

Multicultural  
heritage

**27. This Charter shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the preservation and enhancement of the multicultural heritage of Canadians.**

*"In (the new) Parliament there will be no question of race, nationality, religion or locality . . . The basis of action adopted by the delegates to the Quebec Conference in preparing the resolutions was to do justice to all – justice to all races, to all religions, to all nationalities and to all interests . . ."*

*Sir Hector-Louis Langevin, Father of Confederation, 1865*

*"For here (in Canada), I want the marble to remain the marble; the granite to remain the granite; the oak to remain the oak; and out of all of these elements, I would build a nation great among the nations of the world."*

*Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier, 1903*

*"Canada is a garden . . . into which has been transplanted the hardiest and brightest flowers of many lands, each retaining in its new environment the best of the qualities for which it was loved and prized in its native lands . . ."*

*The Right Honourable John G. Diefenbaker, 1961*

Rights  
guaranteed  
equally to  
both sexes

**28. Notwithstanding anything in this Charter, the rights and freedoms referred to in it are guaranteed equally to male and female persons.**

Canadians are proud that this country has not become a melting pot, but has maintained its multicultural character. This is officially recognized in the Constitution under the provisions of the Charter stating that it shall be interpreted in such a way as to maintain and enhance the multicultural heritage of Canada.

This special clause ensures that all rights in the Charter are guaranteed equally to men and women. It was added at the request of women's groups to provide reassurance that their rights will be protected. This is one guarantee that *cannot* be overridden by a legislature or Parliament.