UN Declaration of Human Rights

- 1) All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.
- 2) Everyone is entitled to all rights set forth in this Declaration, without prejudice of any kind, such as discrimination based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.
- 3) Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person.
- 4) No one shall be held slavery or servitude.
- 5) No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
- 6) All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.
- 7) No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.
- 8) Everyone has the right to an education.
- 9) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement.
- 10) Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
- 11) Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.
- 12) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for health and well being.

Charter of Rights and Freedoms

1) Fundamental Freedoms

- Freedom of conscience (people can think and believe whatever they want) and religion
- Freedom of belief and expression (including freedom of speech and freedom of the press)
- Right to peaceful assembly
- Freedom of association

2) Democratic Rights

- Right to vote and run for office
- Right to federal elections every five years
- A sitting of Parliament and of each legislature at least once every 12 months

3) Mobility Rights

- Right to leave and enter Canada
- Right to work/live in any province-to discourage local hiring policies which allow only residents of a given province to work in certain industries.

4) Legal Rights

- Right to life, liberty, and security of the person
- Right to a fair trial and lawyer
- Right to not be arbitrarily detained/imprisoned
- Right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty
- Right to not be subjected to cruel and unusual treatment

5) Equality Rights

- Freedom from discrimination based on race, national, or ethnic origin, religion, sex, age, or mental physical disability
- Permission for affirmative action

programs, which allow preferential hiring for members of disadvantaged groups.

6) Official Language Rights

 Recognizes the official bilingual status of Canada and the equality of the French and English languages.

7) Minority Language Rights

- Right to education in English or French when there are significant numbers of students.
- Each province decides whether to provide education in a minority language other than English or French

LIMITATIONS OF RIGHTS

1) The Notwithstanding Clause

This clause is included in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to serve as an "escape" clause for both the federal and provincial legislatures. It allows the possibility for both levels of government to pass a law even if the law violates one of the rights guaranteed in the Charter. Governments may suspend a right in the Charter for a period of up to 5 years, but must then seek renewal. The notwithstanding clause is significant because it gives some power back to the government, and at the same time, it allows for the legal restriction of individual rights.