

IMPORTANT RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

(Stated in Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms)

Like most Canadians, you probably take for granted the fact that you can practice your own religion – or that you can freely move to another province – or that you can express your own opinions about the government. However, in many of the world's countries, citizens are not allowed to do these things (and may at times be punished for doing so). Therefore, the Charter lists the rights and freedoms that every Canadian possesses. The most important of these rights and freedoms are as follows:

Fundamental Freedoms:

- Freedom of conscience (beliefs) and religion
- Freedom of thought, and expression (including freedom of the press and other media of communication)
- Freedom of peaceful assembly (to get together peacefully for a purpose)
- Freedom of association (to associate with or belong to any legal group of one's choice)

Democratic Rights:

- The right to vote (once designated voting age has been reached)
- The right to run for election (once designated age has been reached)

Mobility Rights:

- The right to enter, remain in or leave Canada
- The right to move to, live in, and work in any Canadian province

Legal Rights:

- The right to "life, liberty (freedom), and security of the person (freedom from harm, harassment or fear of harm)
- Security from unreasonable search or seizure (take property away)
- Security from arbitrary (without just cause) arrest or detention
- The right not to be subjected to cruel and unusual punishment

Equality Rights:

- The right to equality before the law regardless of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex (gender), age or mental or physical disability

Language Rights:

- The equal status for the use of English and French in the government and the courts of Canada
- The right to education for the use of English or French – wherever there are reasonable numbers of Anglophone (English-speaking) or Francophone (French-speaking) students.