

Legal Rights

Your Legal Rights are protected under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms:

<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/charter/>

The Youth Criminal Justice Act also offers further protections for youth, by ensuring they understand what is happening at each stage in the process, that they are informed of their rights at each stage, and that they have access to legal assistance (i.e. a Lawyer or Counsel), and to a parent or other adult they know, at each stage in the process.

Suggested Activities

- Have groups of students rewrite sections of the charter in their own words. These descriptions may also be accompanied by illustrations or examples.
- Have students create skits acting out a situation where a person is exercising their rights. They may then compare their understanding to the explanations provided at the Government of Canada Canadian Heritage website:

<http://www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/pdp-hrp/canada/guide/lgl-eng.cfm>

Additional Resources

The John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights has a useful backgrounder, “Guide to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms” (PDF format, viewable online; download requires a free membership at scribd.com):

http://www.scribd.com/full/36769343?access_key=key-1p8jw9ahbgoq0rs2vuv

The Canadian Heritage site also has other related publications through its Human Rights Program:

<http://www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/pdp-hrp/docs/publications/index-eng.cfm>

The Canadian Human Rights Commission website, *HUMAN RIGHTS IN CANADA: A Historical Perspective*, also has lesson plans for grades 7-8, 9-10, and 11-12:

<http://www.chrc-ccdp.ca/en/teachersGuides/index.asp>



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