

Summer Legal Volunteer Opportunities

Who are we?

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association (“CCLA”) is Canada’s freedom-fighting charity and non-governmental organization since 1964. CCLA intervenes and initiates litigation in Canadian courts, testifies before our legislatures, advocates through media, and engages in activism and outreach across Canada to ensure that rights and freedoms are protected, and the Canadian Charter is upheld.

For instance, when activists sounded the alarm that abortion access was being denied by a provincial government, we challenged the law. When anti-racism leaders spoke out against racial profiling, we fought alongside them. When prisoners were confined inhumanely, really tortured, through solitary confinement, we went to court to end solitary confinement as we know it.

Sometimes people come to us, sometimes we unearth the injustice, but we always speak truth to power, then take the fight to the courts to get wrongs righted. Along with the American Civil Liberties Union (“[ACLU](#)”), we are part of a network of global-leading civil society groups, called the International Network of Civil Liberties Organizations (“[INCLO](#)”). Our sibling corporation is the Canadian Civil Liberties Education Trust (“[CCLET](#)”), which reaches over 10,000 students and teachers a year, with our unique civil society and democracy education program.

Learn more: [What We Are Working On Right Now](#).

Diversity, Equality & Inclusion Statement

CCLA is an equal opportunity employer seeking to live its values internally in all we do. Fighting for equality and dignity is at the forefront of our work, externally. Internally, we are committed to taking proactive steps to provide and create opportunities for historically marginalized groups. We seek applicants who will strengthen our commitment to diversity, equality, and inclusion. **We strongly encourage qualified candidates from Indigenous, Black, and other racialized communities, 2SLGBTQI+ individuals, persons with disabilities, and other members of marginalized communities to self-declare in the hiring process.** This self-declaration information can be factored into recruitment and selection decisions to address our ongoing commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Legal Volunteer Role

CCLA hosts several legal volunteers each summer. Volunteers engage in substantive legal work supporting CCLA's ongoing advocacy efforts in civil liberties and human rights. Volunteers work closely with the organization's Advocacy Program Directors on a variety of projects. The work primarily involves legal and policy-based research and analysis, drafting memos, and monitoring human rights and civil liberties issues. Other activities may include developing materials for the public on current issues, assisting with events, and assisting in the development of advocacy letters, legislative briefs, and litigation materials.

CCLA and our volunteers benefit from a certain amount of stability, predictability, and consistency in scheduling. Many volunteers choose a 4-5 days per week schedule. We are also happy to work with successful candidates to design a flexible schedule that will suit volunteers and accommodate their other obligations, such as paid employment – however we ask that volunteers commit to at least 16 hours per week, and a minimum of 8 weeks during the summer.

Applicants should be aware that these positions are strictly volunteer opportunities for which the CCLA does not offer compensation of any kind. However, some volunteers obtain external opportunities (including fellowships, funding, or course credit through their law schools).

Volunteer spaces are limited and highly competitive, and the organization gives priority to those volunteers who have or are in the process of obtaining external funding.

***Please note: Our summer legal volunteer and articling recruitment processes are distinct. Summer legal volunteers who may be interested in articling at the CCLA will have to apply through our regular articling recruitment process – which is subject to CCLA's receipt of funding for an articling fellow**.*