

# Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

In Canada we have laws that guarantee the rights and freedoms of the people who reside in Canada, whether they be Canadian citizens, permanent residents or newcomers. Canada is a multicultural country and the laws are set out to preserve and protect the diversity of the nationalities, races and faiths.

However, along with the rights and freedoms come responsibilities!

The Charter applies to all governments, federal, provincial and territorial.

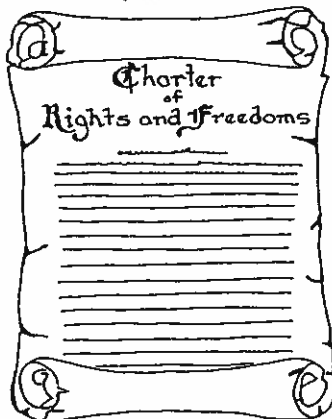
## Protections under the Charter:

### 1. Fundamental Freedoms:

- *Freedom of Conscience and Religion* - Canadians are given the choice to hold, practice or express their beliefs without fear of punishment.
- *Freedom of Thought, Belief, Opinion, and Expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication* - including speech, art, film, dance and written works. Freedom of expression is limited against pornography, hate propaganda and slander.
- *Freedom of Peaceful Assembly* - Canadians are free to peacefully assemble, picket or demonstrate. People are not allowed to assemble to cause fear.
- *Freedom of Association* - Canadians are free to create and express ideas, gather to discuss them and communicate them to others. Canadians are free to discuss matters of public policy, criticize governments and offer solutions to community problems.

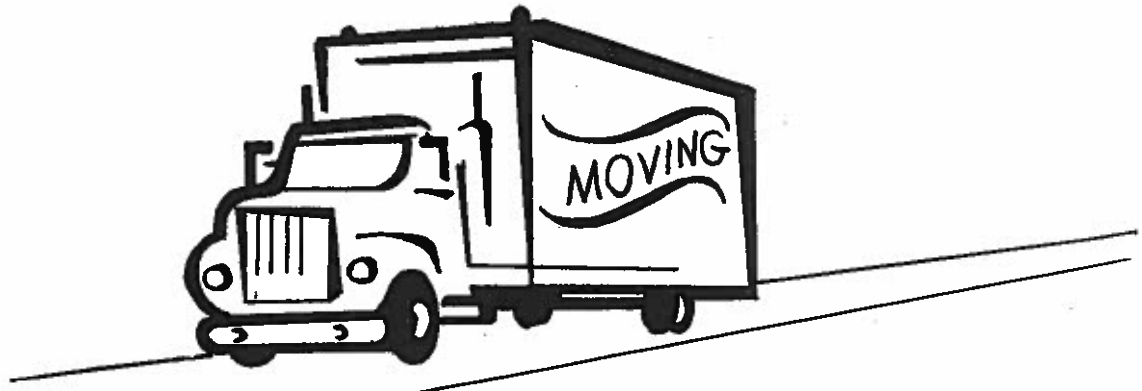
### 2. Democratic Rights:

- Every citizen of Canada has the right to vote in federal, provincial, municipal or territorial elections along with the right to run for public office themselves.
- The length of time during which Parliament or legislative assembly can continue in power is limited to five years.
- Parliament and legislative assemblies must hold a session at least once a year to enable elected members and the public to question government policies regularly.



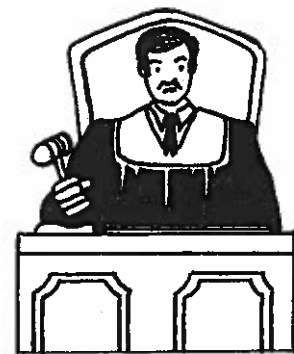
### 3. Mobility Rights

- Every citizen of Canada has the right to enter, remain in and leave Canada
- Every citizen of Canada and every person who has the status of a permanent resident of Canada has the right to move to and take up residence in any province and to seek employment in any province.



### 4. Legal Rights

- Everyone has the right to life, liberty and personal security
- Everyone has the right to be secure against unreasonable search or seizure. Canadians are entitled to a reasonable expectation of privacy.
- Everyone has the right not to be arbitrarily detained or imprisoned.
- Everyone has the right on an arrest or detention
  - to be informed promptly of the reasons
  - to retain and instruct legal counsel
  - to have the validity of the detention determined and to be released if the detention is unlawful.
- Any person charged with an offence has the right
  - to be informed of the offence
  - to be tried in a reasonable amount of time
  - to be presumed innocent until proven guilty
  - not to be denied bail without just cause
  - to be given the benefit of trial by judge and jury
  - if acquitted, not to be tried for the same offence again
  - if found guilty not to be tried or punished for the same offence again.
- Everyone has the right not to be subjected to any cruel and unusual punishment or treatment.
- Witnesses who give evidence in court are protected from having that testimony used against them at a later date.
- People who do not understand the language or are deaf may request the use of an interpreter.



## 5. Equality Rights

- Every person in Canada - regardless of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, colour, sex, age, or physical or mental disability - is entitled to equality without discrimination.



## 6. Official Languages of Canada

- Both English and French are the official languages of Canada. These languages are given equal status in all institutions of Parliament and the government of Canada. This right also exists in the legislature and courts of New Brunswick since it is officially a bilingual province.
- The right to use English or French in pleadings of the federal courts, including the Supreme Court of Canada, as well as courts in New Brunswick is protected.
- Canadians have the right to communicate with the federal government in either official language. The government must provide services in either English or French to allow an individual to communicate with Canadian government offices.



## 7. Minority Languages of Canada

- Canadian citizens have the right to have their children educated in either French or English on condition that:
  - The first language learned is still understood and is the one for which the instruction is being requested.
  - the requested language is the one in which either parent was educated
  - the requested language is the same one in which another child in the family has received or is receiving.

## 8. Canada's multicultural heritage

- Canada is proud of the many cultural groups that live and work in Canada. The Charter values this diversity and ensures that governments and the courts interpret the charter in such a way to promote this multicultural heritage.



## 9. Aboriginal people's rights

- The unique status of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada, including Indian, Inuit and Métis is recognized and protected. Their culture, customs, traditions and languages are protected under the Charter.



List the rights and freedoms that protect collective rights.

Explain how each right protects collective rights.

