



## Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (the “Charter”) is a law that sets out **fundamental political and civil rights and freedoms** for everyone in Canada. The Charter applies to actions and policies made by all levels of Canadian government. It is part of the Constitution of Canada, meaning it is part of Canada’s highest law.

### Fundamental freedoms

2. Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms:

- (a) freedom of conscience and religion;
- (b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication;
- (c) freedom of peaceful assembly; and
- (d) freedom of association.

### Life, liberty and security of person

7. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice.

### Search or seizure

8. Everyone has the right to be secure against unreasonable search or seizure.

### Detention or imprisonment

9. Everyone has the right not to be arbitrarily detained or imprisoned.

### Arrest or detention

10. Everyone has the right on arrest or detention

- (a) to be informed promptly of the reasons therefor;
- (b) to retain and instruct counsel without delay and to be informed of that right; and
- (c) to have the validity of the detention determined by way of *habeas corpus* and to be released if the detention is not lawful.

### Equality before and under law and equal protection and benefit of law

15. (1) Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.