

Legal Rights

Your Legal Rights are protected under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (see <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/Charter/index.html#juridiques>).

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

Legal Rights Activity:

Have groups of students rewrite sections of the charter in their own words.

These may be accompanied by illustrations or examples they come up with. You may 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/progs/pdp-hrp/canada/guide/legal_e.cfm. The Canadian Heritage site also has a useful backgrounder titled Guide to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/pdp-hrp/canada/guide/overview_e.cfm and other related documents. http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/pdp-hrp/docs/publications/index_e.cfm

The Canadian Human Rights Commission website HUMAN RIGHTS IN CANADA:A Historical Perspective also has lesson plans for grades 7-8, 9-10, 11-12 <http://www.chrc-ccdpc.ca/en/teachersGuides/index.asp>

For a lesson plan involving more advanced and detailed exploration try this LAW 30 lesson plan from Sask Learning Social Sciences Teacher's Institute (SSTI): 2005 titled The Legal Rights of Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms by David Hawkins, Milestone School http://www.sasklearning.gov.sk.ca/branches/curr/sci_tech/social/ssti/2005/dave/dave.shtml