

Top 25 Largest, Wealthiest, or Worst Anti-choice Groups in Canada



Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada

Compiled by Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada (ARCC) – www.arcc-cdac.ca

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Of the [over 300 anti-choice groups in Canada](#), we have selected the “top 25” in three broad categories: political anti-choice, crisis pregnancy centre, and right-wing multi-issue. Fifteen of the groups are charities.

The groups are listed in **alphabetical order** in each category – **not ranked** – and meet one or more of the following inclusion criteria. The first criterion is objective; the others are based on ARCC’s judgment:

1. Charities with annual revenues of about \$750,000 or more according to latest-filed CRA tax return ([70 percent of anti-choice groups](#) have charitable tax status)
2. Large – has many chapters, or many paid staff, or large membership (as estimated by ARCC, accurate counts usually not available)
3. Externally influential – potential ability to influence politics, law, society, or media.
4. Internally influential – supports, defends, or organizes other anti-choice groups; or acts as umbrella group.

Name	City/Prov.	Criteria	Charity	Description / Activities
1. Anti-choice political and advocacy groups whose main issue is abortion				
Alliance for Life Ontario	Guelph ON	3,4	N	<p><i>“...the provincial coordinating organization for educational groups across Ontario. We present a united voice to bring about greater respect for the dignity and worth of all human beings from conception/fertilization to natural death.”</i></p> <p>An umbrella group for anti-choice advocacy groups but also carries out its own activities. It lists 58 affiliate groups on its website, all in Ontario, but about half appear inactive or defunct.</p> <p>One of Canada’s oldest anti-choice groups. In May 1975, the Alliance created the “Petition of One Million” for “full legal protection for the unborn”, gathering over a million signatures. It received Canada Summer Jobs funding prior to 2018.</p> <p>In 2010 and 2012, it placed TV ads against abortion; both were found to contravene the <i>Canadian Code of Advertising Standards</i>.</p>

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				<p>The Alliance maintains the websites http://personhood.ca and http://wewantthedebate.ca. Also hosts a website promoting medication abortion reversal: www.abortionreversal.com.</p> <p>In 2021, Facebook and Google both received numerous complaints over abortion pill reversal ads due to the dangerous misinformation they were promoting. The Alliance also lobbied former Health Minister Patty Hadju to require physicians to inform patients about medication abortion reversal.</p> <p>The group has been lobbying the Ontario government to require all abortion providers to report abortion procedure statistics to the government.</p> <p>Executive Director is Jakki Jeffs (originally headed by Gwen Landolt, now of REAL Women). http://allianceforlife.org/</p>
Campaign Life Coalition	Toronto ON	2,3	N	<p><i>“...the national pro-life organization working at all levels of government to secure full legal protection for all human beings, from the time of conception to natural death. We defend the sanctity of human life against threats posed by abortion, euthanasia, doctor assisted suicide, reproductive and genetic technologies, cloning, infanticide, eugenics, population control, and threats to the family.”</i></p> <p>The CLC is Canada’s national, political anti-choice group and is highly active in politics and media. The CLC supports incremental policies that would eventually ban abortion for any reason, but not policies that seem to “permit” some abortions, such as 20-week bans. The CLC organizes the annual March for Life on Parliament Hill and promotes events across the country such as the Life Chain and 40 Days for Life.</p> <p>It tracks the positions of elected officials and candidates across Canada on abortion and other social conservative issues.</p> <p>President is Jeff Gunnarson, but long-time president Jim Hughes is still there.</p> <p>Founded in 1978. www.campaignlifecoalition.com</p>
Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform	Calgary AB	2,3	N	<p><i>“Our strategy and all of our projects are centered around this goal - to reach all of Canada with abortion victim photography and human rights apologetics, to make abortion unthinkable and end the killing.”</i></p> <p>The group’s main tactics are to hand-deliver postcards/flyers to residential homes showing alleged aborted fetuses, and displaying graphic signs on busy public sidewalks and at universities. They organize the Choice Chain and operate the Truth Truck.</p> <p>Over 2016-17, it tried to advertise on city transit buses (not with graphic images), but mostly failed except in Peterborough. The group is very litigious.</p> <p>Was able to raise over \$150,000 via crowdfunding to replace Canada Summer Jobs funding that was denied in 2017, but which it later got reinstated via a lawsuit.</p>

