

Important Concepts . . .

Preview Review



Social Studies Grade 9

**W1 - Lesson 5: The Charter and the
Workplace**

Important Concepts of Grade 9 Social Studies

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W1 - Lesson 2 Making Laws in Canada and the Role of the
..... Media
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Materials Required

Textbook Required
Issues For Canadians

Social Studies Grade 9

Version 6

Preview/Review W1 - Lesson 5

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Preview/Review Concepts for Grade Nine Social Studies



Week 1 - Lesson 5:

***The Charter and
the Workplace***

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson, you should

- understand the ways the Canadian *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* affects conditions in the workplace
- know the relationship between the rights guaranteed in the Canadian *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and the responsibilities of Canadian citizens

GLOSSARY

discrimination – the unfair treatment of a person or group on the basis of prejudice

franchise – the constitutional right to vote granted to a person by a government

labour union – an organization of workers who work together to achieve common goals in working conditions

mosaic – expression used to describe the mixture of ethnic groups, languages, and cultures that co-exist within Canadian society

pluralist society – a society that includes minority groups and is tolerant towards them

responsibility – something an individual has a duty or obligation to do

universal suffrage – the right to vote is extended to all adult citizens

workplace – where work is done

Week 1 - Lesson 5: The Charter and the Workplace

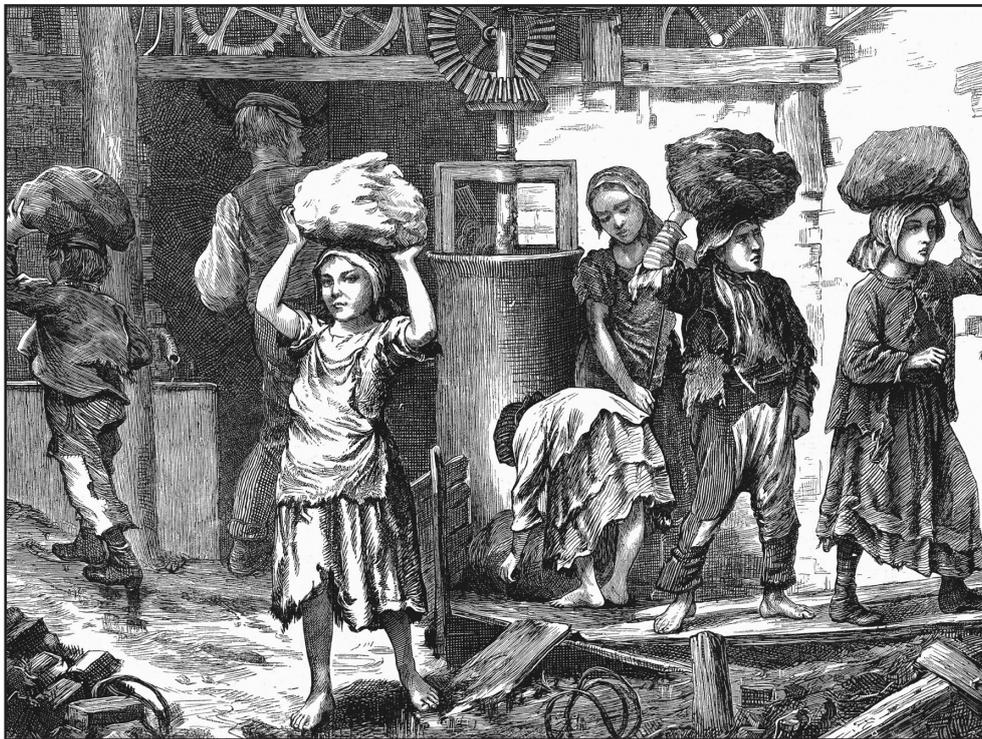
Reading 1: Your Rights as a Worker

Over the past hundred years, working conditions have slowly improved for workers. At one time, the length of a working day was determined by the amount of daylight. People were expected to work from sunrise to sunset.

Every person who could work was expected to work, including children. Pay was not always equal; men were often paid more than women for the same job. Job **discrimination** was practiced against people who came from a different religion, race, or ethnic background.

Over time, workers formed **labour unions** to improve working conditions. Labour unions worked hard to eliminate discrimination and improve safety conditions at the **workplace**.

To discover how the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* is used to protect workers from discrimination in the workplace, read pages 113 to 115 in your textbook, *Issues For Canadians*. Then complete Activity 1.



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Activity 1: Your Rights as a Worker

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What issue did the four women in Ontario and five labour unions raise against the province of Ontario? What was the result?

2. How does the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* protect workers from discrimination because of their age?

