
Canadian Citizenship

If you were born in Canada, you are automatically a Canadian citizen. Canada is a country of many immigrants, however, and they became citizens because they fulfilled certain requirements, such as being 18 years of age or older, being able to speak English or French, and having lived in Canada for three years. They also attended the citizenship ceremony, where they took the Oath of Citizenship and sang “O Canada”.

As a Canadian citizen, you are entitled to the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the government. At the same time, you have responsibilities too.

Examples of Rights and Freedoms

- **equality rights** – every citizen is equal regardless of race, ethnic origin, colour, religion, gender, age, or disability
- **mobility rights** – citizens have the right to work and live in another province/territory and to travel to a different country
- **freedom of expression** – citizens are free to express different ideas
- **freedom of religion** – citizens are free to practise different religions, like going to a temple, a synagogue, or a church

Examples of Responsibilities

You need to...

- obey the laws of Canada
- respect the rights and freedoms of fellow Canadian citizens
- protect the environment and the Canadian heritage
- eliminate discrimination and unfairness



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Read each description and tell whether it is a “right”, a “freedom”, or a “responsibility”. Then write down what it is from the given choices.

Rights and Freedoms

- equality rights
- mobility rights
- freedom of expression
- freedom of religion

Responsibilities

- obeying Canadian laws
- respecting others’ rights
- protecting the environment
- eliminating discrimination

1. You recycle your cans, bottles, and newspapers, and compost your food scraps.

_____ ; _____

2. Mrs. Hartley is not in town because she is travelling in South Africa.

_____ ; _____

3. A Jewish teenager goes to his synagogue and a Sikh woman attends a public worship.

_____ ; _____

4. Jonathan does not drink any beer at the party because he is not at the legal drinking age.

_____ ; _____