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				<p>Based in Calgary with an office in Toronto and initiatives in Vancouver/Burnaby and Manitoba (Winnipeg, Steinbach, Winkler, Morden).</p> <p>Founded in 1999 (at UBC by Stephanie Gray) as an affiliate of Center for Bio-Ethical Reform in California.</p> <p>CCBR President is Nick Rosendal. Main spokespersons are Jonathon Van Maren and Devorah Gilman. Toronto outreach director is Blaise Alleyne.</p> <p>www.endthekilling.ca</p>
Guelph & Area Right to Life Association	Guelph ON	3	Y	<p><i>“Our mission is to promote greater respect for the dignity and worth of all human beings from conception/fertilization to natural death.”</i></p> <p>The group places many anti-choice bus ads around town.</p> <p>It is linked to CCBR and was part of the successful 2017 lawsuit to recoup funding denied from Canada Summer Jobs program.</p> <p>In 2016, it funded “The Garden of Grace” in Guelph, a “memorial for life lost through miscarriage or abortion”. Other programs include “Shine a Light” a protest held January 28th at Guelph City Hall.</p> <p>In 2017, it partnered on the “Petition of 1 million” with Alliance for Life, to “protect the life of every Canadian from his/her biological beginnings”.</p> <p>President is Kristin Swaving.</p> <p>Total revenue 2022: \$167,297 (including \$25,000 in municipal/regional gov’t funding)</p> <p>Founded in 1974. http://guelphforlife.com/</p>
Kelowna Right to Life	Kelowna BC	3	Y	<p><i>“.....strives for a society in which every human life is protected, respected and valued from conception until natural death.”</i></p> <p>Conducts regular hospital vigils in Kelowna every Tuesday.</p> <p>In 2022, with the Vernon and Area Pro-Life Society, it ran anti-choice ads on Global TV. It also places billboard ads.</p> <p>It regularly delivers graphic flyers of aborted fetuses and shows graphic signage on streets and at UBC Okanagan, using CCBR materials.</p> <p>Executive Director: Marlon Bartram</p> <p>Revenue 2022: \$76,124</p> <p>Founded in 1972. https://lifecanada.org/kelowna/</p>
LifeCanada	Carleton Place ON	3,4	N	<p><i>“LifeCanada is a national association of educational pro-life groups who promote and protect the value of human life. Our mandate is to create resources, training, and programming for our member groups. We strive to inspire individuals to see the true value</i></p>

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				<p><i>of human life and overcome hardship in ways that do not violate the rights and dignity of others.”</i></p> <p>An umbrella group that lists 9 member groups on its website. They collaborate with member groups to reach Canadians through multi-media campaigns, national polling, educational resources, and through training and programs for members.</p> <p>They used to also be known as Life Collective, now defunct.</p> <p>They publish Reflections Magazine and hold an annual national conference. Also run several campaigns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Media Campaigns that include billboards, television spots, and radio ads. • Love4Life, a national campaign that provides information to students, researchers, and women about abortion, “a serious life-threatening procedure”. • Missing Project to commemorate “all lives lost since abortion became legal in Canada in 1988.” • Adoption in Canada, a national campaign that “dispels myths about adoption and lets women in crisis pregnancies know what their options are” <p>President/Board Chair is Pat Wiedemer.</p> <p>https://lifecanada.org/</p>
LifeSiteNews.com	Toronto ON	2,3	N	<p>A major anti-choice news website that publishes a dozen or so original articles daily, plus blogs and articles from other sources, with the stated goal of providing “<i>balance and more accurate coverage on culture, life and family matters than is usually given by other media.</i>” It is also anti-LGBT, opposes transgender rights and the legalization of medical assistance in dying. Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, it has become a purveyor of misleading information and consequently was banned from YouTube and Facebook in 2021. As well, it frequently publishes articles supporting Donald Trump and “Stop the Steal” campaigns. It has a wide reach and issues daily newsletters to U.S., international, and Canadian subscribers.</p> <p>It was sued in 2010 by pro-choice Catholic priest Raymond Gravel in Quebec for defamation. The case ended when Gravel became ill and died.</p> <p>It has 14 staff members (as of Sep 2021), some stationed in other countries.</p> <p>It relies on donations and ad revenue and runs several annual fundraisers for at least \$500,000 each.</p> <p>Originally started by Campaign Life Coalition in 1997.</p> <p>www.lifesitenews.com/</p>
National Campus Life Network	Ottawa ON	2,4	N	<p>NCLN “<i>seeks to lower the abortion rate in Canada by educating, mentoring and leading young people to reject abortion. University students are so inundated with pro-abortion</i></p>

