



## Quiz on freedom of expression in Canada

*Scroll down this document for the answers*

- 1) In the Universal Declaration of Human Rights there are 30 articles setting out our rights. Which article number states the principle of freedom of expression?**
- 2) How many journalists and media workers were killed in 2009 because of their work of informing the public?**
  - a) 24
  - b) 52
  - c) 101
  - d) 221
- 3) How many were Canadian?**
- 4) How many freedom of expression cases went before the Supreme Court in 2009?**
  - a) 1
  - b) 3
  - c) 5
  - d) 8
- 5) Which medium is preferred by those who would want to spread racism and “hate speech”?**
  - a) underground newsletters
  - b) social networks on the Internet
  - c) web pages
  - d) texting
- 6) Is it against the law to engage in “hate speech” on the Internet in Canada?**
  - a) No, hate speech is protected by freedom of expression
  - b) Yes, but it must meet the criteria of the criminal code
  - c) Yes, at all times
- 7) How many rural Canadians lack reliable access to broadband Internet?**
  - a) 3 million
  - b) 1 million
  - c) 455,000



**8) When did Canada first adopt an Access to Information law?**

- a) 1967
- b) 1983
- c) 1992

**9) Why is freedom of information, or “access to information” as it is also called, a critical part of freedom of expression:**

- a) the Universal Declaration of Human Rights gives us the right “to seek information”
- b) without the right to information there can be little reasoned expression
- c) it is the foundation for democracy, citizen participation, and governmental accountability
- d) all of the above

**10) What percentage of federal Access to Information requests were not met in the required 30-day time limit:**

- a) 10
- b) 23
- c) 43
- d) 71

**11) How many American journalists were detained by Canadian border authorities in and questioned whether they were coming here to criticize the Olympics?**

- a) 10
- b) 4
- c) 1
- d) none



## Answers to the Quiz

- 1) Article 19:  
*Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.*  
<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>
- 2) (d) The killings of 101 journalists and media workers in 2009 was a significant increase from the 87 journalists killed in 2008., was killed in Afghanistan on December 30, two and a half weeks into her first reporting assignment in the country.  
<http://www.cjfe.org/releases/2009/30122009yearend.html>
- 3) One. The last journalist killed in 2009 was one of our own, *Calgary Herald* reporter Michelle Lang. Just 34 years of age, Lang had been in Afghanistan for only a couple of weeks and was stationed at NATO's massive Kandahar base. Her death came on her first foray off the base and "outside the wire," as she told her editors before leaving, to witness the front-line stories of the Afghan people.  
<http://issuu.com/cjfe/docs/2009annualreview/lang>
- 4) (d) Eight cases dealing with the issues of defamation, access to information, publication bans and the protection of sources were argued, considered or decided upon by the Supreme Court of Canada in 2009. (link to chapter "Free Expression on Trial 2009")
- 5) (c) The Media Awareness Network says: "The Web has become the online forum of choice for hate groups precisely because it allows them to avoid interacting with those who disagree with their views." Unlike social networks, or texting, no one talks back to hate groups on their web sites – they don't really want to engage in debate or give anyone else a forum for free speech. Fears that the Internet would help hate groups expand, the Southern Poverty Law Center reports that the number of hate sites on the Web has levelled off at around 400 and there is no evidence that the presence of these sites has led to an increase in the number of people who belong to hate groups.  
[http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/issues/online\\_hate/hate\\_and\\_free\\_speech.cfm](http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/issues/online_hate/hate_and_free_speech.cfm)

Français: [http://www.media-awareness.ca/français/enjeux/haine\\_sur\\_internet/index.cfm](http://www.media-awareness.ca/français/enjeux/haine_sur_internet/index.cfm)



## Canadian Journalists for Free Expression

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- 6) (b) In 2009, in a case of an Internet site hosting racist material, the Canadian Human Rights Commission found that its own provisions for hate speech were unconstitutional. Many free expression advocates welcome that decision for several reasons. “Hate speech” is still illegal under Canada’s Criminal Code, but it is defined very narrowly as speech that is intended to lead to violence. Speech which is offensive is another matter, and we have no ‘right’ not to be offended. In fact, freedom of expression is tested when we defend the rights of others to say things we find offensive. The best remedy for offensive, repugnant, and racist speech --- is more speech.  
<http://issuu.com/cjfe/docs/2009annualreview/9>
- 7) (a) Three million. And it can be argued that lack of access to high-speed Internet creates inequities in society and a diminishment of the quality of free expression since limits are put on one’s ability to seek, receive and impart information.  
<http://issuu.com/cjfe/docs/2009annualreview/26>
- 8) (b) The Access to Information Act was adopted in 1982 and came into force in 1983. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau promised that the law would promote “effective participation of citizens and organizations in the taking of public decisions”.  
<http://issuu.com/cjfe/docs/2009annualreview/18>
- 9) (d) All of the above. More than 125 members of the global access to information community from 40 countries gathered in Atlanta, Georgia in February 2008, under the auspices of the Carter Center. They adopted [The Atlanta Declaration](#), a Declaration and Plan of Action to advance the passage, implementation, enforcement, and exercise of the right of access to information.
- 10) (c) 43%. Furthermore, 23 % of all requests took more than 60 days and 12% took more than **four months**. When requests are delayed a complaint can be registered with the Office of the Information Commissioner. The average time for resolving these complaints is 13 months. The delays are causing some journalists to stop using the access system because they just can’t meet deadlines.  
See: Info Source Bulletin Number 32B  
<http://www.infosource.gc.ca/bulletin/2009/b/bulletin32b/bulletin32b02-eng.asp#k>  
Français: <http://www.infosource.gc.ca/bulletin/2009/b/bulletin32b/bulletin32b02-fra.asp>  
and  
<http://issuu.com/cjfe/docs/2009annualreview/18>
- 11) (b) Four. <http://issuu.com/cjfe/docs/2009annualreview/24>