

**E-note: Erosion of fundamental human rights and freedoms****Updated: February 10, 2023 (in major revision)**

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**In Canada, many federal, provincial, and territorial laws exist to define and protect our fundamental rights and freedoms. We have long thought of these freedoms as guaranteed and unconditional – such as the freedom to express beliefs and opinions, freedom of religion, freedom of association and assembly, freedom of conscience, freedom of mobility, and a free press.**

**In practice, however, the pandemic experience of the past two years has shown that these profound legal rights and freedoms are neither absolutely guaranteed nor unconditional. At all levels, governments have arbitrarily enacted 'emergency' measures explicitly violating provisions of the Canadian 'Charter of Rights and Freedoms', long-standing health privacy laws, and well-established laws governing informed consent to medical procedures.**

**The most significant challenge now, as pandemic mandates begin to lift, is to restore protected rights and freedoms eroded or lost. Liberty-infringing emergency measures implemented to 'protect and keep us safe' must not be allowed to become permanent.**

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**Canada / Charter of Rights and Freedoms**

- **[The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#)**. Canada. Department of Justice.
- **[Guide to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#)**. Government of Canada.
- **[Rights and freedoms in Canada](#)**. Canada. Department of Justice.
- **[The rights and freedoms the Charter protects](#)**. Government of Canada.

### Canada / Canadian Bill of Rights

- [Canadian Bill of Rights](#). Statutes of Canada, S.C. 1960, C.44. Justice Laws Website.  
For official copy (PDF), [click here ...](#)
- [Creating the Canadian Bill of Rights](#). Teresa Carlson. Diefenbaker Canada Centre. 2012.
- [The meaning and effect of Canadian Bill of Rights: A Draftsman's Viewpoint](#). Elmer A Driedger. Ottawa Law Review. Vol 9: pp 303-320.

### General articles and research ...

- [Do You Still Believe That Canadians Have Rights and Freedoms?](#) Philip Carl Salzman. Frontier Centre For Public Policy. November 9, 2022.
- [Charter of Rights and Freedoms vs Canadian Bill of Rights](#). Police On Guard For Thee. July 21, 2022.
- [The Charter has not stopped Canada's slide toward tyranny](#). John Carpay. Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms. April 13, 2022.
- [Canada in Crisis...Or Not: Trudeau, Emergency Powers, and the Freedom Convoy](#). Lucas Aguayo-Garber. Democratic Erosion. March 15, 2022.
- [The Fight Just Begins for The Charter of Rights and Freedoms As Mandates Fall](#). Brian Peckford. March 4, 2022.
- [Canadian democracy is in 'grave danger' of being canceled forever: co-author of rights charter](#). John-Henry Westen. LifeSite. February 21, 2022.
- [Is liberal democracy dying in Canada?](#) Craig A Carter. World. February 18, 2022.

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- **[NP View: The ongoing and unnecessary erosion of Canadians' civil liberties.](#)** National Post. January 23, 2022.
- **[Charter Founder Says Covid Restrictions Are Violating Citizen Rights.](#)** Brad. Cultural Action Party of Canada. September 19, 2021.
- **[Understanding Your Fundamental Rights And Freedoms In A World Filled With Fear.](#)** Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms. August 11, 2021.
- **[Reconciling civil liberties and public health in the response to COVID-19.](#)** Colleen M Flood, et al. FACETS. November 12, 2020.
- **[Canadian Bill of Rights.](#)** W H McConnell. Updated July 2, 2020. The Canadian Encyclopedia. (includes a comparison with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms)
- **[The Freedoms We Cannot Afford to Ignore During COVID-19.](#)** Kristopher Kinsinger and Brian Bird. Centre for Constitutional Studies. June 29, 2020.
- **[As civil liberties erode, Canada must not allow COVID-19 outbreak to infect the rule of law.](#)** Joseph Arvay and David Wu. CBC News. March 26, 2020.