



The Charter and its Impact on the Court

Student worksheet

Utilisez cette feuille de travail pour vous aider à réfléchir avant, pendant et après le visionnement de la vidéo. Pendant que vous la regardez, concentrez-vous sur la manière dont la Charte a modifié le rôle de la Cour suprême du Canada et sur la façon dont ce changement a été perçu au pays.

Before you watch

Charter right or not?

Read each term below and decide whether it is a right in our Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Circle it if you think it is part of our Charter.

Freedom of expression

Equality before the law

Right to own property

Right to vote

Right to healthcare

Right to bear arms

Mobility Rights

Freedom of religion

Free university tuition

Right to a fair trial

Diving deeper

- If people disagree about what a right means or how far it can extend, who should decide?

- After the Charter became part of our Constitution in 1982, what do you think changed the most?

While you watch

As you watch the video, answer the questions in order. Focus on the main ideas rather than small details.

- When the Charter was first adopted in 1982, some politicians and judges were unsure about it. Why?

- What is Section 33 (the notwithstanding clause), and why was it included in the Charter?

- How did the Charter change the types of cases the Supreme Court of Canada began to hear?

4. How did individuals and interest groups begin using the Charter after 1982?

5. Give one example from the video of how the Charter has affected rights in Canada.

6. Overall, how did the Charter make the Supreme Court more central in Canadian public life?

After you watch

The video uses phrases such as:

- “Game-changer” (according to Jamie Cameron)
- “Double-edged sword” (according to Robert Schertzer)
- “Fundamentally altered the Court’s role” (according to Adam Dodek)

Choose one of the phrases and reflect on it using the following questions as guidelines.

- What does the phrase mean in the context of the Charter?
- Do you think it accurately describes the Charter’s impact on the Supreme Court? Why or why not?

Reflection

Complete the chart below to reflect on the impact of the Charter on the Supreme Court of Canada

Benefits of the Charter’s impact	Concerns about the Charter’s impact