



# Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

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The Charter was first created in 1982, with the *Constitution Act*, and cannot be changed without the agreement of the provinces and the federal government.

***The rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Charter include:***

- **Democratic rights**
  - the **right to vote** for the members of the House of Commons and the provincial legislative assembly
  - the right to vote for a new government at least **every five years**
- **Fundamental freedoms**
  - the freedom to choose your own **religion**
  - the freedom to **think** what you want
  - the freedom to **share** your thoughts
  - the freedom to organize **peaceful** meetings and demonstrations
  - the freedom to **associate** with any person or group
- **Mobility rights**
  - the right to **enter, stay in or leave** Canada
  - the right to move to and earn a living in **any province**
- **Legal rights**
  - the right to a **fair and quick public trial** by an impartial court that assumes you are innocent until proven guilty
- **Equality rights**
  - the right to expect **no discrimination** or unfair treatment because of race, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability
- **Official language rights**
  - **the right to speak** and be understood in either official language (i.e., English and French) in Parliament, federal courts and the New Brunswick legislature and courts
- **Minority language education rights in certain circumstances**
  - the right to have all of their children schooled in the same language as their first child.