CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

The "Charter" as it is called for short, is the most important legal document in Canada. No law can be passed which contravenes (is found to be in disagreement) its declarations.

The Charter became the ultimate standard for Canadian laws and practice when it went into effect in 1982. After its establishment, all previous and newly written laws were required to adhere (be in agreement) to its statements. This has led to a great many challenges of laws and rulings by individuals and groups seeking new interpretations or changes in existing laws.

Instructions:

1. Read the brief summary details below and review the notes from class. You may be tested on this info.
2. Click the link on my website to the Government of Canada page for the Charter. The page is a numbered list of each of the main sections. It expands on the info provided on this sheet.
3. Answer the questions posed in the worksheet. Submit the finished product to me.

Key Additional Points not in Notes

- Key rights and freedoms include among others
  - Universal basic freedoms of conscience, worship, opinion, expression, assembly, association
  - Democratic rights - to vote in free elections, a limitations on the term of office of any government (except during times of war
  - Mobility (includes permanent residents)
  - Personal liberty and security; freedom from arbitrary detention
  - Language rights
  - Equality without discrimination based on race, ethnicity, colour, religion, gender, age, mental or physical disability

See the Government of Canada website for further details
The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms Worksheet

Name ____________________

For each scenario, record which right or freedom is being abused. Record the section number. If no right appears to be violated, write “none” on the blank line. Use the linked website for help.

1. __________________________________ A Canadian working as an engineer in Saudi Arabia is not given the opportunity to vote for her Member of Parliament.

2. __________________________________ A Muslim man is told he may not pray in a public park.

3. __________________________________ A group of people opposed to the government’s decision to proceed with wind farms is not permitted to walk holding signs showing their opposition.

4. __________________________________ A new citizen from Thailand is denied his request to have his children educated in his native language at his local school.

5. __________________________________ A naturalized Canadian (born in another country) is not permitted back in Canada after having lived elsewhere for six years.

6. __________________________________ Police stop a man and question him when they see his shirt that reads “Fire the Prime Minister”.

7. __________________________________ After many attempts to get help with her passport, Marie cannot find an agent who can speak to her in French.

8. __________________________________ Charged with possession of stolen goods, the suspect is told his case will be heard in about 14 months.

9. __________________________________ Having served eight years for committing an assault on a child, outrage in the community keeps him behind bars.
10. Store security stops an individual from entering the store because of skin colour.

11. A speaker at a public event states his belief that the holocaust did not happen and that Hitler was only misguided. Protesters are arrested when they begin swearing and uttering threats at him.

Choose one of the rights and freedoms guaranteed under the Charter. Write a paragraph describing how your life might be impacted negatively if that aspect was removed. Please be very neat and complete. You might consider preparing a draft copy first.