



Landmark Decisions Part 2 (After the Charter)

Student worksheet

Use this worksheet to guide your thinking before, during, and after the video that you will watch. As you watch, focus on how the Charter of Rights and Freedoms changed the role of the Supreme Court of Canada and how these decisions have shaped Canadian society.

Before you watch

Limitations on rights?

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects many important rights, such as freedom of expression, equality, and legal rights.

Do you think these rights should be absolute (never limited), or should they have limits in certain situations? Explain your reasoning.

While you watch

As you watch the video, complete the chart below. Focus on what each case was about and how it affected rights in Canada.

Case	What was the case about? (Big ideas/ themes)	Why was it important?
R v. Oakes (1986)		
Action Travail des Femmes (1987)		
R v. Morgentaler (1988)		

Case	What was the case about? (Big ideas/ themes)	Why was it important?
R v. Sparrow (1990)		
Vriend v. Alberta (1998)		
Rodriguez v. British Columbia (Attorney General) (1993)		

*Note: All of the above dates are the year the Supreme Court of Canada rendered its decision.

After you watch

Throughout the video, legal experts reflect on how these decisions have shaped Canadian law and society. What do you notice about how judges, lawyers, and experts describe the impact of these cases on Canadian society?

Many of these cases involved difficult and controversial issues, such as abortion, Indigenous rights, same-sex rights, and physician-assisted dying. Why do you think these types of issues often end up before the Supreme Court of Canada?