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				<p><i>messaging that they consider themselves pro-choice by default. Pro-life students, conversely, are regularly harassed and denied basic rights of expression. These students will become our country's next leaders, politicians, lawyers, doctors and parents. It is imperative that we reach them. "</i></p> <p>It hosts workshops to train "pro-life leaders." Over 2017/18, it ran a "Bloody Sexism" campaign against sex selection abortion on 11 campuses. Currently, it holds online forums on a variety of topics related to abortion.</p> <p>Its website currently lists 13 anti-choice advocacy groups on university and college campuses across Canada. Ruth Lobo is the Executive Director.</p> <p>www.ncln.ca/</p>
RightNow	Toronto ON	3	N	<p><i>"RightNow exists to nominate and elect pro-life politicians by mobilizing Canadians... to vote at local nomination meetings, and provide training to volunteers across the country to create effective campaign teams in every riding across Canada."</i></p> <p>The group's goal is to get anti-choice politicians elected with the hope they will pass laws against abortion, including a criminal law, a ban on abortions after 24 weeks, an "Unborn Victim of Crimes Act" that would make fetuses legal persons, a law requiring parental consent for abortion, and a law requiring ultrasound prior to abortion. It also wants to defund abortion. The group's strategy is described in "The Game of Inches."</p> <p>Together with Campaign Life Coalition, RightNow was instrumental in electing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Andrew Scheer as federal Conservative Party leader ● Doug Ford as leader of Progressive Conservative Party in Ontario (now Premier) ● Scott Moe as Saskatchewan Party leader (now Premier) ● Jason Kenney as UCP leader in Alberta, and other UCP candidates ● Erin O'Toole as federal Conservative Party leader ● Pierre Poilievre as federal Conservative Party leader <p>In July 2018 in Alberta, RightNow said it was helping 52 anti-abortion candidates win local nominations (out of 87 ridings) to run for Kenney's party in Alberta's 2019 provincial election. It is active in many provincial and federal contests, including the 2022 Conservative leadership race.</p> <p>Co-founders: Alissa Golob and Scott Hayward. Closely linked to Campaign Life Coalition, where Golob used to work.</p> <p>www.itstartsrighnow.ca</p>

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Right to Life Association of Toronto and Area	Toronto ON	3	Y	<p><i>“At Toronto Right to Life, we envision a country where the intrinsic dignity of every human life is valued and the human rights of all human beings are protected. We are a human rights organization that aims to make abortion and assisted suicide unthinkable...”</i></p> <p>The group has a speaker program and also offers student grants for “pro-life projects.” It works closely with CCBR and co-hosts activism and training programs for high school students.</p> <p>It sued the federal government in 2018 after being denied eligibility for the Canada Summer Jobs program. They lost on appeal.</p> <p>President is Brendan Muggeridge</p> <p>Total revenue 2022: \$230,148</p> <p>Founded in 1973. https://trtl.ca/</p>
We Need a Law	Ottawa ON	3	N	<p><i>“Mission: We mobilize Canadians and persuade our political leaders to pass laws that protect children before birth.”</i> Also: <i>“...to build a groundswell of support among the Canadian public for abortion legislation.”</i></p> <p>This group is an initiative of Association for Reformed Political Action (ARPA Canada). The campaign’s goal is to pass an “international standards law” that criminalizes all self-induced abortion, as well as abortion by a doctor after 12 weeks except to save a woman’s life or to prevent “severe pathological physical morbidity”.</p> <p>Other priorities include a law prohibiting sex-selective abortions, and a law to protect “pre-born victims of crime.” They advocate against late-term abortion and counselling and waiting periods for those seeking an abortion.</p> <p>The group often mounts displays of 1000’s of pink and blue flags to represent aborted fetuses, usually in public parks.</p> <p>Director is Mike Schouten.</p> <p>https://weneedalaw.ca/</p>
Wilberforce Project	Edmonton AB	3,4	N	<p><i>“We seek to protect pre-born children through political advocacy...To educate the public of Alberta on the issue of abortion...on the necessity of pro-lifers participation in politics.</i></p> <p>Originally called Alberta Pro-Life, renamed after British slavery abolitionist William Wilberforce (1759-1833).</p> <p>The group was very involved politically in Alberta, recruiting, training and canvassing for candidates and swaying policy at UCP conventions. They offer political candidates nomination training and campaign training. The group endorsed Jason Kenney as UCP leader in the 2017 leadership contest and after the 2019 Alberta provincial election, bragged about being instrumental in electing the “most pro-life legislature in decades.”</p>

