

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

“The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was proclaimed at the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.”

The United Nations outline of the rights to which all human beings are entitled.

Canadian Bill of Rights

“In 1960, Diefenbaker’s government passed the Canadian Bill of Rights.”

A bill passed in 1960 that outlined human rights for Canadians.

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

“Few laws have had as profound an effect on the life of Canadians as the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.”

The bill identifying human rights that are guaranteed to everyone in Canada; enacted in 1982 and embedded in the Constitution of Canada.

Notwithstanding clause

“The notwithstanding clause... allows the federal and provincial or territorial governments to pass a law even if it violates a specific freedom or right in the Charter.”

A clause in the Canadian Constitution that enables Parliament or the legislature of a province to allow an Act to stand even though it contravenes the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Democratic rights

“The Charter protects the fundamental freedoms of Canadians and guarantees their democratic, mobility, equality, legal, and language rights.”

Charter rights to participate in a democratic society, including voting in elections, guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Language rights

“The Charter protects the fundamental freedoms of Canadians and guarantees their democratic, mobility, equality, legal, and language rights.”

Charter rights to receive government services in English or French and to be educated in either English or French.

Fundamental freedoms

“Section 2 of the Charter protects the fundamental freedoms of conscience, religion, thought, belief, opinion, expression, peaceful assembly, and association.”

Freedoms in the Charter that guarantee citizens are free to worship and believe what they wish, to express their opinions freely, to associate with whomever they wish, and to gather together peacefully with others.

Mobility rights

“Most mobility cases are concerned with extradition of Canadians accused of a crime by another country.”

Charter rights that guarantee people the ability to move around or in and out of the country.

Equality rights

“Section 15 of the Charter guarantees equality “before and under the law.”

Charter rights that guarantee people will not be discriminated against based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age, or mental or physical disability.

Affirmative action

“Affirmative action programs are recognized under subsection 15(2) of the Charter to ensure minority rights for disadvantaged individuals and groups.”

Programs that are designed to help disadvantaged individuals or groups achieve equity.

Minority rights

“Affirmative action programs are recognized under subsection 15(2) of the Charter to ensure minority rights for disadvantaged individuals and groups.”

Legal rights to ensure that specific groups which are vulnerable or disadvantaged are protected and able to achieve equality.

Legal rights

“Canadians have their legal rights guaranteed by sections 7 to 14 of the Charter. These rights cannot be taken away without proper legal process.”

Charter rights that guarantee people will be treated fairly by the legal system, including knowing why they were arrested, having access to a lawyer, and getting a fair and speedy trial.

Amending formula

“The amending formula established in 1982 specifies that at least seven provinces, totalling at least 50 percent of the population of all provinces, must approve”

A rule established in 1982 that states Canada’s Constitution cannot be changed unless at least seven Canadian provinces, representing at least 50 percent of the population of Canada, approve.

Employment equity

“Two practices designed to improve employment equity still cause debate: the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, and the use of preferential hiring practices.”

Policies that ensure certain groups are given an advantage by employers, in particular women, people with disabilities, Aboriginal peoples, and visible minorities.