

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

What are your rights as a Canadian citizen?

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms came into effect in 1982 as part of the Canadian Constitution. It outlines the rights of Canadian citizens and permanent residents. These rights include:

1. *Fundamental Freedoms*

- freedom of conscience and religion
- freedom of thought, belief, opinion, and expression
- freedom of peaceful assembly
- freedom of association

2. *Mobility Rights*

- the right to live and work in any province

3. *Legal Rights*

- the right to not be detained or imprisoned without good cause
- the right to be informed promptly of the reasons for arrest
- the right to a lawyer without delay, to have the validity of the imprisonment determined by way of habeas corpus (and to be released if the imprisonment cannot be justified in a reasonable amount of time)
- the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty
- the right not to be subjected to cruel and unusual treatment or punishment

4. *Equality Rights*

- the right to equal treatment by the law and protection from discrimination on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, or mental or physical disability.

5. *Official Languages of Canada*

- the right to access the government of Canada in English or French

6. *Minority Language Educational Rights*

- the right to education in English or French where there are significant numbers of student

For Canadians Only:

There are, however, certain important rights that apply only to Canadian citizens. These rights are:

- the right to cast a vote in a federal or provincial election
- the right to be a candidate in a federal or provincial election
- the right to be able to leave the country and return, regardless of the time spent abroad