

Legislative Update: *Strata Property Act*, January 2016

On January 18, 2016 the *Guide Dog and Service Dog Act* (GDSDA) was brought into force. The GDSDA amended the *Strata Property Act* to allow strata owners, occupants and tenants to have certified guide dogs or service dogs on strata premises, regardless of strata bylaws restricting or prohibiting pets. In addition, the amendments allow strata owners, occupants and tenants to keep their certified retired guide dogs or service dogs on strata premises, including after a new dog has been certified to take over its duties.

For more information on the new GDSDA and the Guide Dog and Service Dog Certification Program please visit the Ministry of Justice's website at <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/human-rights/guide-and-service-dog>.

BILL 17 – 2015 *GUIDE DOG AND SERVICE DOG ACT* *Strata Property Act*

16 Section 123 of the *Strata Property Act*, S.B.C. 1998, c. 43, is amended by adding the following subsections:

(1.01) A bylaw that prohibits a pet or other animal or that restricts the access of a pet or other animal to a strata lot or common property does not apply to

(a) a guide dog or service dog, or

(b) a dog that is a member of a retired guide or service dog team if the person who is a member of the team is an owner, tenant or occupant.

(1.02) In subsection (1.01), "**guide dog**", "**retired guide or service dog team**" and "**service dog**" have the same meaning as in the *Guide Dog and Service Dog Act*.