

International Student

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Étudiants Internationaux

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## LEGAL RIGHTS AND SERVICES

### THE CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

The Charter protects the following rights and freedoms for both men and women:

- The freedom to express your beliefs
- The freedom to associate with anyone you wish
- The freedom to practise your religion
- The right to live anywhere in Canada
- The right to protection from unlawful arrest, and the right to due legal process.
- The right to equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.
- The right to receive services from the federal government in either English or French. Learn about the Charter at the Department of Justice: [www.justice.gc.ca](http://www.justice.gc.ca) or [findlink.at/constacts](http://findlink.at/constacts).

### YOUR AGE RIGHTS

A young person is considered an adult at 18 years of age. However, in Ontario, you must be 19 years old to purchase or drink alcohol or to buy or use tobacco products. The age of consent for sexual activity is 16, with some exceptions.

Learn more about the age of consent at [www.justice.gc.ca](http://www.justice.gc.ca) or [findlink.at/ageconsent](http://findlink.at/ageconsent).

### LEGAL SERVICES

To learn more about Ontario's legal system and how to access legal services, please see websites listed below.

- For a directory of lawyers and paralegals in Ontario, visit the Law Society of Upper Canada at [www.lsuc.on.ca](http://www.lsuc.on.ca) or [findlink.at/tlsuc](http://findlink.at/tlsuc).
- Legal Aid Ontario provides legal services to people with low incomes. Call 1-800-668-8258 or visit the website at [www.legalaid.on.ca](http://www.legalaid.on.ca).
- Community Legal Education Ontario produces fact sheets to help people understand their legal rights and obligations. For more information, visit [www.cleo.on.ca](http://www.cleo.on.ca).

### THE ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS CODE

Under the Code, it is illegal to discriminate against or harass a person in the areas of employment, housing, education and services based on the person's age, race, ethnicity, place of origin, religion, disability or marital status (including same-sex partnership status).

If you feel you have been discriminated against based on one of these protected grounds, you can make a claim to the Human Rights Tribunal. To get legal help from the Human Rights Legal Support Centre, visit [www.hrlsc.on.ca](http://www.hrlsc.on.ca).

Learn more about human rights in Ontario at the Ontario Human Rights Commission: [www.ohrc.on.ca](http://www.ohrc.on.ca).

For legal information (available in over 170 languages), call 1-866-252-0104 or visit Justice Ontario: [www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca](http://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca) or [findlink.at/on-justice](http://findlink.at/on-justice).

There are legal aid services on campus at the vast majority of universities and colleges in Ontario. They are there to provide you with information, support and referral to other services you may require.

If you feel you have been treated unfairly by the Ontario government, you can report the incident to the Ombudsman of Ontario: [www.ombudsman.on.ca](http://www.ombudsman.on.ca)

**1-844-871-4567**

[www.settlement.org/isc](http://www.settlement.org/isc)

### IMPORTANT NOTE

**In Canada, international students are protected by the same human, civil and legal rights as citizens and permanent residents.**