

Adinak and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms

All About Adinak

Adinak is a vast land consisting of five large provinces with many geographic regions. The country is unusual as it is inhabited only by animals – animals similar to those found in Canada, but, remarkably, they possess the ability to think, to communicate, and to govern!



The country of Adinak is governed by a federal parliament as well as provincial legislatures for each of the five provinces. However, citizens felt that something was missing! It seemed that rules or laws were being made that appeared to pick on or to be unfair to some animals. Something needed to be done!

Members of the Adinak’s federal House of Commons decided that they needed to add new rules to their basic laws. The members of parliament voted to send out a task force to find a country whose basic rules (or constitution) included a charter that guaranteed basic rights for all citizens.

The task force looked at seven countries, but they didn’t quite have what the people from Adinak needed. Then the members of parliament from Adinak found Canada – and its *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

They thought that they had found the perfect charter and that it would be great to adopt the Canadian Charter in Adinak. They needed to conduct some “tests” to see if the *Charter* would work in their country of Adinak.

Story One: Morley Moose and Mobility Rights

Morley Moose



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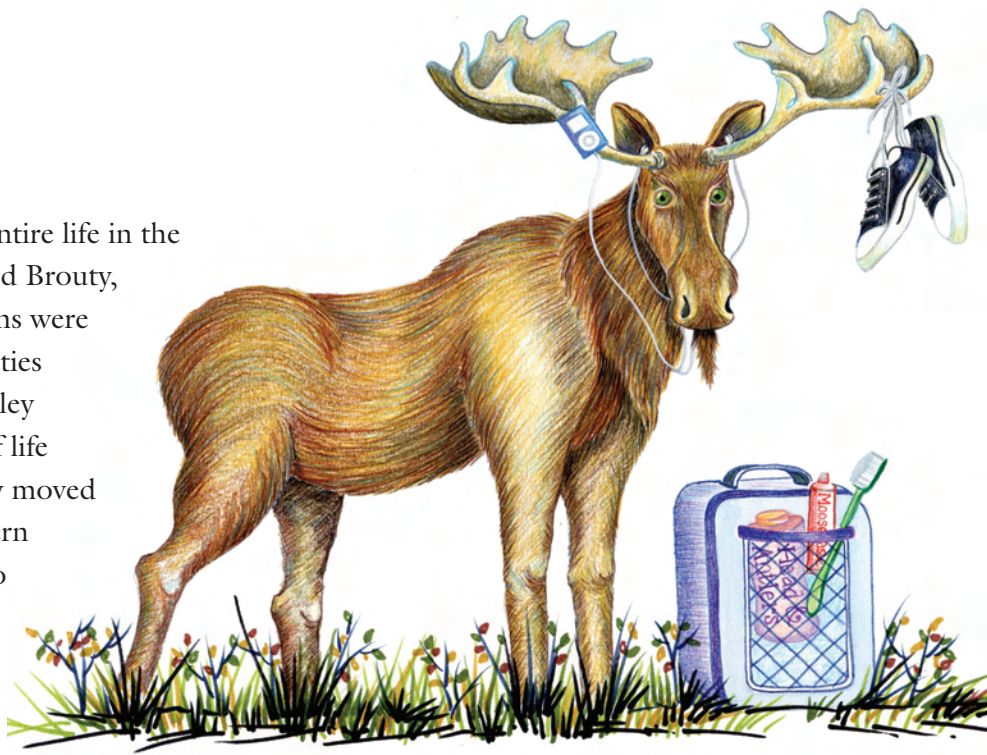
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Morley Moose's Story

Morley Moose had spent his entire life in the Northern Province of Adinak called Brouty, but the woods and living conditions were becoming crowded and opportunities for advancement were scarce. Morley thought that his family's quality of life would improve if he and his family moved to Tingly, a province in the southern region of Adinak. Morley began to get his family ready to move.



Problem

The problem was that animals in the south province of Tingly were not used to moose being in their area. Over the past two years, the province of Tingly had slowly changed and the prairie landscape now boasted plenty of bush and water where before there was very little.

Resident animals of Tingly, especially the deer, coyotes, and foxes, felt threatened about the planned arrival of numerous moose into their province.

At the animal coffee shop one Monday morning, Cameron Coyote exclaimed, "I am sure that if we let those guys from Brouty move here our whole lives will be wrecked. There won't be enough food to go around!"

"I agree," replied Emily, the eldest doe in the forest. "The arrival of the moose will be bad for life as we know it!"

The animals approached their legislative representatives and the Tingly MLAs decided at the provincial government level that they would not allow anyone who lived in Brouty to move to Tingly – even though Brouty was part of the same country.

What Do You Think?

If Adinak were to adopt the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* could Morley successfully challenge the law that prevented him and his family from moving from Tingly to Brouty?

- ☐ Yes – Morley could successfully challenge the law that prevented him from moving to Brouty.
- ☐ No – Morley could not successfully challenge the law that prevented him from moving to Brouty.

Your Explanation

I think that Morley _____ (could/could not) successfully challenge the law because

Not sure? Read the information below and on the next page, and then go back and complete your explanation.

Mobility Rights: What does this mean?

Section 6(1) Citizens and Permanent Residents moving within Canada

The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* defines mobility rights in two basic ways.

1. *Every citizen of Canada has the right to enter, remain in and leave Canada.*

This basic right allows Canadians to move from place to place within the nation and to enter and to leave the country whenever they wish.

2. *Every citizen of Canada and every permanent resident of Canada has the right*
 - a) *to move to and to live in any province and*
 - b) *to work and earn money in any province*

This provision means that Canadians can pick where they want to live in the country. They can choose to live in Edmonton, Winnipeg, Ottawa, or anywhere else they choose. Canadians can also look for work in the province of their choice and set up a business wherever they wish.

Why Mobility Rights are Important

Freedom of mobility has not always been available to all Canadians. In the past many Canadians have been prevented from living and working where they wished.

Some people have had their mobility restricted because they belonged to a particular racial or ethnic group. In that case, those people were told that they could live only in certain places.

Japanese Canadians and Mobility

The experience of Japanese Canadians during World War II is a case of restriction of mobility in Canadian history.

By the beginning of World War II, over 22,000 people of Japanese descent were living in Canada, mostly in fishing communities along the coast of British Columbia. Then, in 1941, Japan entered the war on the side of Germany. Some people falsely named Japanese Canadians as threats to the security of the west coast. Against the advice of military leaders and the RCMP, the Canadian government forced all Japanese people to leave the coast of British Columbia.

Most of the Japanese Canadians affected by this law went to detention camps in the interior of British Columbia. Once the war was over, Japanese Canadians were not allowed to return to their homes on the British Columbia coast; the restrictions forbidding them to live near the coast were not lifted until 1949.

Further Activities

1. Imagine that the government has decided to remove mobility rights from the *Charter*. Write an imaginary letter to an editor or a blog post disagreeing with the government position. Your writing may be from the point of view of a person moving to the province, a business owner, a resident of the province, a student, or other.
2. With your classmates, describe what you think is the difference between a right and a responsibility. Pick a right or freedom from the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and describe the responsibilities that go along with the right. Make a class presentation to share your understandings.