





Timeline of Human Rights Development in Canada—Key

9.1.2
a

Note: Cut out each event without the date

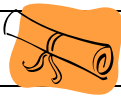
28 January 1916		Manitoba women became the first in Canada to win the rights to vote and to hold provincial office.
24 May 1918		All female citizens aged 21 and over became eligible to vote in federal elections in Canada.
July 1919		Women in Canada gain the right to stand for the House of Commons.
10 January 1920		Establishment of the League of Nations, with Canada as one of the original members.
1920		The Dominion Elections Act gives the right to vote in federal elections to all adult Canadians, male and female. (However, the federal vote was not given to Aboriginal peoples, nor to visible minorities barred from provincial voters' lists, such as persons of Asian descent.)
1929		Women in Canada gain the right to hold a seat in the Senate.
1934		Manitoba passes a Libel Act that allows legal action to stop personal attacks based on race or religion that expose people to hatred, contempt or ridicule.
1940		Women in Québec obtain the vote.
14 August 1941		British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt meet in Newfoundland to sign the Atlantic Charter, a declaration on the purposes of the war in fighting against fascism.
1944		Ontario enacts the Racial Discrimination Act, prohibiting the publication or display of any notice, sign, or symbol indicating racial discrimination.
1944		Tommy Douglas becomes premier of Saskatchewan and enacts a "humanity first" policy in government, making available free health care to the poor and to senior citizens.
1945		The B.C. Social Assistance Act of 1945 prohibits discrimination based on colour, creed, race or political affiliation in social assistance programs.
1945		End of World War II and founding of the United Nations "to save future generations from the scourge of war"; Canada is one of the original members.
1 April 1947		The Saskatchewan Bill of Rights, Canada's first general law prohibiting discrimination, is passed under Tommy Douglas.
10 December 1948		The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is signed by the United Nations members. Canadian John Humphrey plays a large role in drafting the declaration, and Canada is among the signing nations.
1948		The federal Elections Act is changed so that race is no longer a ground for exclusion from voting in federal elections.



Timeline of Human Rights Development in Canada—Key




9.1.2
a

1948	Japanese Canadians receive the right to vote in federal elections.
March 1949	Wartime restrictions and the War Measures Act are ended.
1951	The Indian Act is revised and some of the more repressive features of the act are removed.
1955	Doukhobours are given the right to vote in federal elections.
1956	<i>Equal Pay for Equal Work</i> law is adopted in Manitoba, preventing discrimination in salary based on gender.
10 August 1960	Prime Minister John Diefenbaker brings in the Canadian Bill of Rights.
1960	Aboriginal people receive the unrestricted right to vote in federal elections.
1960	The barring of immigrants based on nationality, citizenship, ethnic group, occupation, class or region of origin is ended in Canada.
1962	The last executions take place in Canada.
1964	The first anti-age discrimination law in Canada is passed in B.C.
1964	Laws requiring separate schools for blacks in Ontario are removed.
1966	Capital punishment in Canada is limited to the killing of on-duty police officers and prison guards.
1968	The Criminal Code is amended to decriminalize homosexuality.
1970	Ontario becomes the first province to pass a law guaranteeing a blind person the legal right to be accompanied by a specially trained dog guide in all facilities open to the public.
1970	The Red Paper is written by Harold Cardinal in response to the 1969 White Paper.
1971	The Criminal Code makes it a crime to advocate genocide or publicly incite hatred against people because of their colour, race, religion, or ethnic identity.
1973	As a result of the Calder case involving the Nisga'a, Native title to land is proclaimed to exist under English law, predating colonization. This is seen to be the basis for contemporary Aboriginal law in Canada.
1974	Nova Scotia amends its Human Rights Act to prohibit employment discrimination against the physically handicapped, unless the handicap prevents an acceptable job performance.



Timeline of Human Rights Development in Canada—Key

9.1.2
a

1975		Québec passes its Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms.
1976		Capital punishment is removed as a penalty for crime in Canada. (However, it is still permitted in the military for serious offenses.)
1977		The federal government passes the Canadian Human Rights Act and sets up the Human Rights Commission.
1977		The <i>Immigration Act</i> removes all restrictive regulations based on "nationality, citizenship, ethnic group, occupation, class or geographical area of origin."
17 April 1982		The <i>Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i> becomes part of Canada's constitution and the Canadian identity. Since that date many landmark decisions have been made by the Supreme Court to uphold the human rights provisions of the Charter.
1982		The Constitution Act specifically recognizes Aboriginal rights and the Métis as an Aboriginal people.
17 April 1985		Bill C-31 changes the <i>Indian Act</i> to end some forms of discrimination that had existed since the 1860s. Prior to Bill C-31, Indian women who married non-Indian men were no longer considered to be Indian, nor were their children. They were now allowed to reclaim their status under the <i>Indian Act</i> . Other First Nations people were also allowed to reclaim their status as Indians under the Act: e.g., people who had lived outside of Canada for more than five years.
27 June 1986		The federal <i>Employment Equity Act</i> comes into force.
1987		A motion to reintroduce capital punishment is debated in the Canadian House of Commons and defeated on a free vote.
22 September 1988		Prime Minister Brian Mulroney acknowledges Canada's wrongful actions against Japanese Canadians during WWII and offers a compensation program.
1989		Federal-Provincial Relations Directorate is created to coordinate federal and provincial activities regarding Aboriginal self-government.
1990		Elijah Harper, an Aboriginal Member of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly, is instrumental in the defeat of the Meech Lake Accord, as it neglected to acknowledge Aboriginal Canadians' significant role in shaping Canada's future.
1990		The Sparrow case affirms that the constitutional rights of Aboriginal people cannot be infringed without justification.



Timeline of Human Rights Development in Canada—Key

9.1.2
a

1991	The federal government announces a five-year national plan to help bring persons with disabilities into society's mainstream.
1993	The Anglican church apologizes to residential school victims.
1995	The Canadian government establishes a policy to move Aboriginal self-government policy forward.
20 June 1996	Sexual orientation is added as a grounds for discrimination in the <i>Canadian Human Rights Act</i>
1996	The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples report is issued.
1996	The Van der Peet, Gladstone, Smokehouse decisions by the Supreme Court affirm that Aboriginal rights existed prior to The Constitution and are not extinguishable.
1997	The Delgamuukw decision of the Supreme Court of Canada confirms the existence of Aboriginal title in B.C.
1997	The Canadian Race Relations Foundation, an organization to promote racial harmony, opens its doors.
1998	Capital punishment is removed from Canadian military law.
1998	The Canadian government releases <i>Gathering Strength: Canada's Aboriginal Action Plan</i> , which expresses regret for damaging actions that have been committed against Aboriginal people, and sets out a plan to fully implement treaty terms, strengthen Aboriginal self-government, and to provide resources to promote social, cultural, and economic development for Aboriginal communities.
1998	The Canadian government issues a statement of reconciliation to residential school survivors and victims and establishes the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.
17 June 1999	Canada's <i>Extradition Act</i> states that Canada will refuse to forcibly return anyone to a country that wants to punish that person because of race, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, language, colour, political opinion, sex, sexual orientation, age, mental or physical disability, or status.
1999	The Marshall decision of the Supreme Court of Canada affirms treaty rights of Mi'kmaq to fish commercially.
2003	The Powley case establishes that the rights of a particular Ontario Métis community to hunt for food were infringed by provincial law.
2005	The Canadian government announces a \$1.9 billion compensation package to benefit tens of thousands of survivors of abuse at native residential schools.

