



## Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary

**Volunteers  
Saving Lives  
on the Water**



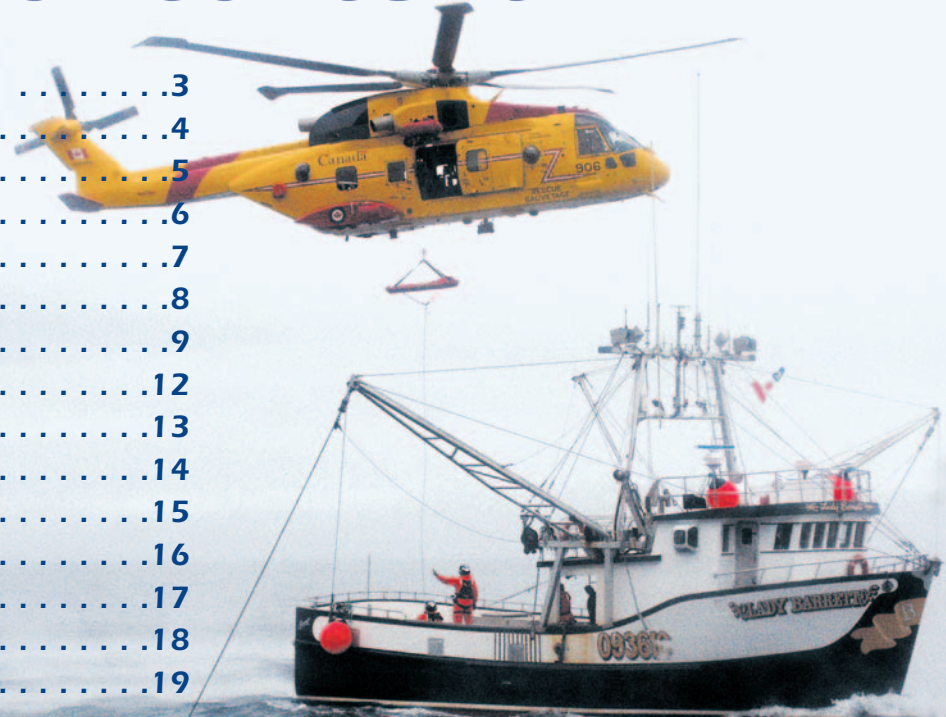
**Web Site: [www.ccg-a-gcac.org](http://www.ccg-a-gcac.org)**



# Table of content



Mission Statement .....	3
History .....	4
Maritime SAR .....	5
Organization .....	6
Regions .....	7
Volunteers .....	8
Fleet .....	9
Programs .....	12
Running Costs .....	13
Call out .....	14
Statistics .....	15
International .....	16
Fundraising .....	17
The Future .....	18
CCGA Offices .....	19



