

Prior to the Federal Election of October 19, the CCPC had already sent letters to the leaders of all Federal parties, requesting their support for the full restoration of the CCPC.

With the election of a Liberal majority government on October 19, 2015 and its Platform commitment to reinstate the CCPC in its entirety, the Board of Directors of the CPPC met on November 9 to discuss and approve an action plan for the full restoration and funding of the program.

This Action Plan consisted of the following steps:

- Letters to the government and appropriate ministers;
- Letters to other Ministers, and all newly elected MP's of all parties;
- Meeting and consultations with the Panel members of both Equality and Language Rights;
- Meetings and consultations with current membership groups of both Equality and Language;
- Meetings and consultations with former membership groups and supporters and friends of the CCPC;
- Communications with Canada Heritage to restore, within the best possible delays, in-person meetings of the CCPC: board, panel members, membership groups;
- Renewal of membership groups;

On November 4, 2015, Prime Minister Trudeau appointed his cabinet ministers, and, on November 9, the CCPC Board undertook to send letters to both Canadian Heritage Minister Joly and Justice Minister Wilson-Raybould, congratulating them on their appointments and requesting meetings with them to discuss the restoration of the CCPC.

Letters conveying these messages, in both official languages, were thus sent to both Minister Joly and Minister Wilson-Raybould in November and these letters have been followed up with phone calls and e-mails to both Ministers in the last week of November and the second week of December.

On November 9, the Board determined that both the Equality Rights and the Language Rights Panel members should be consulted and their input and suggestions for the full restoration of the CCPC be sought.

In furtherance of this, the Chair of the Board and language and equality Board representatives met with the Equality Rights Panel (ERP) on November 20 and with the Language Rights Panel (LRP) on November 30.

The Board sent a letter to our contact in the Canada Heritage Ministry asking both for authorization as well as for the funding for an in-person meeting of Board, panel members and membership groups in Ottawa in early 2016. Should you wish to confirm or to renew your membership with the CCPC, please contact our current Executive Director, Susan Weldon, staff at the office, by email [sweldon@ccppcj.ca](mailto:sweldon@ccppcj.ca) and Tel. (204) 942-0022 or 1-866-942-0022. We received encouraging correspondence back from Heritage in December and are now waiting to hear their decision on our requests. In the event of a positive response, we are hoping to schedule this in-person meeting soon. We will advise members further as soon as we receive a response from Heritage.

Panel and Board members are currently working on Fact Sheets, summarizing and highlighting a number of key cases funded by the CCPC in both Equality and Language over the years. This was a suggestion that Equality Rights Panel member, Lorena Fontaine, proposed. We are currently working on Fact Sheets about CCPC-funded cases which have advanced language rights. Lorena has been working on a Fact Sheet about Aboriginal cases funded by the CCPC; Anne Levesque, CCPC Board member, is working on CCPC-funded cases involving people with disabilities. We are working on a Fact Sheet focusing on CCPC-funded cases involving Women's rights. If anyone would like to help, please contact Susan Weldon All assistance would be greatly appreciated.

The CCPC website is currently being updated. We are in the process of organizing and setting up consultation calls with our current membership groups on both the Equality and Language sides of the program and will be communicating with you in the new future to schedule these consultations. We then will be reaching out to our former membership groups and supporters of the CCPC and requesting your input and assistance in our efforts to restore the program.

We are currently in the process of sending out letters of congratulations to a long list of Cabinet Ministers and newly elected and re-elected MP's, from all parties, to solicit their support for the restoration of the CCPC.

To all of you: we thank you for your unfailing and unwavering support for the CCPC and for the valuable contributions you have made to the continuation of this program which is essential to the protection of the Charter rights guaranteed to all Canadians.

Thank you.

Linda Jones

Chair of the Board of Directors of the Court Challenges Program of Canada