

CDN Human Rights in the Charter

- before WWII, people's rights were not guaranteed at all in Canada
- if someone was wronged by another, or the gov't, there was nothing they could do
- after 1982, this all changed...
 - now, our rights are entrenched in the CDN Charter of Rights and Freedoms
 - gives everyone a chance to stand up for their rights

Fundamental Freedoms (Section 2)

- protects the most important freedoms of us all
 - conscience, religion, thought, belief, expression, peaceful assembly, and association
- the War Measures Act can take away some of these rights, but only for good reason

Equality Rights (Section 15)

- guarantees equality before and under the law to all CDNs
- means that when encountering the law we are treated equal, and when punished we are treated equal
- cannot discriminate against anyone
 - race, ethnicity, colour, religion, sex, age, disability
 - just included, sexual inclination

International Human Rights

- human rights are basically the rights that every person in the world should be guaranteed
- there are problems with this though:
 - different cultures have different ideas of what is right
 - to impose Western ideals on a different culture – isn't that against their human rights?...
 - people do believe that some rights are universal
- the United Nations has spearheaded this movement
- 1948: 'The Declaration of Human Rights' was passed
 - created in response to the Holocaust
 - states that everyone has the right to:
 - life, liberty, and security
 - not be in slavery
 - not be tortured
 - should be recognized as a person before the law
 - no arbitrary arrest or detainment
 - fair hearings and trials
 - freedom of movement and residence
- Canada ratified this, and Canadian international law is bound by this today
- the UN has been trying to get other countries to agree, but it can be tough in developing countries
 - can only really bring attention to abuses to put international pressure on offending countries