

**“Source: *Human Dignity and Genetic Heritage, Protection of Life Series, A Study Paper, 1991.*
Department of Justice Canada.
Reproduced with the permission of the Minister of Public
Works and Government Services Canada, 2007.”**

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER ONE: Genetics Overview	5
I. Introduction	5
II. The Structural Basis of Genetic Differences	6
III. Genetic Disorders	7
A. Chromosomal Disorders	8
B. Single Gene Disorders	8
C. Multifactorial Disorders	9
IV. Technological Advances in Molecular Biology	9
V. The Changing Practice of Medical Genetics	11
VI. Gene Therapy	11
VII. Conclusion	14
CHAPTER TWO: The Genome and the Gene Pool	15
I. Introduction	15
II. Common Usage of Heritage	16
III. Scientific Usage	16
IV. Legal Notions of Heritage	17
A. Private Law	17
B. Public Law	18
C. International Law	18
D. An Integrated Approach	20
V. Conclusion	21
CHAPTER THREE: Human Dignity and Genetics — The International Context	23
I. Introduction	23
II. Rights in Genetic Heritage	25
III. Consequences of Rights in Genetic Heritage	27

IV. Critique of Genetic Rights.....	29
V. Conclusion	30
CHAPTER FOUR: Human Dignity and Genetics — The <i>Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i>	33
I. Introduction	33
II. Freedom of Association and of Conscience and Religion.....	34
III. Life, Liberty and Security of the Person	35
IV. Unreasonable Search and Seizure.....	38
V. Equal Treatment and Freedom from Discrimination	39
VI. Reasonable Limits	41
VII. Conclusion	41
CHAPTER FIVE: Genetic “Ab-normality”	43
I. Introduction	43
II. Genetic Determinism	43
III. Genetic Naturalism	46
IV. Genetic Discrimination	48
A. Workplace Testing	48
B. Insurance Testing	50
C. Reproductive Testing	50
V. Genetic Perfectionism	52
VI. Genetic Wrongs	54
VII. Conclusion	58
CHAPTER SIX: Towards Genetic Justice	59
I. Introduction	59
II. Ethical Considerations.....	60
A. Autonomy.....	60
B. Beneficence.....	63
C. Non-maleficence	63
III. Theories of Justice	64
A. Utilitarianism	65
B. Libertarianism	66

C. Egalitarianism.....	66
D. Social Contract	67
IV. New Ethical Principles	69
A. Reciprocity.....	69
B. Mutuality	70
V. Conclusion	72
CONCLUSION.....	73
GLOSSARY	77
TABLE OF CASES	83
TABLE OF STATUTES.....	85
TREATIES AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS	87
BIBLIOGRAPHY	89