

A TRADITION OF CARING

IN CANADA AND AROUND THE WORLD



St. John Ambulance

SAVING LIVES
at work, home and play

www.sja.ca

A C R O S S C E N T U R I E S O F C H A N G E

Close to one thousand years of history makes the Order of St. John one of the oldest humanitarian organizations in the world. Times have changed but the Order of St. John has adapted time and again to the circumstances of the day.

1080

Benedictine monks serve in the Jerusalem hospital. Abandoning all worldly possessions they adopt as a uniform a simple robe and white cross.

1099

The Crusaders capture Jerusalem. The Benedictine monks care for the sick and wounded, rich and poor alike. The grateful Crusaders bestow land and buildings on the hospital.

1119

The Order assumes military protection of the pilgrims, and maintains its hospital function. Members later become known as the Knights of St. John or the Knights Hospitallers.

1309

The Knights Hospitallers establishes a new hospital and headquarters in Rhodes and begins building a fleet of ships. For 200 years the Hospitallers become the protectors of Christian shipping in the Mediterranean.

1522

The Knights lose Rhodes when they surrender to the Turks. The Knights look for a new home for the Order.

1530

Emperor Charles V offers the island of Malta to the Knights. Threatened by the Turks, they begin to fortify the island.

1565

The Knights turn back the Turks at the Great Siege of Malta, in which they are outnumbered four to one.

1798

Napoleon captures Malta, ending the military activities of the Order of St. John. The Knights of St. John devote themselves to charity.

1870 – 1877

The Order of St. John in England offers to do ambulance work in the field during the Franco-Prussian War. The Order in England forms the St. John Ambulance Association to teach first aid, home nursing and related subjects.

1883

St. John Ambulance is established in Canada.

1887 – 1888

Volunteers in the St. John Ambulance Association form the St. John Ambulance Brigade, echoing the traditions of the highly disciplined military knights. Queen Victoria grants a Royal Charter to the Order.

1914 – 1918

During the First World War the Order of St. John, as part of the Joint War Committee in England, helps establish a massive effort to provide medical services and field hospitals.

1946

Canada becomes a Priory of the Most Venerable Order of St. John.

1939 – 1945

During the Second World War St. John's roles include organizing the national anti-gas training program, running first aid posts in London's subway stations during the Blitz, assisting prisoners of war, and providing medical reserves and volunteer nurses to serve with the Allied Forces.



AROUND THE WORLD A HISTORY OF CARING

As one of the oldest humanitarian organizations in the world, the Order of St. John first established its unmatched history of caring more than nine centuries ago. In 1080, under the banner of the White Cross, Benedictine monks tended sick and injured knights and pilgrims at a hospital in Jerusalem.

Throughout the ensuing centuries bitter struggles, almost constant adversity and human tragedies shaped the development of the Order of St. John. From its humble beginnings in the Holy Land, the journey of the Order followed the knights to the Mediterranean where they grew into a vital naval force. For generation after generation that followed, the Order of St. John continued to move wherever human suffering and conflict called out to them. With each new community they entered, a new hospital was established.

In the early 19th century the Order of St. John became singularly devoted to acts of charity and hospital work. In 1877 the Order in England formed the St. John Ambulance Association to teach first aid, provide ambulance transportation, home nursing services and answer other humanitarian needs. In 1888, Queen Victoria granted a Royal Charter to the Order of St. John establishing it as the Grand Priory of England. Today, St. John Ambulance has more than 300,000 members in 42 countries around the world.



St. John Ambulance



CARING FOR COMMUNITIES

Canada — 1918 – 1919

Shortly after the First World War the world was struck by a massive pandemic, the Spanish Influenza, that killed more than 20 million people around the globe and close to 50,000 in Canada. In communities across the country, St. John Ambulance volunteers provided care and medical supplies.

Springhill, Nova Scotia — 1956 and 1958

When a devastating mine disaster struck not once but twice in this small Nova Scotia community, St. John Ambulance was there to offer medical assistance and supplies.

Saguenay Region, Quebec — 1996

In the small town of Latèrièrre, members of St. John Ambulance joined forces with local police to evacuate residents and patrol flooded shorelines.

Durham, Ontario — 1997

When ice jams caused an overflow of a local dam, flooding a community, three St. John Ambulance units provided medical, light and power support.

Ontario and Quebec — 1998

When days of freezing rain left more than three million people without power, St. John Ambulance volunteers helped evacuate nursing homes and deliver emergency supplies.