# Mission Statement

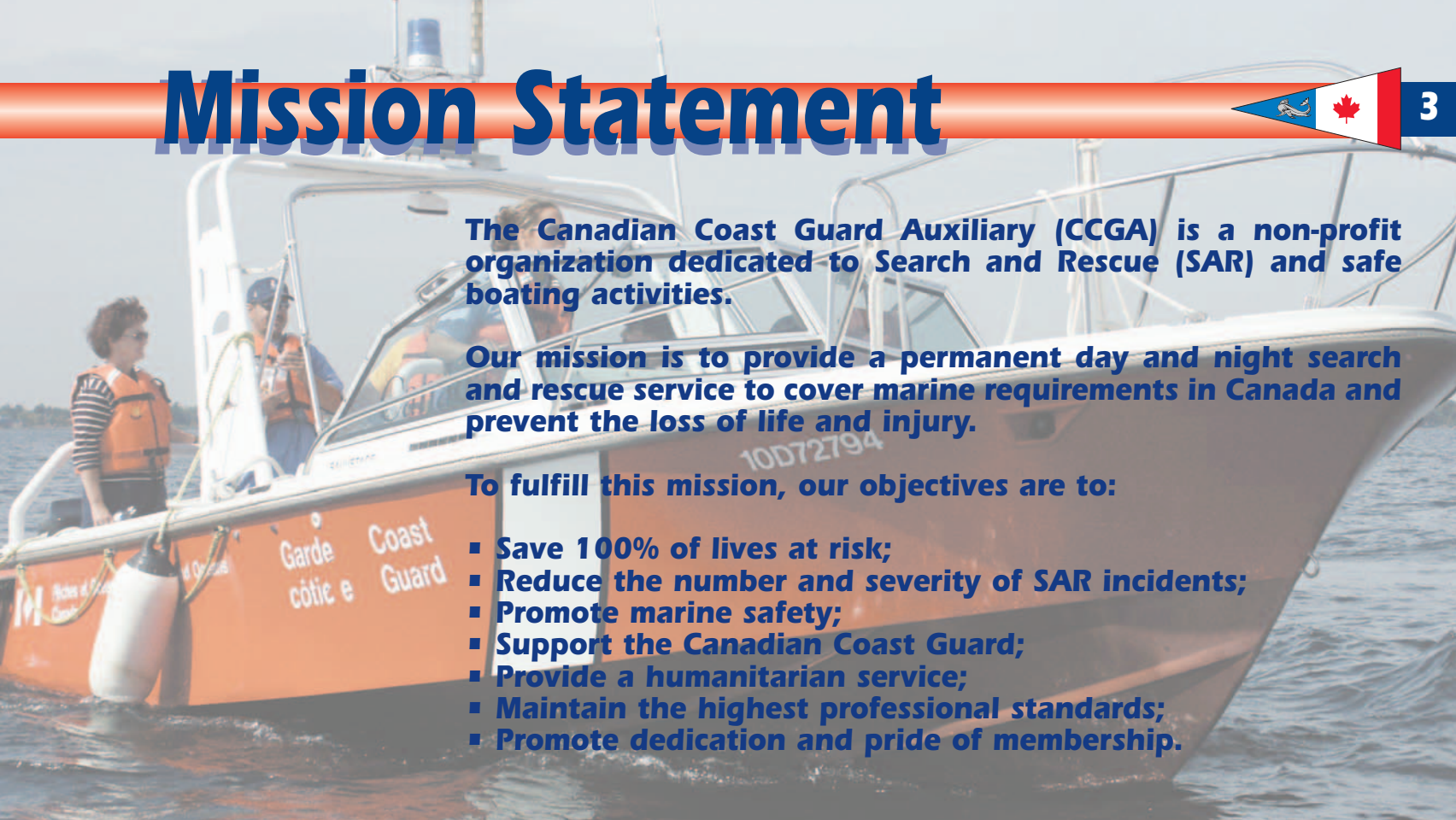


**The Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to Search and Rescue (SAR) and safe boating activities.**

**Our mission is to provide a permanent day and night search and rescue service to cover marine requirements in Canada and prevent the loss of life and injury.**

**To fulfill this mission, our objectives are to:**

- **Save 100% of lives at risk;**
- **Reduce the number and severity of SAR incidents;**
- **Promote marine safety;**
- **Support the Canadian Coast Guard;**
- **Provide a humanitarian service;**
- **Maintain the highest professional standards;**
- **Promote dedication and pride of membership.**







# History

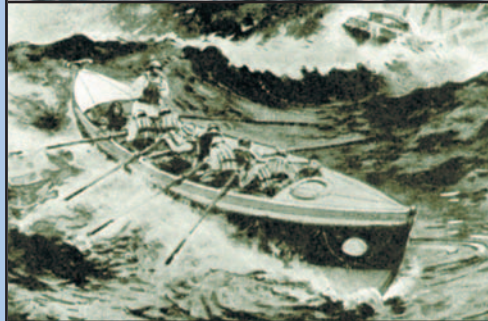
The tradition of vessels responding to distress situations is part of the fabric and, in many cases, the law for most maritimes nations.

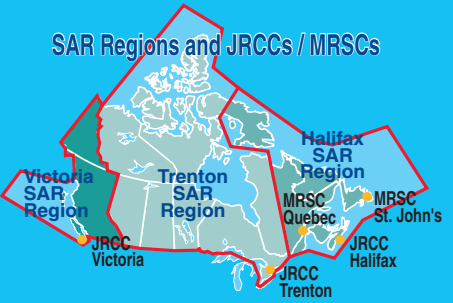
In Canada, the participation of volunteers in marine rescue pre-dates Confederation. A loose network of unpaid rescue agents reported incidents and organized searches for overdue vessels.