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				<p>It wants “conscience rights” for anti-choice healthcare workers, and a parental consent law for abortion. Attempts to legislate on these issues have so far failed.</p> <p>It continues to run petitions against Alberta’s safe access zone, the expansion of abortion services in rural Alberta, and the provision of third trimester abortion care.</p> <p>Executive Director: Stephanie Fennelly http://thewilberforceproject.nationbuilder.com/</p>
2. CPCs and their support organizations – "crisis pregnancy centres" that counsel clients against abortion				
Advokate Life & Education Services Society (ALESS)	Abbotsford BC	1,2	Y	<p><i>“We are an evidence based, nonsectarian registered charity with a strict policy of non-discrimination.”</i></p> <p>Runs the Hope for Women CPCs with three branches in Abbotsford, Langley, and Prince George.</p> <p>Hope for Women does presentations to high schools, churches etc. with SHIFT (Sexual Health and Intimacy for Teens) www.shiftbc.ca/</p> <p>Executive Director: Jared White Total revenue 2022: \$1,358,972 (including \$10,511 in federal funding) Founded in 1980. https://advokate.ca/</p>
Calgary Pregnancy Care Centre Association	Calgary AB	1,2	Y	<p><i>A “non-profit charity offering pregnancy and family support for those in challenging situations.”</i></p> <p>A crisis pregnancy centre that claims to provide peer counselling on options when faced when an unexpected pregnancy happens. The centre provides “sex education” but the Calgary Board of Education cut ties with the organization in Sept 2018. The centre also provides “Post Abortion” Facilitator Training.</p> <p>Founded in 1985. Three locations: Calgary, Airdrie and Strathmore in Alberta. Executive Director: Jutta Wittmeier Total revenue 2022: \$1,481,619 (includes \$35,153 in federal funding) Founded in 1985. https://www.pregcare.com/</p>
Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Centre Society	Red Deer AB	1,2	Y	<p><i>“...we recognize that women have a right to make their own choice about the outcome of their pregnancy and their sexual health. We are here to help teen girls, young women, women, and families make informed decisions.”</i></p> <p>The centre offers medical referrals, pregnancy tests, peer counseling, information on sexual health, and a 24-hour helpline. However, it has disclaimers on the website stating it is not a medical facility.</p>

