

# Canadian Rights and Freedoms

*vocabulary: belief, discrimination, equal, expression, guaranteed, law, mental/physical disability, national/ethnic origin, opinion, protect, race, religion*

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Protecting the rights and freedoms of all people is very important to Canadians.

Some of the **freedoms** guaranteed by The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms are:

- a) freedom of religion
- b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression

Some of the **rights** guaranteed by the Charter are:

All Canadians are equal under the law, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.

## Discussion:

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|--|-----|----|------------|
| A. 1. Does your home country have freedom of speech?                         | YES | NO | IT DEPENDS |
| B. <u>What does freedom of speech mean in Canada?</u>                        |     |    |            |
| 1. You can say bad things about the government to your friend.               | YES | NO | IT DEPENDS |
| 2. You can say bad things about the government to a group in a public place. | YES | NO | IT DEPENDS |
| 3. You can write bad things about the government in the newspaper.           | YES | NO | IT DEPENDS |
| 4. You can write bad things about a person you know in the newspaper.        | YES | NO | IT DEPENDS |
| 5. You can write bad things about a group of people in the newspaper.        | YES | NO | IT DEPENDS |
| C. Can freedom of speech be dangerous sometimes?                             | YES | NO | IT DEPENDS |
| D. Does your home country have freedom of religion?                          | YES | NO | IT DEPENDS |
| E. How are Canada's speech laws different from your home country?            |     |    |            |