

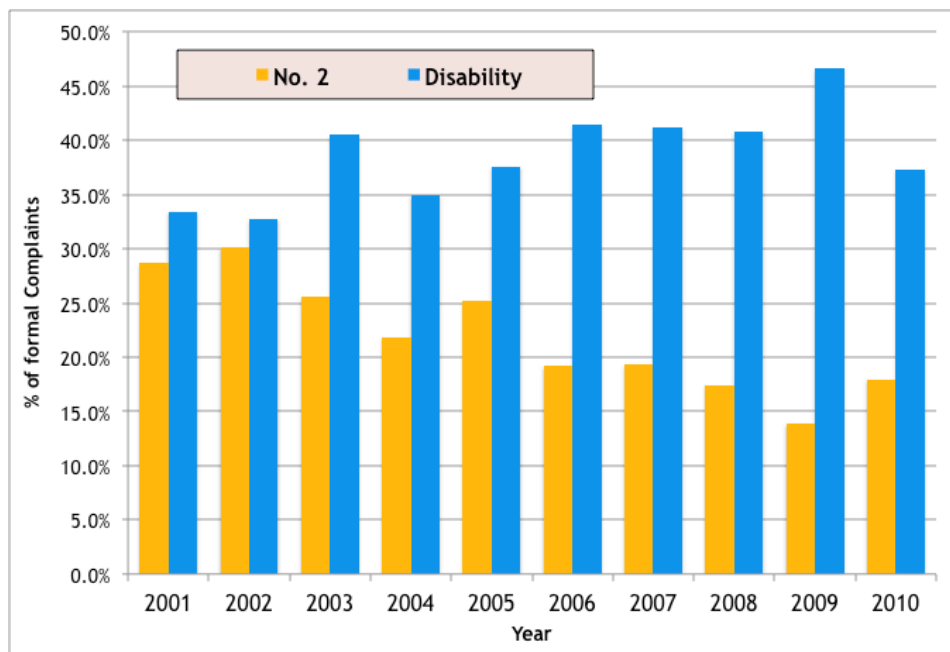
barrier-free MANITOBA Media Release

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Disability Discrimination Top Ranked Human Rights Issue For Entire Decade

WINNIPEG – Data from the last ten annual reports published by the Manitoba Human Rights Commission (MHRC) show that disability discrimination has ranked as the undisputed No. 1 ground for human rights complaints in Manitoba every year over the last decade.

Percent of Complaints to MHRC based on
Disability and Next Most Frequent Ground by Year, 2001 to 2010

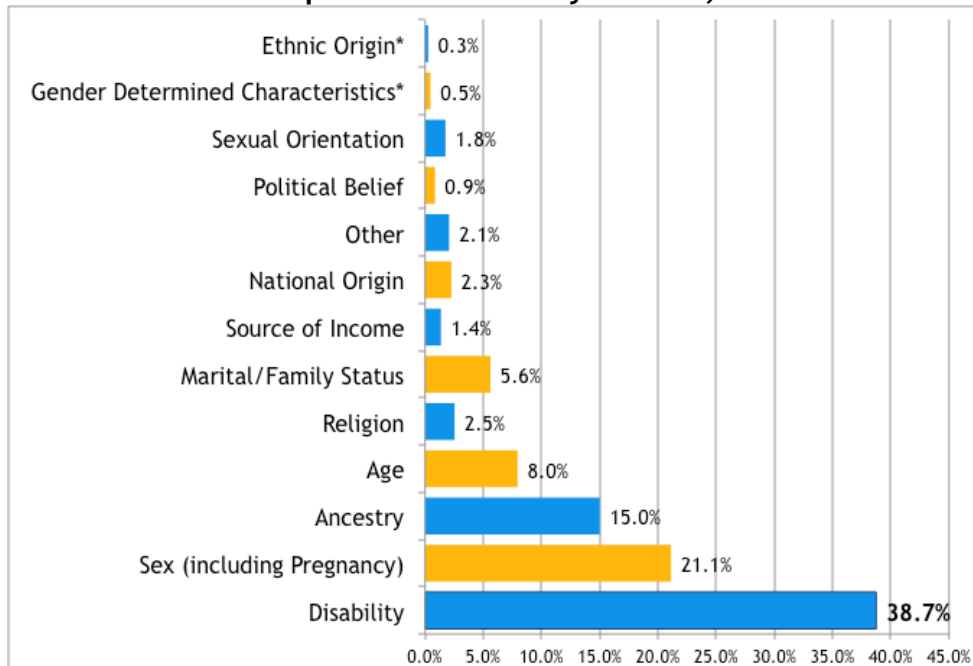


“Discrimination of any kind in Manitoba today is deeply disturbing,” said Janet Forbes, spokesperson for Barrier-Free Manitoba. “But the lock-step

consistency of disability discrimination as the primary ground for complaint is especially troubling. So too is the growing gap between disability and the next most frequent ground for complaint over the years.”

Sex (including pregnancy) ranked second for eight of the ten years (ancestry ranked second in 2004 and 2006). While discrimination based on sex accounted for 21% of all complaints to the MHRC over the decade, this was far exceeded by the 39% of the complaints that were lodged based on disability.

Percent of Complaints to MHRC by Ground, 2001 to 2010



Barrier-Free Manitoba, along with hundreds of coalitions, groups and individuals, has called on the province to enact strong and effective accessibility-rights legislation to deal with the pervasive human rights violations faced by persons with disabilities.

“With progress on the impressive new Human Rights Museum coming along so well,” said Ms. Forbes, “it’s well past time that the Government of Manitoba took real action to address the No 1. human rights issue in the province.”

Barrier-Free Manitoba (www.barrierfreemb.com) is a non-partisan, non-profit, cross-disability initiative that was formed in 2008.

Contact for more Information:

Janet Forbes / Spokesperson for Barrier-Free
Manitoba

Tel: (w) 953-5876 / (c) 250-8084

Patrick Falconer / Consultant to Barrier-Free
Manitoba

Tel: (w) 475-7627 / (c) 890-4155

Email: barrierfreemanitoba@shaw.ca

Facebook: www.facebook.com/barrierfreemb

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/barrierfreemb>