

Planet Beebonk and the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*

All About Beebonk

Beebonk is a small planet near the Azi Star, which is a neighbour of Orion. Proud of their advanced technology, Beebonkians are known to zoom quickly throughout the galaxies on their 'state of the art' space crafts. Beebonkian spies often wander the through the galaxies, spying on schools, businesses, and governments.



Beebonk has one large country that is divided into five provinces. Similar to Earth, there are many different races in Beebonk, and hair and skin color differs from area to area throughout the planet.

Physically, Beebonkians are small creatures with large misshapen heads. These aliens' brains, however, have become very small over time because for several centuries Beebonkian aliens have relied on tiny chips implanted into their antennas. These chips hold a tremendous amount of information, but because of the heavy reliance on the chip, Beebonkian 'brain power' has deteriorated.

Although the Beebonk aliens are very advanced in science, they have had a history of being cruel and unjust. Realizing the damage done by cruel dictators, spies returning to Beebonk from other planets believed that change was necessary and convinced the rulers to become governed by a democratic parliamentary system. However, citizens felt that something was missing! It seemed to ordinary Beebonkians that rules or laws were being made that appeared to pick on or to be unfair to some citizens. Something needed to be done!

Members of the Beebonk'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 searched through seven galaxies, but they couldn't find what the people from Beebonk needed. Then the members of the task force from Beebonk found the country Canada – with 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 Beebonk. They decided to conduct some 'tests' to see if Canada's *Charter* would work on Beebonk.

Story one: Axu Alien and Mobility Rights

Axu Alien



Axu Alien's Story

The planet Beebonk has five provinces, and Axu Alien had spent his entire life in a southern province called Zinning, but the planet's orbit was slowly changing causing Beebonk to gradually move closer to the sun.



Axu was in charge of genetic engineering and the sun's intense heat was interfering with a majority of his scientific experiments. Axu felt that his family's quality of life would improve if he and his family moved to Kaxalt, a cooler province in the northern hemisphere of the planet. Axu began to load up his family to get ready to move!

Problem

The problem was that citizens in the northern province of Kaxalt were not used to southern Beebonkians being in their area. Over the past two years, the province of Kaxalt had slowly changed and the citizens were moving off the land and becoming employed in scientific labs that furthered research about humankind.

Resident aliens of Kaxalt, especially scientists, communication experts, and weapons inventors felt threatened about the planned arrival of educated people from the southern province of Zinning.

Kaxalt residents at their morning "mind meetings" put forth many questions. Would the arrival of the citizens from the southern hemisphere adversely affect life as they knew it? Would their jobs disappear?

Some Kaxaltian citizens approached their legislative representatives and the Kaxalt MLA's decided at the provincial government level that they would not allow anyone who lived in Zinning to move to Kaxalt – even though Zinning is part of the same country.

Your Question

If the planet Beebonk (which is one country) were to adopt the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, could Axu successfully challenge the law that prevented him and his family from moving from the province of Zinning to the province of Kaxalt?

Your Answer

- Yes, the law could be challenged.
- No, the law could not be challenged.

Section of the *Charter* involved. _____

Your Explanation

Not sure?

Find further information on the next page

Further Activities

1. Imagine that the government has decided to remove mobility rights from the *Charter*. Write an imaginary letter to the editor, or a blog 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.

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 and permanent residents 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 and permanent residents can also look for work in the province of their choice.

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 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.