

Canada – Government of British Columbia
Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General

Guide Animal Act

The **Guide Animal Act** ensures that persons with disabilities (PWDs) who rely on a guide dog or other assistance animal to function on a daily basis are able to participate in society to the fullest extent possible. When accompanied by an assist animal that has been certified by the province under the Act, persons with disabilities enjoy the same right of access to public facilities, transportation, eating places and accommodations as anyone who is not accompanied by an animal.

British Columbia's assistance animal legislation is unique in Canada. Only in British Columbia are the basic rights to "reasonable accommodation" under the *Human Rights Code* reinforced by consumer protection law regarding the rights and responsibilities of using a professionally trained assistance animal.

250 387-3045 or 1 888 564-9963

or e-mail Consumer Services at sgconsumer@gems7.gov.bc.ca

Discrimination in accommodation, service and facility

8 (1) A person must not, without a bona fide and reasonable justification,

- (a) deny to a person or class of persons any accommodation, service or facility customarily available to the public, or
- (b) discriminate against a person or class of persons regarding any accommodation, service or facility customarily available to the public

because of the race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation of that person or class of persons.

(2) A person does not contravene this section by discriminating

- (a) on the basis of sex, if the discrimination relates to the maintenance of public decency or to the determination of premiums or benefits under contracts of life or health insurance, or
- (b) on the basis of physical or mental disability, if the discrimination relates to the determination of premiums or benefits under contracts of life or health insurance