

Appendix C

Teacher key: The principles of Canadian democracy

Principle	Document	Evidence
There are laws everyone has to follow	Charter	<p>“Rights and freedoms guaranteed in the Charter govern how governments act.”</p> <p>The government cannot just do anything it wants, it is limited by the Charter and so the law applies to everyone, even government.</p>
Everyone has a right to freedom from discrimination	OHRC	<p>“Every person has a right to freedom from discrimination” in specific areas.</p> <p>People are protected from discrimination based on things they can’t change like age, gender, ethnic origin.</p>
Minorities are protected	OHRC Charter	<p>“The Code recognizes that discrimination occurs most often because of a person’s membership in a particular group in society.”</p> <p>There are protected groups based on race and sexual orientation who don’t make up the majority.</p>
Common good	OHRC	<p>“An employer may discriminate based on age, sex, record of offences or marital status if these are genuine requirements of the job.”</p> <p>Sometimes discrimination is okay if it’s for the common good.</p>
Laws	Const’n	<p>“The Constitution sets out the basic principles of democratic government in Canada when it defines the powers of the three branches of government: the executive, the legislative, the judiciary.”</p> <p>There are rules and defined powers that must be followed so governments can’t just do what they want.</p>
Equity	Const’n	<p>“Indigenous peoples in Canada have different types of government.”</p> <p>Equity is about leveling the playing field so people can achieve their full potential. Self-govt helps to do that.</p>