

Service animal laws in Canada

- Service animals in Canada can be owner trained, trained with the support of a trainer, trained by a service dog trainer, be supplied by a non-profit program, or bought from a for-profit program.
- There is no national/federal standard/certification for service animals in Canada.
- Each province/territory has their own service animal laws (or lack thereof).
- Three provinces (BC, Alberta, Nova Scotia) offer voluntary certification after the team passes a public access test.
- A doctor's note stating the need for a service animal to mitigate a disability is a requirement in most provinces/territories.
- A service animal needs to be trained with tasks (except in Ontario, where no tasks are required).
- Emotional support animals are not protected by law in Canada.
- Commercial transportation/carriers such as airlines, trains and buses, which follow Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) regulations, may require written proof of training (for example a service dog ID, certificate from a service dog organization, or letter of training confirmation from a professional service dog trainer). This can provide barriers to owner trained dogs without professional service dog trainer's guidance as well as to service dogs in training. Legally airlines do not have to accept service dogs in training.

Quebec: <https://www.cdpcj.qc.ca/en/your-obligations/prohibited-grounds/handicap-animaux>.

The dog must wear a visual marker that it is a service animal bearing the logo of the organization that trained it.

Ontario: any animal can be a service animal. No task training required (emotional support is enough for an animal to be considered a service animal along with a note from a medical professional).

[AODA](#) (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act),

Ontario Human Rights Code (<https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/ontario-human-rights-code>).

Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, PEI, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut: any animal can be a service animal. No service dog legislation. Handlers are protected under the respective Human Rights Code.

Newfoundland/Labrador: also has a service dog act:

(<https://www.assembly.nl.ca/legislation/sr/statutes/s13-02.htm>).

Three provinces (British Columbia, Alberta and Nova Scotia) offer *voluntary* certification after the team passes a public access test (PAT). This test/assessment is for dogs only and is for dogs who aren't from an ADI or IGDF program. The assessment has to be retaken every 2 years in BC and Nova Scotia and every year in Alberta. In order to take the assessment, the service dog needs to know three tasks to help mitigate the handler's disability. Uncertified teams are protected under the respective Human Rights Code.

BC: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/human-rights/guide-and-service-dog>,

<https://www.leg.bc.ca/parliamentary-business/legislation-debates-proceedings/40th-parliament/4th-session/bills/third-reading/gov17-3>

Alberta: <https://www.alberta.ca/service-dog-information.aspx>, Blind Persons' Rights Act (Alberta)

Nova Scotia: <https://novascotia.ca/servicedogs/>, Nova Scotia's Blind Persons' Rights Act

Service dogs in training

Service dogs in training are less protected in Canada and have no public access rights in most provinces unless actively training with a certified and accredited trainer.

Please also visit <https://capdt.ca/service-dogs/>.