**Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms**

Section 23 – Educational Languages

This section of the Charter requires provincial governments to provide education to Canadians in the official language of their choice, even in areas where a minority of the residents speaks that language.

In nine provinces and in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, most people speak English. In these areas, Canadian citizens have the right to have their children educated in French if any of the following three situations apply:

* their first language is French,
* they received their own primary education in Canada in French, or
* they have a child who has received or is receiving his or her education in French in Canada.

In Québec, where most people speak French, Canadian citizens have the right to have their children educated in English:

* if they received their own primary instruction in Canada in English, or
* if they have a child who has received or is receiving his or her education in English in Canada.

According to section 59 of the Constitution Act, 1982, the right of persons whose first language is English, who wish to have their children receive English-language instruction, does not apply in Québec until permitted by the legislative assembly or government ofQuébec.

In all cases, the right to receive an education in a minority language applies only when there are a sufficient number of eligible children to justify providing schooling in that language. Where those numbers do exist, governments must provide the necessary facilities.