By the nineteen seventies, it became clear that a formal volunteer network was needed to provide a more effective response to marine incidents and implement a wider safety net for mariners.

The Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary was formed in 1978-79 in an effort to enhance search and rescue coverage and capability, and to better coordinate volunteer efforts. The organization has been saving lives ever since.

The CCGA celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2008.





# Maritime SAR

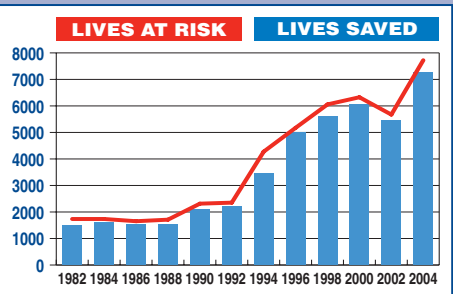


The Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary is a major player in Canada's national search and rescue (SAR) response network. Annually, the Auxiliary responds to approximately 25% of nearly 7,000 maritime SAR incidents. This translates into more than 200 lives saved each year and millions of dollars of property protected.

The territory covered by the CCGA is vast. Canada's area of responsibility stretches over 5,3 million square kilometers, bordering some of the most rugged coastline in the world.

In addition, the CCGA is also present on many of Canada's major inland waterways. Its units are especially concentrated within those high risk areas where the requirements are greatest.

In a SAR system, it is essential that a sufficient number of rescue boats be available to provide the best coverage so that they may go immediately to the scene of an accident. Reaction has to be fast – lives depend on it.





# Organization

The organizational structure of the CCGA is testament to its humanitarian ideals and its grassroots strengths.

In Canada, six Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliaries are federally incorporated as non-profit associations.

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

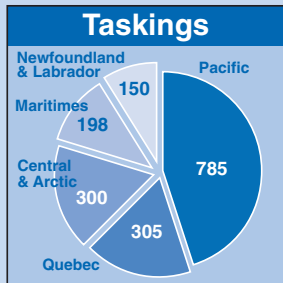
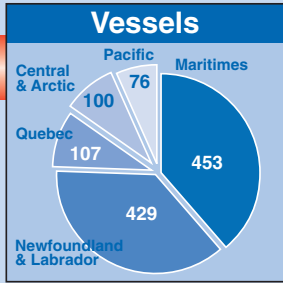
Each association has a legal entity separate from that of the Government of Canada.

The Presidents of each of the five regional associations are members of the CCGA National Council chaired by an elected Chief Executive Officer. The National Council oversees the administrative and business requirements that concern every region.

In seaside villages, marinas and ports across Canada, auxiliarists are organized into units that handle missions in their vicinity. Each unit is led by an elected unit leader. A group of units combines to make up a zone led by a Director.



# Regions



\* 2008 CCGA National Statistics.



# Volunteers

The Auxiliary is made up of close to 5,000 dedicated volunteers. The members are primarily pleasure craft operators and commercial fishermen who use their own vessels or community owned vessels for safe boating education and SAR-related activities.

All CCGA members are dedicated to saving and protecting lives in distress. In addition to their everyday jobs, auxiliaries are ready to exchange leisure, comfort and sleep for cold, wet and fatigue in a range of situations that will test their skills, strength and nerve.

When taking part in authorized SAR activities, they are compensated only for the cost of their fuel and little else save a thank-you from the victims or their families for their tireless efforts.

CCGA volunteers are trained according to the Auxiliary National Training Standards. They also benefit from insurance coverage while on authorized activity.

All members are kept well informed through various communication programs from their regional or national association (Web Sites and Publications).







# Fleet



Currently, the CCGA fleet includes over 1,200 vessels with a combined asset value of over 263 million dollars. Vessels are either privately owned or community owned.

All vessels must meet strict standards in order to become part of the Auxiliary fleet. Members are responsible for keeping their boats well maintained. In addition, they are required to equip them with specialised search and rescue gear, which can run into the thousands of dollars.









