



## FACT SHEET: Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS)

### Key Facts

- Prevalence: 3.5% of Canadians (over 1 million people) are diagnosed with MCS (Statistics Canada, 2020).
- Legal Recognition: MCS is recognized as a disability under the Canadian Human Rights Act (2007), the Accessible Canada Act (2019), and Québec human rights law.
- International Protection: In March 2025, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) issued its Concluding Observations on Canada. The CRPD's recommendations strongly remind our government that people with Multiple Chemical Sensitivities (MCS) have the right to equal protection, reasonable accommodation, and accessible environments under international human rights law.
- AMA Policy (2025): The American Medical Association recognizes fragrance sensitivity, MCS, as a disability, and as potentially limiting major life activities and supports fragrance-free policies and allergen disclosure.
- Barriers: Perfumes, scented products, and other chemicals are environmental barriers that exclude people with MCS.
- Shared Benefits: Fragrance-free spaces also protect people with asthma, migraines, autism, and chronic respiratory conditions.

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