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				<p>The centre operates a 7-unit maternity home called “The Aerie” in Red Deer. In Oct 2019, the centre won the Red Deer & District Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year “Non-for-Profit” Award.</p> <p>Five locations: Red Deer, Olds, Rocky Mountain House, Stettler, Drumheller</p> <p>Total revenue 2022: 1,187,999 (includes \$4,056 in municipal/regional government funding)</p> <p>Founded in 1988. www.pregnancycare.ca/</p>
Christian Advocacy Society of Greater Vancouver	Burnaby BC	2,4	Y	<p><i>“We are a faith-based agency providing compassionate help and resources for women experiencing unintended pregnancies, post abortion grief, domestic abuse and sexual assault.”</i></p> <p>A religious group that runs two anti-choice “crisis pregnancy centres” in BC and trains their peer counsellors. It also operates an online counselling service across Canada “OnlineCare Canada”, a safe house in Burnaby and a “Rape Victim Support Network”.</p> <p>The group sued Joyce Arthur (Executive Director of ARCC) in 2013 for defamation but lost. Founded in 1990 and claims to have helped over 20,000 women.</p> <p>Executive Director: Norma Cody</p> <p>Total revenue 2022: \$866,394</p> <p>Founded in 1991. http://christianadvocacy.ca/</p>
Family Support Centre of Winnipeg	Winnipeg MB	1	Y	<p><i>“...over the decades we have helped many thousands of women, men, and families sort out the difficulties they were facing while getting them the help they needed.”</i></p> <p>Use to run the Crisis Pregnancy Centre of Winnipeg, which no longer exists, but they started a new CPC in Grand Forks BC in 2022 – Boundary Pregnancy Care Centre.</p> <p>The centre is a not-for-profit charity providing a variety of family and crisis counselling, and also offers parenting programs. It operates from a social conservative religious perspective and is anti-abortion.</p> <p>Executive Director: Juergen Mike Severloh</p> <p>Total revenue 2022: \$996,125</p> <p>Founded in 1985. www.familysupportcentre.ca/</p>
Gianna Centre	Edmonton AB	1	Y	<p><i>“Our goal is to promote the sanctity of human life, and protect the unborn as well as to help the mother/father who may be in distress. We also strive to provide support to women and their families who are experiencing a pregnancy crisis situation.”</i></p> <p>Registered at CRA as “Sign of Hope Society, Archdiocese of Edmonton”</p> <p>Run by Catholic Social Services.</p> <p>Total revenue 2022: 1,600,890</p>

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Outreach for Life Association of Edmonton	Edmonton AB	1	Y	<p>Founded in 1997. www.cssalberta.ca/Gianna-Centre / www.facebook.com/Giannayeg/</p> <p><i>"The Pregnancy Care Centre is your best resource for unexpected pregnancy care. You don't have to face this alone—you can count on us to help you find the answers and support you need. We are your companion through pregnancy, parenting and post-abortion care. With us, you're never alone."</i></p> <p>Known as Pregnancy Care Centre Total revenue 2022: \$759,306 Founded in 1985. www.pregnancycarecentre.ca</p>
Pregnancy Care Canada	Red Deer AB	2,4	Y	<p><i>"...a Christ-centred national organization dedicated to upholding life by equipping pregnancy care centres and local communities with resources, education and support to compassionately serve those challenged by an unexpected pregnancy."</i></p> <p>Pregnancy Care Canada (previously the Canadian Association of Pregnancy Support Services) is a federal association that any "Crisis Pregnancy Centre" (CPC) can align itself with. It currently has about 74 affiliated CPCs. Affiliated centres: "...[must not] recommend or refer for abortions or abortifacients..." and must abide by religious directives that are no longer publicly available on its website, but are summarized here.</p> <p>It boasts "The Seal of Accountability" from the Canadian Council of Christian Charities. Executive Director is Dr. Laura Lewis, a registered physician and member of "Canadian Physicians for Life" an anti-choice organization.</p> <p>Total revenue 2022: \$756,460 Founded in 1988. https://pregnancycarecanada.ca/</p>
Pregnancy Care Centre	Toronto ON	1,2	Y	<p><i>Mission: "To provide compassionate community support to women and families facing an unexpected pregnancy so that they can thrive without seeing abortion as their only option."</i></p> <p>Operates 4 branches in Ontario, including North York, Richmond Hill, Scarborough, and downtown Toronto and an Hispanic Centre in North York (by appt only).</p> <p>Known as "I Am Not Alone" Executive Director: Linda Baartse Total revenue 2022: \$1,072,676 Founded in 1984. https://iamnotalone.ca/</p>
Signal Hill Life Education Society	Langley BC	1,2	Y	<p>A non-profit "life education" society that states it helps young people become <i>"thriving leaders who positively influence their communities."</i></p> <p>Specifically, it advocates for teaching early the value of "human life at conception". It promotes anti-choice rhetoric through education, media and practical support.</p>

