



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

CANADIAN
CHARTER OF RIGHTS
AND FREEDOMS



20th
anniversary

The Charter.
It's ours.
It's us.

Canada 



The 20th Anniversary of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Democratic Rights

Every citizen of Canada has the right to vote in an election of members of the House of Commons or of a legislative assembly and to be eligible for membership therein. 4.(1) No House of Commons and no legislative assembly shall continue for longer than five years from the date of the writs at a general election of its members. 4.(2) In time of emergency, such as war, rebellion, insurrection, or armed conflict, a House of Commons or a legislative assembly may be continued beyond five years if such continuation is authorized by a resolution of more than one third of the members of the House of Commons or of the legislative assembly, as the case may be. 4. There shall be a general election of members of the House of Commons and of each legislature at least once every twelve months.

LEGAL RIGHTS

The 20th Anniversary of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

The Charter is a remarkable achievement in Canada's history. It puts into words our values of respect, fairness, and democracy.

As a cornerstone of our democratic society, the Charter protects our basic rights and freedoms. According to the Charter, we are all equal before and under the law.

In celebrating the 20th anniversary of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, we celebrate values that lie at the heart of what it means to be Canadian.

A part of our history

The adoption of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* was a turning point in our identity and our equality as Canadians. After 115 years as a country, we enshrined our rights and freedoms in the form of a document, the Charter, which serves as the guiding law of the land and applies to all levels of government.

The Charter affirms our individual rights, and serves as a reminder of our responsibility to respect the rights of others.

Equality Rights

Essential to our lives

The Charter brings us together and celebrates our diversity. It protects the many rights and freedoms that make Canada a just society. Here are some of them:

- Freedom of expression
- Freedom of conscience and religion
- Freedom to gather in peaceful groups
- The right to live free from discrimination
- The right to receive services from the Government of Canada in English or French
- The right to vote and run for office
- The right to live and work anywhere in Canada

The Charter reflects the pride of Canadians in the multicultural fabric of our society. It protects the rights of women, Aboriginal people and minority language groups.

English and French and both language versions are equally authoritative. 20. (1) Either English or French may be used by any person in, or in any pleading in or process issuing from, any court established by Parliament. (2) Either English or French may be used by any person in, or in any pleading in or process issuing from, any court of New Brunswick. 20. (3) Any member of the public in Canada has the right to communicate with, and to receive available services from, any head or central office of an institution of the Parliament or government of Canada in English or French, and has the same right with respect to any other office of any such institution where (a) there is a significant demand for communications with and services from that office in both languages, or (b) due to the nature of the office, it is reasonable that communications with and services from that office be available in both English and French. (4) Any member of the public in New Brunswick has the right to communicate with, and to receive available services from, any office or institution in that province of the Parliament or government of New Brunswick in English or French.

The Charter. It's ours. It's us.

Enforcement


24. (1) Anyone whose rights or freedoms, guaranteed by this Charter, have been infringed or denied may apply to a court of competent jurisdiction to obtain such remedy as the court considers appropriate and just in the circumstances. (2) Where a court concludes that evidence was obtained in a manner that infringed any rights or freedoms guaranteed by this Charter, the evidence shall be excluded if it is established that, having regard to all the circumstances, the admission of it in the proceedings would bring the administration of justice into disrepute.

General

26. The guarantee in this Charter of certain rights and freedoms shall not be construed so as to abrogate or derogate from any aboriginal, treaty or other rights or freedoms that pertain to the aboriginal peoples of Canada, including (a) any rights or freedoms that have been recognized by the Royal Proclamation of October 7, 1960, and (b) any rights or freedoms that now exist by way of land claims agreements or may be so acquired. 25. The guarantee in this Charter of certain rights and freedoms shall not be construed as denying the existence of any other rights or freedoms that exist in Canada. 27. This Charter shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the equality of men and women.

Call, click or visit to obtain more information or your copy of the Charter.

 1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232)
TTY / TDD 1 800 465-7735

 canada.gc.ca

 Service Canada Access Centres



Application of Charter