

Summary of the evaluation of the

COURT CHALLENGES PROGRAM

(2017-2018 to 2022-2023)



OVERVIEW

The Court Challenges Program (CCP) **supports certain legal procedures** to allow Canadians to **clarify** and **strengthen** their linguistic and human rights.

The CCP is funded by the federal government and **managed independently** by the University of Ottawa.

The **evaluation examined the relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency** of the CCP from 2017–2018 to 2022–2023, with an emphasis on its implementation and impact.

RELEVANCE

The CCP plays a **decisive role** in **clarifying** and **ensuring respect for the rights covered within its scope**.



The CCP **enables individuals and groups to undertake the complex and lengthy steps** to advance certain fundamental rights. These legal procedures would be largely beyond their reach without the financial support offered by the program.



529
applications received, despite the impact of COVID-19



368
human rights
161
language rights



275
applications funded



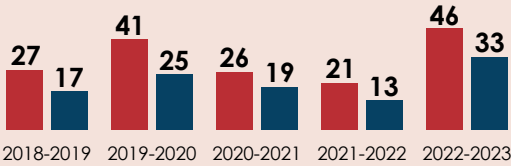
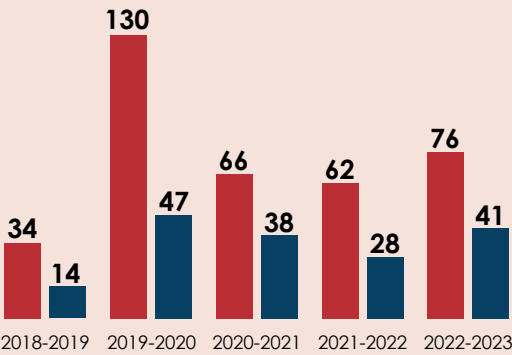
168
human rights
107
language rights



Requests for funding

Human Rights

Language Rights



■ Applications received
■ Applications funded

The CCP is aligned with the **federal government's priorities** regarding **official languages, inclusion, diversity, equity** and **accessibility**.



There are unmet needs due to the **exclusion of certain fundamental rights** and the **type of challenged legislation** from the scope of the CCP.



EFFECTIVENESS

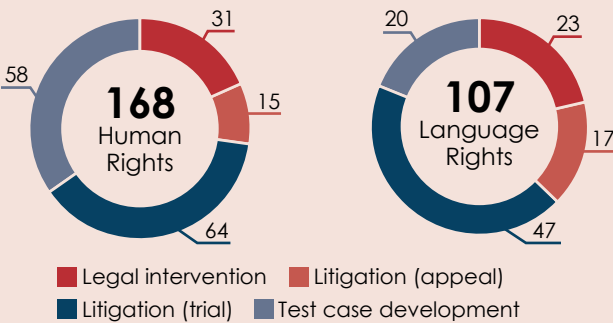
All types of activities were funded. No eligible applications were rejected due to a lack of CCP funding.



The Program has made an **important contribution** to the **advancement of language rights** and the **clarification of human rights**.



Applications funded by type of activity
2018-2019 to 2022-2023



Several landmark decisions in the fields of **language rights** and **human rights** have involved parties that **received financial support from the program**.



While there have been some **promotional** activities, CCP **remains less well known** among certain groups that could benefit from its support. Access to the CCP is reduced by the **lack of knowledge** and **visibility** of the **program among the general public**.



EFFICIENCY

The **existing model** of program delivery by an independent organization (University of Ottawa) **works well**. No **alternatives** to the existing model were **identified or suggested** to improve program efficiency.



The **team at the University of Ottawa** was a **decisive** and sustained **factor** in **achieving the program's results**.

The University of Ottawa has **managed** the CCP **effectively**, and the **provisions of the contribution agreement** with the Department of Canadian Heritage have been **respected**.



80%

of the budget is devoted to **funding legal remedies** and **20% to program administration**.

Expert committees respect their **agreed upon mandates**.

However, there are gaps in the **expertise** of expert committees on **litigation costs across the country** and **different types of courts**.



The **performance measurement strategy** is **incomplete** and **inadequate**. Performance information provides only a partial picture of program activities and their impact.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings, the evaluation recommends that the Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy, Planning and Corporate Affairs:

1 In collaboration with the University of Ottawa, ensure that **both expert panels have access to expertise on litigation costs in different regions of the country and different types of courts**.

2 In collaboration with the University of Ottawa, **confirm reporting requirements** to adequately document funded cases, including their outcomes and their impacts on the clarification of the rights covered by the program.