CCLET
CANADIAN CIVIL LIBERTIES
EDUCATION TRUST
CIVIL LIBERTIES IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

360 Bloor Street West, Suite 506, Toronto, ON M5S 1X1

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 maintains that anyone who has the capacity to say “that’s not fair,” can then engage in critical thinking about rights and responsibilities.

Our Program Goals
Children who think critically about their rights and responsibilities are better prepared to live in a diverse community. Understanding that different views are acceptable and that we can disagree with one another respectfully are important aspects of democratic and civic engagement. There are even indications that schools where these ideas are alive and at work may observe reductions in bullying.

With these objectives in mind, CCLET’s school programs help 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 Language Arts, Media Literacy, Social Studies, and History.
Our Unique Approach to Teaching Civil Liberties for Social Justice

The CCLET believes in a value-balancing approach that allows students to examine and explore 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 nearly any issue of fairness.

Through a variety of media – from picture books, to animated videos and case studies – children as young as seven engage in critically analyzing important social justice issues. What do our rights and freedoms mean, and when is it reasonable to place limits on them? Is majority rule always the best way to decide what’s fair? How can we respond when we see injustice happening in our schools, communities, or abroad?

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 are saying about our program:

*The students were very engaged and made personal and world connections to the presentation...It promoted critical thinking as students were asked critical inquiry questions about a problematic situation [on] which they needed to make a reasoned judgement. The situations presented were at an appropriate level that the students could easily relate to.*
- Gr. 1/2 Teacher, Hanover Public School

*My students were thoroughly engaged and came up with thoughtful, relevant questions about Canada’s democratic system. Will ensure [CCLET] comes again next year for sure!*  
- Grade 5 Teacher, Harry Bowes Public School
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 Resources
Visit us online for more ideas on how to engage your students in critical thinking about rights and freedoms. Download teacher resources like our lesson plans and recommended children’s book list, articles, and even watch video clips from CCLET in-class workshops.

Access our educational resources here:
http://ccla.org/education-2/resources/

For information about the CCLET’s educational programming, please visit
www.ccla.org/education