

ILLUSTRATED BY ALEX DIOCHON WRITTEN BY NANCY PAYNE

MAKING A CASE

AS PEOPLE STARTED USING THE CHARTER IN COURT, THERE WERE ALL KINDS OF BIG CHANGES IN CANADA. HERE ARE THE STORIES OF JUST A FEW CASES THAT HAD A BIG EFFECT ON KIDS (AND OTHERS). WE'VE IMAGINED WHAT PEOPLE SAID AND DID, BUT THE EXAMPLES AND JUDGES' REASONS ARE ALL REAL.



IMMIGRATION OFFICE, 1982



SATNAM SINGH

I THOUGHT CANADA WELCOMED REFUGEES!



I CAN'T GO BACK TO INDIA! I DON'T KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO ME THERE.



THEY READ ALL YOUR DOCUMENTS. I'M SORRY, BUT YOU CAN'T STAY.



PLEASE, JUST LET US TALK TO THEM!



IT'S NOT FAIR TO DECIDE OUR LIVES BEHIND A CLOSED DOOR, WITHOUT HEARING FROM US.



WHAT ABOUT YOUR FAMOUS CHARTER OF RIGHTS?



THAT'S FOR CANADIANS.



IT'S RIGHT HERE IN SECTION 7. "EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO LIFE, LIBERTY AND SECURITY OF THE PERSON."



LANGUAGE AND LEARNING



IN 1990, THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA AGREED WITH THE PARENTS. THE JUDGES SAID THE CHARTER GIVES KIDS THE RIGHT TO GO TO SCHOOL IN EITHER FRENCH OR ENGLISH, EVEN IF MOST PEOPLE AROUND THEM SPEAK THE OTHER OFFICIAL LANGUAGE.



FAIR PLAY



AT FIRST JUSTINE LOST HER CASE. BUT THE ONTARIO COURT OF APPEAL EVENTUALLY SAID THE ONTARIO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION HAD TO CHANGE ITS RULES TO FIT WITH THE CHARTER. THE OHA FOUGHT THE DECISION ALL THE WAY TO THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA, WHERE IT LOST IN 1987.



POINT OF FAITH





IN 2006, THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA SAID THE SCHOOL'S COUNCIL WAS WRONG TO BAR GURBAJ MULTANI FROM WEARING HIS KIRPAN AT SCHOOL. THE JUDGES NOTED THAT THE CHARTER GUARANTEES FREEDOM OF RELIGION. THEY SAID RESPECT FOR CULTURAL AND FAITH DIFFERENCES ARE PART OF THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FREE AND DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY.

