

RED STAR CITIZENSHIP

Cadets are valued members of their community and they have the ability to make positive contributions to society. Recognizing and understanding the rights and responsibilities of a Canadian citizen may assist cadets in positively impacting their community.

RIGHTS OF A CANADIAN CITIZEN

Every Canadian citizen is granted certain rights based on Canada's tradition of democracy and respect for human dignity and freedom. These rights are found in Canada's *Human Rights Codes* and in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

All Canadians have the following rights:

- **Equality Rights.** Every citizen is entitled to equal treatment before and under the law, and equal protection and benefit of the law without discrimination.
- **Democratic Rights.** Every citizen has the right to participate in political activities including voting and being elected to political office.
- **Legal Rights.** Every citizen has the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty, the right to retain a lawyer and to be informed of that right and the right to an interpreter in court proceedings.
- **Mobility Rights.** Every citizen has the right to enter and leave Canada, and to move to and take up residence in any province.
- **Language Rights.** Every citizen has the right to use either the English or French language in communications with the federal government and certain provincial governments.
- **Minority Language Education Rights.** In general, English and French minorities in every province and territory have the right to be educated in their own language.

Canadians also enjoy fundamental freedoms of religion, thought, expression, peaceful assembly and association. If Canadian citizens have their rights violated by the federal, provincial or territorial governments or their rights are violated by others, Canadian citizens can challenge that action in court.

English and French are the two official languages of Canada. They are an important part of our national heritage and national identity.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A CANADIAN CITIZEN

Canadian citizens share certain common responsibilities. These responsibilities are:

- understanding and obeying Canadian laws;
- participating in Canada's democratic political system;
- voting in elections;
- allowing other Canadians to enjoy their rights and freedoms; and
- appreciating and helping to preserve Canada's multicultural heritage.

All Canadians are encouraged to become informed about political activities and to help better their communities and the country by reading a newspaper, watching news programs, etc.

THE PRINCIPALS OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

It is important for cadets to learn the principles of environmental stewardship so cadets may become more environmentally conscious.

The Government of Canada's Code of Environmental Stewardship

As part of being a responsible Canadian citizen, cadets should be aware of their role in protecting the environment. The Government of Canada has enacted legislation in order to ensure the protection of the environment and that human health is not endangered.

To reflect the Government's dedication to protecting the environment, in all aspects of its operations and activities, it has created the Government of Canada's *Code of Environmental Stewardship*.

The Government commits to:

- Incorporating environmental concerns in relevant decisions. The Government must take environmental concerns into account in every decision and piece of legislation it writes and passes;
- Ensuring environmental considerations are incorporated in purchasing practices. The Government must consider the environment when it purchases anything, from submarines to paper products;
- Applying environmentally responsible practices in disposal. The Government must use environmentally responsible practices when acquiring, using, transporting, storing and disposing of hazardous materials. A hazardous material is any item or agent which has the potential to cause harm to humans, animals, or the environment, either by itself or through interaction with other factors. These materials may be biological, nuclear, chemical, etc.;
- Meeting or exceeding federal environmental laws. The Government has pledged to meet or exceed the letter and spirit of federal environmental laws and, where appropriate, to be compatible with provincial, territorial and international standards;
- Reusing, recycling and reducing waste. The Government has to find methods to seek cost-effective ways to reduce the use of raw materials, toxic substances, energy, water and other resources. The Government has also promised to recycle and reuse items where appropriate; and
- Improving the level of environmental awareness. The Government has undertaken the task of improving the level of environmental awareness throughout the public service. It stresses to its employees the environmental and health benefits of environmental awareness and encourages and recognizes beneficial actions of employees.

Canadian Cadet Movement Code of Environmental Stewardship

The CCO/CIC must ensure the protection of the environment during all activities by adopting environmentally sound practices and by complying with federal, provincial and territorial environmental legislation and regulations, municipal environmental bylaws, as well as the DND's environmental regulations.

The term due diligence is found throughout CATO 11-08, *Environmental Protection and Stewardship*. The definition of due diligence is the exercise of reasonable care in the conduct of one's business or duties. To demonstrate due diligence, a member must show that they did all that any reasonable person would have done in the same circumstance to avoid a foreseeable risk of harm to the environment.

If due diligence is not practiced and an offence in violation of environmental legislation occurs there may be legal liabilities.

If a member of the CF does not comply with the Government's *Code of environmental Stewardship* they may be personally liable to cover financial loss or they may be imprisoned.

If a cadet does not comply with the Government's *Code of Environmental Stewardship* they may be charged under the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

Cadets may be given many opportunities to display environmental stewardship during the training year. Being aware of the human impact on the environment may allow cadets to have a positive effect in their community and may encourage them to be more proactive in applying the principles of environmental stewardship.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RELATIVE TO CANADA

It is important for cadets to know about the environmental issues facing our nation so that they have information to make decisions about the impact they may have on the environment now and for the future.

Greenhouse gas emissions are the gases released into the atmosphere that affect the temperature and climate of the Earth's surface. The main greenhouse gases emitted, due to human activity, are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O). CO₂ emissions are mainly from burning fossil fuels and deforestation. These emissions have led to the largest increase in atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations since the Industrial Revolution and they have affected the radiation transfer through the atmosphere. This is called the greenhouse effect. The greenhouse effect is the heating of the Earth's surface and lower atmosphere.

Simple things that may be done to lower greenhouse gas emissions may include:

- walking or taking public transit instead of driving a vehicle;
- avoiding unnecessary idling of a vehicle;
- driving a hybrid car;
- investing in a programmable thermostat;
- turning down the temperature in the house before going to sleep;
- replacing standard bulbs with fluorescent bulbs; and
- turning off lights when not in the room.

Things that may be done by the provincial/territorial and national governments to lower greenhouse emissions may include:

- tax incentives for towns and cities to create public transportation;
- researching and developing alternate fuels and energy sources;
- taxing;
- educating the public about greenhouse gas emissions; and
- having all governments employees use the ideas from the previous TP.

There are different types of waste created by human activity. The most dangerous type of waste is called hazardous waste. Different types of hazardous waste include nuclear waste, biomedical waste, chemical waste and household hazardous waste.

Although nuclear waste has been safely stored for the short-term, no permanent disposal system has been fully developed. Every country that uses nuclear power is trying to find an answer to this international problem. The locations of the nearest biomedical and chemical waste disposal sites within the province/territory may be found by contacting the provincial/territorial government.

Biomedical waste is created in every hospital, clinic and dentist's office in the country. These wastes must be separately stored and transported to sites within the country for disposal. These wastes are very dangerous because they may be contaminated with infectious viruses and bacteria.

Chemical wastes, like industrial chemicals and solvents, must be disposed of in special areas located around the country. Some chemicals, like polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and dioxin, are disposed of at the Swan Hills Treatment Centre, in Alberta, the only centre of

its kind in the country. These chemical wastes are very dangerous and have proven, in some cases, to cause cancer.

Some household hazardous waste items may include (this list is not exhaustive):

- motor oil,
- prescription drugs,
- cleaning products,
- paints,
- car waxes and polishes,
- weed killers,
- antifreeze,
- propane gas cylinders,
- solvents, turpentine, varnishes, lacquers, and
- products with flammable, corrosive, explosive, toxic, or poisonous warning labels

Through the discussion of local, provincial/territorial and national environmental issues, cadets may gain an understanding of how their individual actions affect the environment. It may inspire them to take personal responsibility for its preservation and restoration which is part of being an environmentally conscious citizen.