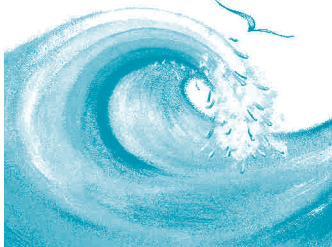


Human  
Rights  
For Everyone,  
Always.



# Your Rights - Political Belief, Affiliation and Activity

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*Since 1991, discrimination because of political belief, affiliation or activity has been prohibited in Nova Scotia by Section 5(1)(u) of the Human Rights Act.*

## What does political belief, affiliation or activity mean?

The Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission defines political belief, affiliation or activity as

- belief in the views of a recognized political party, as shown by membership, contribution, and/or active participation in that party,
- working for a candidate for office in an election at the municipal, provincial or federal level
- running for or holding office at the municipal, provincial or federal level
- a close association with someone who is politically active, for example, your spouse or another family member

## Political Discrimination

Your politics should not be a factor when you apply for jobs, government appointments or volunteer opportunities. Your politics should not be used against you when government changes. Contracts should not be awarded based on political affiliation or activity. Your access to government programs should not be influenced by your politics.

Your lack of a particular political belief, affiliation or activity should also not be used against you.

## Are there exceptions?

Yes. Discrimination because of political belief, affiliation and activity is permitted if

- a particular political belief, affiliation or activity is a genuine requirement for a position, for example, doing political work for a party or a politician, or
- if the discrimination is reasonable and can be justified in a free and democratic society.

## The Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission is here to help. Commission staff

- offer awareness and training sessions on human rights
- provide information and advice to people who believe that they are being discriminated against
- investigate complaints of discrimination
- offer information and advice to employers
- help employers, groups and organizations to draft human rights policies

## For more information

Contact the Commission at 1-877-269-7699 (toll free) or 424-4111 (in Halifax), or visit our web site at [www.gov.ns.ca/humanrights/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/humanrights/).



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