3. How did the legislation concerning retirement change after the Supreme Court's decision regarding forced retirement?

Reading 2: Your Responsibilities as a Citizen

In some countries, it is the **responsibility** of citizens to serve two years in the military. In other countries, citizens can be fined if they do not meet their responsibility to vote in federal elections

To become a Canadian citizen, candidates are required to take a citizenship test. Part of the test requires candidates to know what a citizen's rights and responsibilities are. What are the responsibilities of Canadian citizens?¹

Have you ever heard the phrase "*ignorance of the law is no excuse*"? This is more than just a phrase. One of the responsibilities of every Canadian is to understand and obey Canada's laws.

A quote often credited to Voltaire, a French philosopher, said, "*I do not agree with what you say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it.*"² In Canada, people cherish the ability to speak freely. Canadians also have a responsibility to express their opinions while respecting the rights and freedoms of others.

The right to vote has travelled a long road to reach **universal suffrage**. Canada's first voters had to be twenty-one years old, male, and had to own property. Slowly, the age was dropped to eighteen and women were given the **franchise**. The requirement of owning property was also removed. Today, Canadian citizens 18 years of age and older are eligible to vote. With the right to vote comes the responsibility to vote in municipal, provincial, and federal elections.

Imagine that one day you come out of a classroom and you see one of your friends being teased by another student. You step in and tell the student to stop. At that moment you may not have known it, but you have just met another responsibility of being a Canadian. It is the responsibility of all Canadians to help eliminate discrimination and injustice. If you have ever stepped in to help someone who you didn't even know, then you understand the full meaning of this responsibility.

¹The Canadian government's website lists a number of citizen responsibilities at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/celebrate/rights-fs.asp>

² Evelyn Beatrice Hall credited Voltaire with this attitude in her book "*The Friends of Voltaire*" (1906)

A student wakes up in the middle of the night to be told there is a major fire in a house down the street from where he lives. The family that lives in the house has lost everything. Their clothes, their furniture, even their son's schoolbooks are gone! Without a second thought, the student's parents offer the empty apartment above their garage where the family can stay until they can find a place to live. This student's parents have assumed another responsibility expected from Canadians - to help others in the community. Canadians have expanded this responsibility to helping not only their neighbours down the street, but also to helping people who may live across the country or even on the other side of the planet!

Every spring after the snow is gone, groups such as the 4-H gather along the roadsides of Alberta. They spend the day picking up all the things that have been covered by the snow and clean a section of the highway. When a person decides not to throw the wrapper of the candy bar on the ground and instead puts it into a garbage can, he or she has, in a small way, joined the groups cleaning the highways. Both have met the responsibility as a Canadian to care and protect our heritage and environment.

Canada has been a **pluralist society** from its beginning. Canada is a country of many things. It is a vast land that includes people from all over the world. Canada is often called a **mosaic** of people and cultures. A mosaic is a picture made of many different coloured stones. Each one can be identified as an individual stone, but when one steps back the stones combine to show a picture of something bigger and grander than what each individual stone provides. Canada is built upon the idea that Canada is a place where everyone is welcome. Canadians have a responsibility to support Canada's ideals that continue the development of the country.

None of these responsibilities is easy. It is sometimes easier to walk away from some situations. It is easy to forget to vote. It is easy to say, "*I didn't know*" even when one does know better. Canada becomes stronger when its citizens accept their responsibilities without hesitation.

To review your responsibilities as a Canadian, complete Activity 2.



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Activity 2: Your Responsibilities as a Citizen

To finish the activity, you must complete each given statement by writing the correct word on the line provided. The answers can be found in Reading 2. If you are working in a classroom, you may discuss this activity. If you are working individually, complete the activity and check your work with your learning facilitator or teacher.

1. To become a Canadian citizen, _____ are required to take a _____ (2 words).
2. One of the responsibilities of every Canadian is to understand and _____ Canada's _____.
3. Canadians have a responsibility to express their opinions _____ while _____ the rights and freedoms of _____.
4. With the right to vote comes the responsibility to _____ in _____.
5. It is the responsibility of all Canadians to help _____ discrimination and _____.
6. Canadians have a responsibility to _____ others in the _____.
7. Canadians are responsible for caring and _____ our _____ and _____.
8. Canadians have a responsibility to _____ Canada's _____ that continue the development of the _____.

The completion of Activity 2 concludes Week 1 – Lesson 5.

To complete your study of Week One, you will write a quiz that includes material from the five lessons.

REVIEW

If time permits before writing the quiz, review concepts covered in Week 1 – Lessons 1 to 5.



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