



Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary

**Volunteers Saving
Lives on the Water**



www.ccg-a-gcac.org

The Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary

Rescuing ships in trouble or distress is an old maritime tradition. It is even a legal obligation in most of the maritime nations of the world.

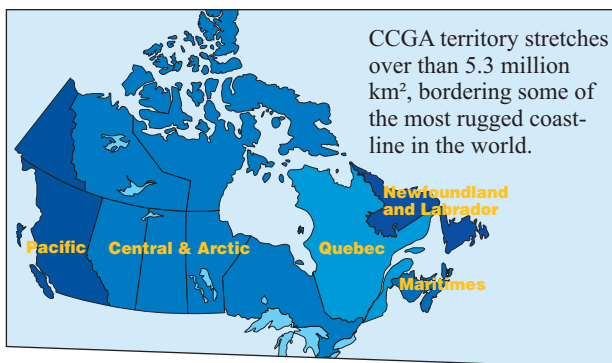
In Canada, volunteer participation in marine search and rescue (SAR) activities dates back to before Confederation, but it was not until the 1970s that we found the need to create a well-orchestrated Canada-wide SAR network of volunteers to lend a strong hand to the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG).

With this exact purpose in mind, the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) was founded in 1978 to expand the perimeter of action and reduce response time.

The CCGA is a non-profit organization specializing in SAR and boating safety activities.

Six Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliaries are federally incorporated as non-profit organizations:

- CCGA National Inc.
- CCGA Pacific Inc.
- CCGA Central & Arctic Inc.
- CCGA Quebec Inc.
- CCGA Maritimes Inc.
- CCGA Newfoundland & Labrador Inc.



Our Mission

Our mission is to provide a 24-hour volunteer SAR service to cover marine requirements in Canada and prevent injury and loss of life on the water.

Therefore, our objectives are:

- Saving 100% of lives at risk;
- Reducing the number and severity of SAR incidents;
- Promoting maritime safety;
- Supporting the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG);
- Providing a humanitarian service;
- Maintaining the highest professional standards;
- Promoting membership dedication and pride.

Organization and Management

Each corporation is a legal entity distinct and independent from that of the Government of Canada. The presidents of each of the five regional corporations are members of the CCGA National Board, chaired by an elected President.

Volunteers

The majority (75%) of Auxiliary members are commercial fishers and pleasure boaters who own their vessels and volunteer their time and effort to assist fellow mariners in distress. The remaining Auxiliary members are volunteers from local communities who crew community-based, dedicated response vessels 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



An Invaluable Resource



In addition to their everyday jobs, members are ready to exchange leisure, comfort and sleep to brave weather conditions and save lives. Reimbursement for expenses related to SAR activities is the only compensation they receive.

But beyond the material aspect, what matters most are thanks from victims and their loved ones.

Members must keep their vessels well maintained and equip them with specialized SAR equipment that can sometimes cost thousands of dollars.

Fleet

The CCGA fleet includes approximately 1,200 vessels with a combined asset value of over 360 million dollars.



SAR Operations

The Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary is a major player in Canada's national SAR response network.

Each year, the CCGA responds to roughly 25% of approximately 7,000 marine SAR incidents, which translates into more than 200 lives saved each year and the protection of ships worth several millions of dollars.



A Professional Response

Due to its structure, the CCGA has enough volunteers to respond to distress calls quickly. Most calls originate from three Joint Rescue Coordination Centres (JRCCs) or two Maritime Rescue Sub-Centres (MRSCs). These centres are responsible for planning, coordinating and monitoring SAR operations.



Boating Safety is a Priority!

CCGA Training and Programs

All CCGA volunteers are trained in accordance with strict national standards. They also receive proper insurance coverage for all authorized activities. Members stay informed through national and regional communication programs.

To promote boating safety, volunteers demonstrate marine safety equipment, provide boating safety courses and participate in more than 450 boat shows and exhibitions each year.



Our mascot, **Bobbie**, is very popular amongst children and adults during boat shows.

Bobbie encourages the public to be vigilant and careful during water activities.

Furthermore, each year, our volunteers conduct more than 3,500 courtesy inspections free of charge on pleasure crafts and small fishing vessels. This way, they help prevent accidents and save lives.



CCGA Funding

The organization is partly funded by a Contribution Agreement with the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) for SAR operations, training and insurance coverage.

The CCGA also relies on public donations and private organizations to support its activities. As a non-profit organization, the CCGA issues charitable tax receipts.

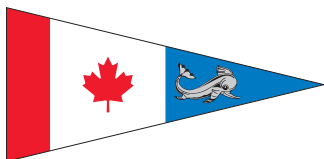
SAR Statistics

Since its founding in 1978, the CCGA and its members have participated in more than 52,000 missions and saved approximately 4,000 lives. They also help another 5,000 people each year in non-distress marine incidents, thus saving millions of dollars in property. With the CCG, the CCGA contributes to saving 94% of those whose lives are in danger.



CCGA volunteers invest more than 250,000 hours a year in carrying out their mission.

Identification



CCGA vessels are easily recognizable, thanks to their distinctive flag.

Contacting the CCGA

To learn more about the CCGA or become a member or donor, contact us or visit our websites.

Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) • National

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Toll free: 1 (866) MAYDAY2 • 1 (866) 629-3292

Tel. & Fax: 1 (819) 557-0541

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Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) • Pacific

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Telephone: (250) 480-2798 • Fax: (250) 480-2742

Web Site: www.ccg-pacific.org

Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) • Central & Arctic

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Fax: (416) 463-7285 / 1 (866) 392-7285

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Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) • Quebec

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Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) • Maritimes

P.O. Box 9640, Commercial Service Center

Halifax, NS B3K 5S4

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Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) • Newfoundland & Labrador

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