

Legally speaking...

Did you know?

Revised July 2013

This fact sheet contains legal information, not advice and is accurate as at the above date. For legal advice, please contact a lawyer.

Subject: Human Rights

BC HUMAN RIGHTS TRIBUNAL

In British Columbia, the BC Human Rights Code is the law that prevents and prohibits discrimination. Some of the grounds on which you cannot be discriminated against are: race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, political belief, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, or age.

Where do I complain if I have been discriminated against?

The BC Human Rights Tribunal, also known as the Tribunal, is responsible for dealing with human rights complaints. It is much like a court but is less formal and more flexible than a regular court. The tribunal is made up of members who are experts in human rights law.

Does the Tribunal deal with all types of discrimination?

The Tribunal cannot deal with all types of discrimination. It can only deal with human rights complaints that arise in BC and are covered by the BC Human Rights Code.

In Canada, our human rights laws operate in two jurisdictions: the federal and the provincial. At the federal level, the Canadian Human Rights Act is governed by the Canadian Human Rights Commission and Tribunal. At the provincial level, the British Columbia Human Rights Code is governed by the BC Human Rights Tribunal.

What areas of discrimination does the BC Human Rights Code cover?

The BC Human Rights Code applies to employers, service providers and all other provincially regulated businesses and agencies. Some examples are schools and universities, hospitals, all private businesses and services such as stores, restaurants and other services. Banking is a matter under federal jurisdiction. As a result the tribunal cannot deal with a complaint against a bank since this falls under the Canadian Human Rights Act.

For More Information

BC Human Rights Tribunal

1170 - 605 Robson Street, Vancouver

Phone: 604-775-2000

Toll free: 1-888-440-8844

TTY: 604-775-2021

Website: www.bchrt.bc.ca

BC Human Rights Clinic - Vancouver Region

1202 - 510 West Hastings Street

Phone: 604-689-8474

Toll Free: 1-877-689-8474

UBC Law Student's Legal Advice Program

Phone: 604-822-5791

Fact Sheet: "Human Rights - Filing a Complaint"

