

CANADIAN
CIVIL LIBERTIES
ASSOCIATION



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CANADIENNE DES
LIBERTES CIVILES

2026 Summer Law Student Program

About CCLA

The Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) is a national, non-profit, non-partisan, non-governmental organization supported by thousands of individuals and organizations from all walks of life. Since 1964, CCLA has worked to advance rights, freedoms, and justice throughout Canada, working in the courts at all levels, before Parliamentary and legislative committees, and in classrooms across the country.

CCLA has developed a unique model of advocacy that supports five core activities: monitoring, litigation, research, public education, and civic engagement. Currently, CCLA's work is focused on the following thematic areas: **Fundamental Freedoms, Criminal Justice, Equality, Privacy and Education.**

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commitment

CCLA is an equal opportunity organization and is committed to taking proactive steps to provide and create opportunities for historically marginalized and equity seeking 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, 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, individuals with disabilities, and other members of marginalized communities to apply and self-identify in their application materials.**

Summer Legal Volunteer Role

CCLA hosts several law students each summer from May to August to engage in substantive legal work supporting CCLA's ongoing advocacy efforts in civil liberties and human rights through externally funded internships/fellowships or pre-arranged course credit or as part-time volunteers.

Most summer legal students will be able to choose two of our thematic program areas and rotate through them during the course of the summer, in order to obtain a breadth of practical experience, based on personal interest.

Working directly under a CCLA advocacy program director who are lawyers, students will be asked to conduct legal (and sometimes complementary social science) research and prepare written materials in a range of formats on various topics within their chosen programs. This may include case briefs, reviews of draft or proposed legislation, policy reviews, and research memoranda. Areas of law encompassed by our work include constitutional, public, administrative, criminal and human rights law.

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

Selected summer legal students must be able to attend (either in person or remotely) a mandatory orientation session that will be scheduled within the first two weeks of May 2026.

Qualifications

Summer legal student opportunities are open to law students and recent law graduates. Applicants should demonstrate legal excellence, be reliable, well-organized and self-motivated, have an interest in civil liberties, human rights, and public policy. Strong writing and legal research and analysis skills are essential. Personal or professional experience working with non-governmental organizations is highly desirable. The ability to read legal and other materials in French is a strong plus.

Compensation

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

Many law schools providing funding for public interest summer fellowships and your Career Office will be able to provide you with details on how to apply. CCLA is happy to assist in this process by providing a letter of support for successful candidates.

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 opportunities.

How to Apply

Please email your application as **one pdf**, addressed to Harini Sivalingham, to volunteer@ccla.org with the subject line “**2026 Summer Legal**”.

Your application should include the following documents in this order:

- Cover letter
- Resume
- Law school transcripts
- Reference letters, if any (these are not required, but up to 2 will be accepted)
- If you are applying for external funding opportunities that require a letter of support from CCLA please include a project proposal with the name of the of the fellowship, required time commitment, and application deadline for the external opportunity

Application Deadline

Please ensure that we receive your completed application by **10 am EST February 13, 2026**. Applications received after this deadline may still be considered subject to availability.

The Interview Process

The interview process will occur remotely in late February-early March. All interviews will be conducted remotely via zoom.

We thank all applicants for their interest, but only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. All candidates who are interviewed will be notified within four (4) weeks of their interview date of the outcome of their application.

CCLA does not use artificial intelligence or automated tools to screen or evaluate applications for this role. All applications are reviewed directly by human recruiters as part of our recruitment process.

Accommodations are available throughout the recruitment process. **Please direct any accommodation requests or questions about the recruitment process to hsivalingam@ccla.org**

Location:

We anticipate that participation for full-time externally funded students located in Toronto will be hybrid, with the in-person component taking place in our mid-town Toronto office. There may be some flexibility offered for part-time students located outside of Toronto to participate remotely.