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				<p>It provides a variety of presentations that can be given to various organizations, with a focus on schools.</p> <p>It researches and writes articles on its anti-choice values as it believes that young people are in a “value crisis”.</p> <p>Executive Director: Derek Scott</p> <p>Total revenue 2022: \$376,584</p> <p>Founded in 1974. https://thesignalhill.com/</p>
3. Right-wing groups that work on a variety of issues, including abortion				
Association for Reformed Political Action Canada (ARPA Canada)	Ottawa ON	2,3	N	<p><i>“Mission ... to educate, equip, and encourage Reformed Christians to political action and to bring a biblical perspective to our civil authorities.”</i></p> <p>A political lobby group that works on multiple issues from a social conservative religious perspective, including abortion, mostly through its WeNeedLaw.ca campaign.</p> <p>It is also against LGBT rights especially transgender rights, sex worker rights, medical assistance in dying, comprehensive sex education and Covid-19 vaccination mandates as well as other public health restrictions.</p> <p>It intervenes in court cases (to protect right-wing freedom of expression and religion), meets with MPs, submits “Policy reports to Parliamentarians”, and creates “Lesson plans” for Christian schools.</p> <p>Its staff are mostly from Christian Reformed churches, including Executive Director Mark Penninga.</p> <p>Founded in 2007. https://arpacanada.ca/</p>
Evangelical Fellowship of Canada	Richmond Hill ON	1,2,3	Y	<p>Mission: <i>“Uniting Evangelicals to bless Canada in the name of Jesus”</i>. Also: <i>“the national association of evangelical Christians in Canada. It gathers Evangelicals together for impact, influence and identity in ministry and public witness.”</i></p> <p>This organization works to lobby Parliament and take on the Canadian courts in order to push for a literal interpretation of the Bible. It does a lot of research on how to retain people within the church and change the culture.</p> <p>It publishes a magazine “Love Is Moving” for youth and young adults, and “Faith Today”, a Canadian Christian magazine.</p> <p>It has an anti-choice stance and intervened to fight against the requirement of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario that objecting doctors must refer for abortion and assisted dying. The Court of Appeal upheld the CPSO’s requirement for physicians to provide effective referrals.</p> <p>President: Bruce Clemenger</p>

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				<p>Total revenue 2022: \$4,631,083 Formed by a group of pastors in 1964. www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/</p>
<p>Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms</p>	<p>Calgary AB</p>	<p>1,2,3,4</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p><i>“Founded in 2010 as a voice for freedom in Canada’s courtrooms, the JCCF’s mission is to defend the constitutional freedoms of Canadians through litigation and education.”</i></p> <p>A legal services group that primarily defends the “right” of fundamentalist Christians and social conservatives to discriminate against or harm others under the guise of freedom of religion and freedom of expression. It prioritizes those two Charter rights over others, in contradiction to the Charter and the rights of vulnerable groups.</p> <p>The JCCF intervenes in court cases, including those where Christians have been denied their “right” to discriminate based on their bigotry. It intervened in the Canada Summer Jobs lawsuit in 2018, based on the false premise that groups are required to “express agreement with the Liberal governments’ views on abortion and sexuality”. It was also active in challenging COVID-19 restrictions.</p> <p>In Nov 2018, JCCF president John Carpay compared the Pride flag to swastikas, resulting in a firestorm of criticism and a weak apology from Carpay that confirmed he views LGBT rights as a threat to the religious freedom of Christians.</p> <p>In 2021, Carpay obstructed justice and intimidated a judge by having him surveilled. In Oct 2023, the criminal charges against him were stayed via a plea deal that banned Carpay from practising law in Canada for three years. He remains President of JCCF.</p> <p>In Feb. 2022, JCCF launched a legal action on vaccine mandates on behalf of Maxime Bernier against the federal government. Also established a defense lawyer hotline for truckers involved in the Trucker Convoy.</p> <p>President: John Carpay. Total revenue 2022: \$7,089,122 Founded in 2010. www.jccf.ca</p>