

Rights respecting certain schools preserved

29. Nothing in this Charter abrogates or derogates from any rights or privileges guaranteed by or under the Constitution of Canada in respect of denominational, separate or dissentient schools.

Application to territories and territorial authorities

30. A reference in this Charter to a province or to the legislative assembly or legislature of a province shall be deemed to include a reference to the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories, or to the appropriate legislative authority thereof, as the case may be.

Legislative powers not extended

31. Nothing in this Charter extends the legislative powers of any body or authority.

The establishment and operation of religious schools will not be adversely affected by any other provisions of the Charter.

This ensures, for example, that neither the freedom of conscience and religion clause nor the equality rights clause, will be interpreted so as to strike down existing constitutional rights respecting the establishment and state financing of schools operated on a religious basis, with students and teachers selected according to their adherence to a particular religious faith.

This provision makes it clear that the Charter applies equally to the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories as it does to the provinces.

This section simply states the basic rule that nothing in the Charter will be intended to affect the distribution of powers carried over from the *British North America Act* as between Parliament and the provincial legislatures. The Charter neither transfers powers from the provincial to the federal order nor vice versa. What it does is ensure that Canadians will enjoy their basic rights without undue restraint by either order of government.

The Charter defines the relationship between government and citizens with respect to their rights and freedoms. Protection of rights as between individuals will continue to be governed by federal and provincial human rights laws.