

## Chapter 2 Democracy in Action

### She could play hockey

- Justine being discriminated on the basis of gender
- her family challenged the Law and it went to the Supreme Court and she won, saying that the Ontario Law was discriminating and said she has the right to play, and that gender was not something you can discriminate against.

### What Are Our Rights and Freedoms?

- Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms - it is document that protects the essential rights and freedoms of people living in Canada.

#### **Individual Rights**

Equality Rights - treating everyone the same regardless of gender, race or religion

Accommodating - treating people or groups with special needs equally

#### **Collective Rights**

Aboriginal Rights - people who have rights to their traditional territories even where there are no treaties

Language Rights - both languages having equal rights of the country

Among many other rights, it guaranteed the right of all individuals to be allowed to use either English or French in government assemblies.

### How can you be a Canadian Citizen?

1. born in Canada
2. write a citizenship test

### Democracy and Participation

Democracy is different from other forms of government in that all citizens can participate in shaping their communities and society. The more people participate, the more democratic a society becomes.

**Common Good** - Condition that benefits the majority

**Equity** - treating people fairly

**Example:** What I have learned about **equity** is that...

- laws enforce equity
- you can take action contact someone and changes

#### **Bold Words**

Discriminate

Challenge

Individual rights

Equality

Collective Rights

Accommodating

Official Language

Equity

Charter of Rights

and Freedoms

Common Good

Suffrage

Suffragettes

Rule of Law

Magna Cart

Bias

- have to give everyone an equal chance
- not having equity is discrimination
- everyone starts with an equal chance

Unfair Situation	What can be done
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. small washroom stalls would make it difficult for walkers, wheelchairs, crutches,</li> <li>2. unaccessible playground - wheelchair can't get to it</li> <li>3. aboriginal rights being unfair</li> <li>4. criminals voting</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- lessen the # of stalls to make bigger ones</li> <li>- add ramps, more equipment, etc</li> <li>- let your thoughts be known to the appropriate level of government</li> </ul>

## What are our Democratic Rights?

- 3 sections in the "Democratic Rights" part of the Charter that explain the democratic rights of citizens.

### **Participation and Voting**

**Representative democracy** - in Canada, we choose people who form the government and the make decisions for us.

- They have a responsibility to listen to the needs of the citizens
- We choose them by voting, a basic right in a democracy

### **Winning the Right to Vote**

- When voting first started in Canada, many citizens were not allowed to vote. Only men from Europe who owned property could vote.
- Over time laws have changed to allow more citizens to vote and share in decisions that affect them. (timeline page 41)

Viewpoint in text (page 42-43)

- Should the voting age be lowered to 16? What do you think? Why?

### **Democracy and Votes for Women**

**Suffrage** - means the right to vote

**Suffragettes** - were women who fought for women's right to vote

- 1918 women were allowed to vote
- it took another 50 years for people of different religion, background, or country of origin to attain the right to vote

## How does Democracy Support the Rule of Law?

**Rule of Law** - is a basic part of democracy. It means laws apply to everyone equally

**Magna Carta** - a document, established in 1215, which protected the rights of individuals in England long ago. It said that all people of a country must obey the laws of that country, no matter how important he or she is.

### **Making the Rules**

To carry out the Rule of Law, certain steps have to be followed that allow people to participate fairly

1. citizens have a say in making and changing the law
2. People are informed about the law
3. People are treated equally under the law regardless of race, origin, colour, religion, gender, age, mental or physical disability.
4. People participate in applying the law.

### **How Can People Make a Difference?**

- being young and determined to help (raising money to build a well)
- volunteering to help others (with special needs groups)
- giving people a voice (telling your story)

### **Detecting Bias**

- prejudice in favour of or against one thing, person or statement, usually in a way that would be unfair
- Example: Which writer do you think is giving a factual report of the event? Which writer do you think has a bias? Which words in the sentence show this bias?
  1. The representative of the citizen action committee complained that his rights were not being respected
  2. One protester from a small group was constantly whining about the way he was being treated.

## Chapter 2

**Discriminate** - treat them in a certain way

**Challenge** - a law, that you go to court to try to get it changed

**Individual rights** - rights you are entitled to as a person

**Equality** - treating everyone the same regardless of gender, race or religion

**Accommodating** - adjusting or changing the way something is done so that everyone has an equal chance

**Collective Rights** - rights that protect the group

**Official Language** - language has been given legal status

**Equity** - treating people fairly

**Common Good** - Condition that benefits the majority

**Representative Democracy** - citizens elect people to represent them in government; these people make decisions on behalf of the citizens

**Suffrage** - right to vote

**Suffragettes** - women who fought for women's right to vote

**Rule of Law** - laws that apply to everyone equally

**Magna Carta** - document that protected the rights of individuals in England in 1215.