



## Externship Program

### Placement Profile

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Organization: Canadian Centre for Housing Rights

Location of Placement: Remote. We have a small office space in Toronto that staff and students can optionally make use of.

Website: housingrightscanada.com

Description of Organization

For the first 35 years of our existence – from 1987 until 2022 – CCHR was called the Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation (CERA).

We advance the right to housing by serving renters to help them stay housed, providing education and training about housing rights, and advancing rights-based housing policy through research, policy development, advocacy and litigation.

Every year, we provide much needed supports to hundreds of renters facing eviction and human rights issues in their housing. We also provide education on housing law, human rights and eviction prevention to a variety of audiences, including vulnerable renters, housing providers and service providers.

As we continue to serve clients to help them stay housed and educate housing providers about their responsibilities, we are also compiling research and data to ignite public action and encourage decision makers at municipal, provincial and national levels to implement the right to housing for all. This work includes engaging in strategic litigation as a means to advance rights-based housing policy where traditional avenues of policy advocacy may not be effective.

The Canadian Centre for Housing Rights’ presence is expanding to all corners of the country through our partnerships at municipal, regional, provincial and national levels, as we work to build and nurture coalitions to advance the right to housing movement in Canada. Our work also extends beyond our national borders, and we continue supporting efforts to advance the right to housing at the international level, as we have for over three decades.

Number of Placements Available: Unlimited

Placement Supervisor: Dale Whitmore, dwhitmore@housingrightscanada.com

	Name, email
On-site workspace available:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
On-site computer available:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, student needs own laptop
Regular Hours:	Students will primarily complete work during typical office hours (      am - pm). <i>Additional information about hours of work:</i> We are a national organization. Students will generally be able to work during business hours in any Canadian time zone. Meetings will usually be scheduled during our core hours of 11:30am to 4:00pm EST.
Required Competencies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Familiarity with legal research practices and research tools</li> <li>- Outstanding oral and written communication and interpersonal skills</li> <li>- An ability to work independently and as a part of a team</li> <li>- A professional approach to work and customer service orientation</li> <li>- Strong computer skills and proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Teams)</li> <li>- Familiarity with the rules of professional conduct and strong ethical practices</li> </ul>
Preferred Competencies:	Understanding of housing law and/or the right to housing is an asset
Required Courses:	n/a
Preferred courses:	Administrative Law, Human Rights Law, Constitutional Law
Pre-placement Readings:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Law Society of Ontario materials clarifying “legal information” v. “legal advice”</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
Area(s) of Law:	Housing, human rights, international law in Canada, constitutional law
Description of Work Assignments:	<p>Student externs will each be assigned to one of three teams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy, Communications, and Engagement: Students will work closely with CERA’s public policy professionals to monitor and analyze policy developments across Canada and support community engagement and education efforts. This</li> </ul>

work may include preparing briefing notes and reviewing and analyzing legislation and relevant government policies.

- Strategic Litigation: Students will support CERA's ongoing development and implementation of our litigation strategy, and conduct in-depth legal research on a variety of housing and human rights related topics.
- Services and Education: Students will work directly with clients, providing them legal information on a variety of issues related to their tenancies, do legal research, conduct intake interviews, and provide guided referrals.

Police Clearance Required:

Yes, type of Police Clearance:  
 No

If yes, what type of police clearance is required

Travel Required:

Yes, type of travel required:  
 No

If yes, please provide a description

Lodging Required:

Yes, description as follows:  
 No

If yes, please provide a description

Other Requirements:

List any supplies a student is required to have

Notes Regarding Accessibility:

**This is an accessible worksite.**  
*Other notes regarding accessibility:* **We are a remote workplace. If students are in Toronto, they may make use of our small physical office which is accessible.**

Please discuss your individual needs with the Externship Program Director.

Other Notes:

Form Drafted 16 Feb 2018

Faculty Council Report 23 May 2018

Revised 30 Sep 2022