

Enshrined in a united Canada must be the concept of the free individual. In the final analysis, whatever the place of groups in the development of Canada, it will be individual Canadians in a free society who will build Confederation in our second century. The rights of all Canadians must be preserved, strengthened and guaranteed not only in official documents but also in the acceptance, tolerance and encouragement of their fellow citizens.

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The international struggle for human rights is based upon the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - one of the great landmarks in the search for a more enlightened and humanitarian civilization. This document, proclaimed by the United Nations on December 10, 1948, was created through the common resolve of the representatives of a large portion of the world's peoples.

Its fundamental purpose has been to affirm that the responsibility for the protection of human rights is a formal and permanent obligation of the international community of nations. The Declaration deals with civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. While it is not legally binding on member states of the United Nations, this solemn Declaration has exercised considerable influence on the rights accorded to people of the world. Undoubtedly, this document had an important influence on the Canadian Bill of Rights.

The United Nations has proclaimed 1968, the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration, to be International Year for Human Rights. To give real meaning to the Year, the United Nations,