

**ONTARIO
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE**

BETWEEN:

**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 LACHLAN BROWN

I, LACHLAN BROWN, of the City of Halifax, in the Province of Nova Scotia, student MAKE
OATH AND SAY AS FOLLOWS:

1. I live in Halifax, Nova Scotia and graduated from Dartmouth High School in June 2021. I turned 18 years old on November 3rd 2021, just over a month after the most recent federal election. I was both involved in and then employed by Students Commission of Canada for a total of two years. As a politically engaged but disenfranchised young person, I believe that all eligible Canadians ought to have the right to vote in elections.
2. I am, at my core, a very politically active person. My parents both work for members of parliament, so growing up I was always used to discussing and debating current political

events and issues. My personal identity has also required me to pay close attention to how government policies affect me and my community.

3. As with many people in my generation, I am deeply committed to the political causes I care about, but constrained in terms of how I support them. Since my right to vote has been denied, I have had to rely solely on grassroots organizing to advocate for my interests. I have very regularly attended protests, participated in political street art initiatives, and hung posters to spread awareness about particular issues. I have even volunteered as a canvasser for multiple political campaigns and have contributed financial donations in support of campaigns in which I could not vote.
4. I find all of these forms of political expression deeply fulfilling, and I think they are essential to progressive politics and movement-building regardless of elections. But when it comes time to transform public sentiment into concrete laws and policies, young people are suddenly denied representation.
5. It is incredibly frustrating that I can devote my efforts to these other tactics, yet I could not engage in voting—the most basic form of political participation. The political system is only interested in young people's perspectives up until the point that they could actually have consequences for politicians' decision-making. I am aware that young people can join political parties before turning 18 but have chosen not to do so because I have not always wanted to be tied to a particular party or riding.
6. It should therefore not be surprising that young people are jaded by our political system and don't feel their voice matters, even as they pass into the age of majority. We are taught to be disillusioned from the outset by a system that views us as incapable, even though ample

evidence proves otherwise. If we as a society are serious about cultivating life-long political participation among our citizens, we cannot arbitrarily deny basic political rights to youth.

7. Lastly, I often hear concerns that enabling young people to vote would have partisan consequences. We don't have solid evidence of this, but even if it is true, voting rights do not hinge on partisan leanings.
8. Frankly, I would hope that extending the right to vote to young people would indeed result in the election of more progressive candidates. I am very proud to support the NDP, because the current Liberal federal government consistently fails to take progressive measures on issues like reconciliation, anti-Black racism, and climate action. If allowing young people to vote sways political outcomes further left, that is just a more accurate representation of the electorate's wishes. It is our current outcomes that are in fact skewed.
9. Ultimately, I think it is undeniable that young people are already a huge part of the social movements defining contemporary politics, but the progressive policies we constantly advocate for are out of reach because we are denied full participation in the political process. Any alleged partisanship is irrelevant; we are full rights-bearing citizens and should be treated as such.

AFFIRMED REMOTELY BY Lachlan Brown at the City of Halifax, in the Province of Nova Scotia before me at the Town of Stouffville, in the Province of Ontario on the 26th of November, 2021, in accordance with O. Reg. 431/20, Administering Oath or Declaration Remotely.



Commissioner for Taking Affidavits



Lachlan Brown

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