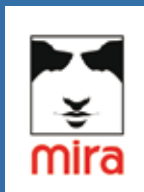


GUIDE DOGS AND SERVICE DOGS



HELPING
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



GUIDE DOGS AND SERVICE DOGS

A guide dog provides technical assistance to blind and visually impaired people in order to remedy their functional limitations by providing mobility and orientation.

Service dogs can increase the self-sufficiency of people with a physical or a cognitive disability by helping them move around and take hold of objects. The service dog is trained to alert the deaf or hearing impaired to a variety of environmental sounds.



SERVICE DOGS AND CHILDREN WITH PERVASIVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS (PDD)

A service dog can have a positive effect on the behaviour of children with pervasive developmental disorders (PDD), including autism spectrum disorders (ASD), increase social interactions and enhance their safety, at home or in public places.

PDD refers to a group of five disorders, including autism, Asperger syndrome and pervasive development disorder, not otherwise specified.

The Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse recognizes service dogs as a means to palliate a disability for children with PDD, a right protected by the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms.

A MEANS TO PALLIATE A DISABILITY

The Québec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms protects all people with a disability who use a guide dog or a service dog.

A person accompanied by a guide dog or a service dog has the right to access, without discrimination:

- Public places such as businesses, restaurants and hotels;
- Public transport and taxis;
- Work places;
- Recreational facilities such as camp sites or movie theatres.

This person also has the right to obtain goods and services ordinarily offered to the public, without discrimination and without additional cost.

Parents of children with PDD, including ASD, are also protected by the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms when they are accompanied by a service dog, even in the absence of the child. The parents are responsible for the animal and for its training.

WHAT THE COURTS SAY

The courts have established that service dogs and guide dogs are a means of palliating a handicap. The first court decision in Québec which upheld the prohibition of discriminating against persons who use a guide dog dates back to 1982.

“A seemingly neutral policy, such as prohibiting animals in a public place, may nevertheless be discriminatory if it results in denying access to service dogs,” said the Human Rights Tribunal.

In 2012, the Human Rights Tribunal ruled that it was discriminatory for a restaurant to deny access to a tetraplegic man using a wheelchair because he was with a service dog. The man received \$ 9,000 in moral and punitive damages.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Read the Commission’s opinion on service dogs for children with PDD:
www.cdpdj.qc.ca



HOW TO RECOGNIZE A GUIDE DOG OR A SERVICE DOG IN QUÉBEC ?

- The dog's harness bears the Mira Foundation logo;
- The dog has the collar of the Lions Foundation;
- The dog's vest bears the PACCK Foundation logo;
- The dog owner has a letter or card issued by a recognized dog training organization.

For more information about these organizations:

Fondation Mira : www.mira.ca

PACCK : www.pacck.org

Lions Fondation : www.dogguides.com

DID YOU KNOW?

In Québec:

- About 90,000 people are blind or visually impaired;
- 60,000 disabled people use a wheel chair;
- More than 10,000 children have PDD (pervasive developmental disorders).

For advice on how to handle a request for reasonable accommodation from a person using a service dog or a guide dog, please contact the Commission's Advisory Service Regarding Reasonable Accommodation.

You are denied access to a public place because you are accompanied by your guide dog or service dog?

You can file a complaint with the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse.

Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse

Telephone: 514 873-5146
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All services offered by the Commission are free of charge.

