



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. For full content of the Charter, visit: <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/Charter/>

## 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.



The **Human Rights Code** (the “Code”) is a law that prohibits discrimination for specific reasons. These grounds are **race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation** and **age**. The purpose of the Code is to prevent discrimination, promote equality, and create a society in which all people can participate equally. The Code also sets up a tribunal process for resolving complaints.

---

## The Code prohibits discrimination based on the grounds listed above in several specific areas. These areas include:

- **Publications** – No one can publish or display any statement, notice, sign, symbol or other representation that is discriminatory or exposes a person or group to hatred or contempt based on the grounds set out in the Code (**Section 7**)
- **Accommodation, Service, and Facility** – No one can deny accommodation, service or facility or discriminate in relation to accommodation, service or facility based on the grounds set out in the Code (**Section 8**)
- **Purchase of Property** – No one can deny a person the opportunity to purchase property or discriminate in relation to the purchasing of property based on the grounds set out in the Code (**Section 9**)
- **Discrimination in Tenancy Premises** – No one can deny a person the right to rent a space or discriminate against a person in relation to renting the space based on the grounds set out in the Code (**Section 10**)
- **Employment Advertisements** – No one can publish an employment advertisement that expresses a limitation or preference based on the grounds set out in the Code unless based on a legitimate occupational requirement (**Section 11**)
- **Wages** – An employer cannot pay employees of different sexes different wages for similar work (**Section 12**)
- **Employment** – No one can refuse to employ a person or discriminate against that person in relation to employment based on the grounds set out in the Code (**Section 13**)
- **Unions and Associations** – A trade union or employers’ organization cannot exclude any person from membership or discriminate against a person based on the grounds set out in the Code (**Section 14**)