

Fundamental
freedoms

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- 2. Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms:**
- (a) freedom of conscience and religion;**
 - (b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication;**
 - (c) freedom of peaceful assembly; and**
 - (d) freedom of association.**

"I share the commitment of many in this House and in this country to a very strong charter of rights..."

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Leader of the Opposition, House Commons, February 23, 1981

specific provision of the Charter in one of those areas. Any such legislation would expire after five years unless specifically renewed. The value of this clause is that it will ensure that legislatures rather than judges have the final say on important matters of public policy. The provision will allow unforeseen situations to be corrected without the need for constitutional amendment.

The Charter enshrines certain fundamental freedoms for everyone in Canada. They are freedoms that custom and law over the years have made almost universal in our country. Now these freedoms will be protected by the Constitution.

As Canadians, we are guaranteed the right to worship, or not, as we wish, in the place of worship of our choice. Freedom of the press and other media is ensured and our right to gather in peaceful groups as well as our right to freedom of association is protected.