

## FACT SHEET: Ontario Human Rights Commission

### Ontario Human Rights Commission Mission

The OHRC, an independent statutory body, provides leadership for the promotion, protection and advancement of human rights, and builds partnerships across the human rights system. In pursuit of our vision, we will:

- Empower people to realize their rights
- Ensure those responsible for upholding human rights do so
- Advocate for the full realization of human rights
- Work with our independent partners at the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario and the Human Rights Legal Support Centre
- Develop and encourage the implementation of human rights policies
- Conduct research
- Monitor developments, trends, problem areas and case law involving human rights issues.
- Use our legal powers to pursue remedies in the public interest.
- Carry out public inquiries where appropriate
- Educate and build capacity
- Report on the state of human rights to the people of Ontario

Ontario's Human Rights Code, the first in Canada, was enacted in 1962. The Code protects people in Ontario against discrimination in employment, accommodation, goods, services and facilities, and membership in vocational associations and trade unions.

There are seventeen grounds of discrimination under the Code:

1. race
2. ancestry
3. place of origin
4. colour
5. ethnic origin
6. citizenship
7. creed (religion)
8. sex (including pregnancy)
9. sexual orientation
10. disability
11. age
12. marital status (including same sex partners)
13. family status
14. receipt of public assistance (in accommodation only)
15. record of offences (in employment only)
16. gender identity
17. gender expression

Source: The information in this fact sheet has been developed by the Ontario Human Rights Commission, and can be found at the following web site <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/commission/about>

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