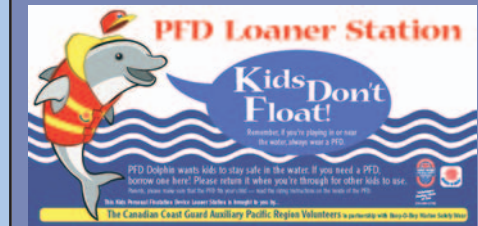
# Programs

The CCGA responds to approximately 25% of the 7,000 maritime SAR incidents recorded annually in Canada.

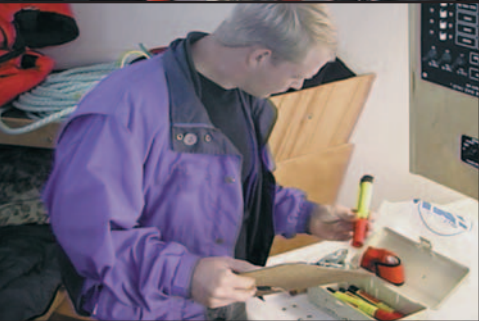
Other safe boating activities include: marine safety equipment demonstrations, safe boating course, and participation to over 460 boat shows and safe boating displays every year.

On behalf of Transport Canada, auxiliaries also conduct over 3,500 courtesy checks of pleasure craft and small fishing vessels in order to prevent accidents and loss of life before they occur.

Finally, the CCGA also promotes its unique identity and mandate to the Canadian public through the media and at public events across the country.







# Running Costs



13

The most important reason for a voluntary service is efficiency. Each CCGA unit attracts a number of the most able and active members of the community. Their time, expertise and local knowledge cannot be bought.

The CCGA is very cost conscious and aims to make maximum funds available for operational needs.

The terms and conditions which establish the conduct of activities of the CCGA are identified in a Contribution Agreement drawn up between the Auxiliary and the Canadian Coast Guard.

Because auxiliaries are only reimbursed for out of pocket expenses when tasked to a SAR mission, the Government of Canada receives the equivalent of \$37 in services from the CCGA for every dollar actually spent. In other words, CCGA members save Canadian taxpayers millions by providing services at a fraction of the cost of maintaining the same number of Coast Guard units at the ready.



# Call Out

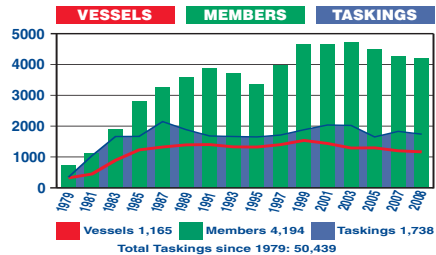
Because of the effective organizational structure of the CCGA, the Canadian Coast Guard is able to keep up-to-date information on active auxiliaries and can match almost instantly a distress call to the nearest CCGA unit.

Most of the calls come from one of three Joint Rescue Coordination Centres known as JRCCs or one of two Marine Rescue Sub-Centres or MRSCs. These centres are responsible for the planning, coordination, conduct and control of SAR operations.

Their job is to direct the closest and most appropriate search and rescue resources to a distress call. These centres, staffed by SAR co-ordinators from the Canadian Forces and the Canadian Coast Guard, are on full alert 24 hours a day, seven days a week, year round.



### CCGA National 2008 Statistics



# Statistics



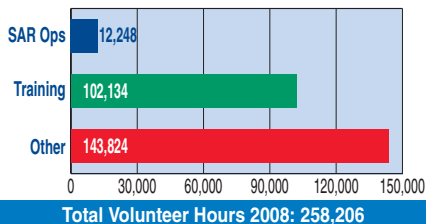
The CCGA currently has close to 5,000 members and 1,165 enrolled vessels. In 2008, CCGA units responded to 1,738 SAR taskings and participated in over 1,982 training exercises. Auxiliaries were also present at 463 boat shows, exhibitions and displays to support the Safe Boating Program. Finally, CCGA volunteers also conducted 3,504 courtesy checks of vessels on behalf of the Canadian Coast Guard.

Since the CCGA was founded in 1978, its members have been credited with participation to 50,439 missions and saving 4,200 lives. Another 5,000 people are helped each year in non-distress marine incidents and millions of dollars of property are saved.

