines, and even students’ concerns within their own communities. Should police be
allowed to use dogs to conduct random searches in schools? Should a high school student be permitted to wear a t-shirt that has a controversial political slogan? Students explore these issues with a focus on identifying what is a reasonable or fair limit to the specific rights or freedoms raised by each case.

Our Program Reach

In the 2010/2011 school year alone, the CCLET reached over 10,000 primary to graduate level students, from a wide range of public, separate, and private educational institutions. And the demand for our programming continues to grow each year.

We are very proud that a recent survey shows 100% of teacher respondents would recommend our program to a colleague and over 90% of students would participate in a CCLET workshop again.

Here is what some teachers and students are saying about our program:

Envision a classroom where students are literally twitching in their seats to examine Charter debates taking place in the Canadian courts, and that is what [CCLET] created in my classroom.
- Teacher, Stephen Lewis Secondary School

This was a wonderful presentation that gives students an opportunity to reflect on many controversial issues related to their own understanding of their rights and freedoms as well as democratic values.
- Teacher, St. Joseph’s Catholic Secondary School

...one of the most valuable presentations I have attended in my education program.
- Student teacher, Nipissing University
Request a CCLET Workshop

To schedule a workshop for your classroom, contact the CCLET:
By phone: (416) 363-0321
By email: education@ccla.org

In your request, please provide ALL of the following details. If you are requesting more than 1 workshop, please include information for EACH workshop requested:
1. School name/address
2. Teacher`s name / email / phone number
3. Course name/ grade level / room number
4. Number of students
5. Class timing (start and end time)
6. Preferred presentation date or possible range of dates

CCLET Student Contests

Each year the CCLET holds two student contests that make for great ready-made classroom projects. Consider assigning one or both of these challenges to your students and submitting the best selections to our contest for a chance to win cash prizes for your student and your school!

Bernard Chernos Youth Democracy Challenge:
Secondary students are invited to take peaceful and lawful action in support of an important cause and share their advocacy story with the CCLET.

Bernard Chernos Essay Competition:
Secondary students are invited to write an essay in response to one of the questions about fundamental freedoms posed by the CCLET that year.

A prize of $500 and a signed book by former CCLA General Counsel A. Alan Borovoy will be awarded to the winning student of each competition. An additional prize of $250 will be awarded to the department of the teacher who submitted the winning entry.

For more information about our student contests visit: www.ccla.org/education-2/student-contests/

For educational resources, and additional information about the CCLET, please visit www.ccla.org/education