

**WE
HAVE
THE
RIGHT...**



...TO DISCRIMINATION-FREE HEALTH CARE

What is Discrimination in Health Care?

Indigenous people have shared many experiences of being treated unfairly when trying to access health care. Sometimes, health care providers use unfair stereotypes about Indigenous people. Sometimes, they are denied care because the health care provider does not believe they are sick or hurt. When a health care provider has a bias or prejudice against Indigenous people, this can result in discriminatory treatment.

What does Discrimination in Health Care look like?

- An Indigenous man is having trouble walking and is slurring his speech. The ambulance driver doesn't take him to the hospital, and tells him to "sleep it off", believing he is drunk. In fact, he is having a stroke.
- A nurse treats other patients with care and compassion, but is rude and dismissive towards their Indigenous patient.

What does the law say?

The BC Human Rights Code protects us from discrimination in our access to services. The law says that service providers, including doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers, and emergency room staff, must not discriminate on the basis of any protected characteristic, including race, ancestry, colour, and place of origin.

What can I do?

If you believe you have been discriminated against while accessing health care, you can make a complaint to the BC Human Rights Tribunal. You must file your complaint within one year of the event. There is no cost. The Tribunal might award you compensation for what happened. You might also find a resolution with the help of a Tribunal mediator.

Who can help?

The BC Human Rights Clinic, part of the Community Legal Assistance Society (CLAS), provides free legal help with human rights complaints. Visit their website or call for more information or to book an appointment:

www.bchrc.net

604-622-1100

Toll free: 1-855-685-6222

Artist: Wade Baker, Mintle-da-us, Chilcat Raven with Sun© – Raven transforms the world by bringing the light back