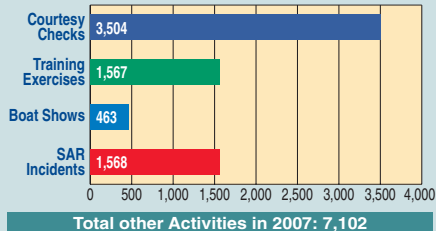
The CCGA is committed to the Government of Canada to provide search and rescue services. It is a hugely intensive operation requiring a large number of vessels, crewmembers and equipment.

The Auxiliary has shown an enduring and valuable commitment to SAR. Each year, the CCGA contributes to saving 94% of those, whose lives are at risk in marine incidents in Canada.

### National CCGA Volunteer Hours



### CCGA National other Activities

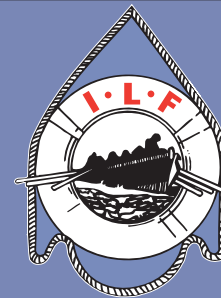




# International

The Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary has been recognized as one of the best, safest and most cost effective volunteer marine rescue organizations in the world with numerous national and international awards to its credit. The CCGA also plays an integral role in the world wide

SAR community. The CCGA has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary to promote joint efforts in search and rescue initiatives. The CCGA is also an active and contributing partner to the International Lifeboat Federation.







# Fundraising



17

The Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (National) is a federally incorporated non-profit organization (Registered Charity N° 87029 8494 RR 0001) with fundamental humanitarian goals which is accountable to the Government of Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard its partners and donors.

The CCGA is partially funded by the Canadian Coast Guard through a Contribution Agreement to provide insurance coverage for CCGA members involved in authorized SAR activities and to compensate them for out-of-pocket expenses.

The Auxiliary receives donations from the public and private corporations to support SAR and safe boating activities. Since it is a non-profit association, donations are tax-deductible.



# The Future

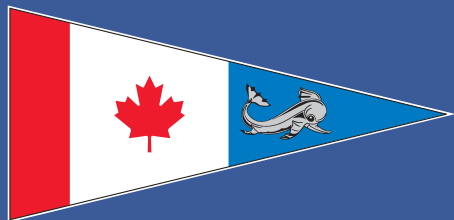
With the growing importance of safe boating education programs, the importance of private funding continues to increase.

The organization has reached a point where a diversification and expansion of funding resources is required to meet current and future needs and to enable the volunteers to go to the rescue with confidence and with the best training and equipment available.

More funding is required in order to expand SAR activities, to serve additional high incident areas and to expand safe boating activities.



For more information on the CCGA and how you can help, please contact:



## CCGA National Office

### Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) ▪ National

François Vézina, National Business Manager  
47 Riverview Street, Gatineau, Quebec J9H 4S7  
Telephone and Fax: (819) 557-0541

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

E-mail: [vezinaf@videotron.ca](mailto:vezinaf@videotron.ca)

Web Site: <http://www.ccg-gcac.org>

## CCGA Regional Offices

### Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) ▪ Pacific

25 Huron Street, Victoria, British Columbia, V8V 4V9  
Telephone: (250) 480-2798 Fax: (250) 480-2742  
Web Site: [www.ccg-pacific.org](http://www.ccg-pacific.org)

### Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) ▪ Central & Arctic

577 Kingston Road Suite 206, Toronto, Ontario, M4E 1R3  
Telephone: (416) 463-7283 / 1 (866) 429-7283  
Fax: (416) 463-7285 / 1 (866) 392-7285  
Web Site: [www.ccg-ca.ca](http://www.ccg-ca.ca)

### Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) ▪ Quebec

17 Prince Street, Sorel, Quebec, J3P 4J4  
Telephone: (450) 746-4385 Fax: (450) 746-4386

### Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) ▪ Maritimes

P.O. Box 9640, Commercial Service Center, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 5S4  
Telephone: (902) 475-1842 Fax: (902) 479-3222  
Web Site: [www.ccg-m.ca](http://www.ccg-m.ca)

### Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) ▪ Newfoundland & Labrador

P.O. Box 938, Station C, St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador, A1C 5M3  
Telephone: (709) 772-4428 Fax: (709) 772-4109  
Web Site: [www.ccg-nl.ca](http://www.ccg-nl.ca)