

**ONTARIO
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE**

B E T W E E N:

**Amelia Penney-Crocker, Parker Boot-Quackenbush, Khadijat Folasayo Dairo,
Catherine He, Tharan D'Silva, Katie Yu, Diego Christiansen-Barker, Lachlan
Brown, Zoey Ann Purves, Jacob Colatosti, Milan Rozotto-Lagos, Oswaldo Paz
Flores, Lauren Handley and Justice for Children and Youth**

Applicants

and

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IN RIGHT OF CANADA

Respondent

AFFIDAVIT OF CATHERINE HE

I, Catherine He, of the community of Angus, in the Township of Essa, in the Province of Ontario, student MAKE OATH AND SAY AS FOLLOWS:

1. My name is Catherine He and I am sixteen years old. I have prepared this affidavit in support of our application to challenge the current voting age and to introduce myself to the court and describe the opinions that I hold that have led me to participate in this case.
2. I am a permanent resident of Canada, I arrived here with my family when I was 3 years old. I am currently a citizen of the United States where I was born and am awaiting the

confirmation of my Canadian citizenship. I expect that I will receive this confirmation within the next several months.

3. Social justice has always been something I'm passionate about, but my passion has especially grown over the past year with the rise of the Black Lives Matter Movement and anti-Asian hate. It is this passion that motivates my desire to take part in the voting age challenge; I want young people like myself to have a political voice in important social justice issues.
4. I live with my family in Angus, Ontario, but I am currently attending boarding school in St. Catharine's at Ridley College. The extracurricular opportunities available through school have fostered my political interests. For instance, in September 2021 I helped to lead a student vote day: a mock election that allowed students to experience something we otherwise cannot — voting. I really enjoyed this experience, especially researching each of the different political parties, and I learned a lot from it as well.
5. Despite being unable to vote, I participate in many political activities. I am currently the president of my school's UNICEF club and was an executive member of Model United Nations. Through these activities and others, I have become very familiar with politics. I also enjoy writing about various issues in my student magazine: The Tiger Post.
6. Young people are already participating in politics and the idea that youth are unprepared to vote is a major misconception. If anything, the ability to vote will motivate young people to become more educated and knowledgeable on some of the major issues in our society. I can't see how this would be a bad thing. Voting incentivizes learning. Also, it's not as though people over the age of eighteen need political knowledge in order to be able

to vote. There are many adults who vote despite not having any real political knowledge.

This is a double standard.

7. Two issues that I am very passionate about are human rights and social justice. As a Chinese Canadian I have personally experienced racism growing up. The fight against racism is a very important one, especially given the current climate: the spread of COVID19 has also the spread anti-Asian discrimination. This motivated me to become more involved in my community. I run a youth blog called The Cajor for which young people write articles to raise awareness about various social justice issues.
8. Young people are not only capable of voting but deserve the right to vote. We are members of Canadian society and our voices should be heard. The government needs to recognize the value that young voices and opinions can add to our country and its political system.

AFFIRMED REMOTELY BY Catherine
He at the City of St. Catharines, in the
Province of Ontario before me at the Town of
Stouffville, in the Province of Ontario on the
27th of November, 2021, in accordance with
O. Reg. 431/20, Administering Oath or
Declaration Remotely.



Commissioner for Taking Affidavits

Athena Josephine Caldarola,
a Commissioner, etc., Province of Ontario,
for Justice for Children and Youth.
Expires January 8, 2022.



Catherine He