Canada and the United States — 2001

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on New York City and the Pentagon, over 40,000 passengers were diverted to Canadian airports. For six days St. John Ambulance volunteers assisted at airports and other centres to provide medical and humanitarian support services.

Toronto, Ontario — 2003

During the deadly SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) outbreak that killed 44 people and affected hundreds more, St. John Ambulance volunteers provided medical assistance at hospitals, clinics and community centres.

British Columbia — 2003

When forest fires spread through Kelowna and the interior of British Columbia, more than 50,000 people were evacuated. In the face of massive property loss and untold human suffering, volunteers from St. John Ambulance helped with the evacuations, medical supplies and services.

Southern Alberta — 2005

When heavy rains caused severe flooding in 17 communities, St. John Ambulance volunteers supported emergency workers, distributed supplies and provided primary first aid services.

CANADA

A HISTORY OF CARING TAKES SHAPE



St. John Ambulance

St. John's humanitarian efforts first came ashore in Canada close to 400 years ago—in the early 17th century—when the Hospitallers established a presence in New France—now the province of Quebec.



In 1883, Quebec City was the first Canadian branch to teach first aid courses; shortly thereafter courses were being offered in Kingston, Ontario. In the next 10 years, St. John Ambulance grew to be a national organization and by 1892 had 12 branches teaching first aid from coast-to-coast. In those early years, alongside the continued growth in first aid training, St. John Ambulance also began a proud tradition of volunteer work in our communities. Soon the volunteers of St. John became a common and welcome sight in times of emergency in communities across the country.

**In an emergency,
Canadians can count on
St. John Ambulance.**

In any disaster, human or natural, St. John Ambulance Canada volunteers are always there to offer assistance, expertise, caring and compassion. Our tradition of coming to the aid of Canadian communities stretches back well over a century.

Community Services—Caring for Communities from Coast-to-Coast

Today, more than 25,000 St. John Ambulance volunteers provide an astounding two million hours of community service across Canada. The financial contribution of St. John Ambulance volunteers could be calculated in hundreds of millions of dollars. This contribution to the safety of Canadians is immeasurable.



Working Toward the Future

St. John Ambulance maintains a focus on the future by encouraging the hopes and dreams of young Canadians. The St. John Ambulance Youth Program gives young people between the ages of six and 20 the chance to contribute to their communities by learning new skills and helping others. The Youth Program provides training in first aid, health care, life and safety skills and promotes social, educational and personal development through community service and leisure activities.



Reaching Out to Those in Need

St. John Ambulance is committed to the thousands of Canadians who are confined to hospitals, nursing homes and special needs centres. Across Canada, St. John Ambulance volunteers and their dogs bring joy and four-legged companionship to young and old through regular visits under the Therapy Dog Program. The Therapy Dog Program operates coast-to-coast in partnerships with hospitals, palliative care units, seniors residences, special needs schools and day-care centres.

Helping Around the World

St. John Ambulance Canada is part of an international humanitarian network that supports relief efforts around the world. In times of international human



and natural disasters, St. John Ambulance helps ease suffering with supplies and expertise. On an ongoing basis, the Priory of Canada supports the St. John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem, which provides leading eye-care and surgical services for free—regardless of nationality or religion.

Honouring Extraordinary Commitment

At the very core of the century-long success of St. John Ambulance in Canada is the unwavering commitment of exceptional volunteers. In many cases volunteers have committed decades to the betterment of their communities and the health and well-being of Canadians. The Order of St. John is an honour bestowed upon deserving members who have demonstrated exemplary service to their communities. Since 1912 in Canada, thousands of volunteers have been honoured by being awarded the Order of St. John.

The Order of St. John is one of five Canadian National Orders administered on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and was established in 1888 by Queen Victoria. The other four National Orders are The Order of Canada, The Order of Military Merit, The Order of Merit of the Police Services and The Royal Victorian Order. The Governor General of Canada is the Prior and Chief Officer of the Order of St. John.





Often it is ordinary people going to extraordinary lengths in times of emergency.

certified St. John instructors teach over half a million Canadians life-saving skills that can be used at work, home and play. In first aid and CPR training, St. John Ambulance is widely recognized as the industry leader with its proven combination of expert trainers, personalized instruction, how-to videos and learn-as-you-go training guides. Developed in conjunction with leading health care organizations, first aid training by St. John Ambulance incorporates the latest teaching methods to maximize learning.

Recognizing the Heroes Among Us

The Order of St. John recognizes individuals who have saved or attempted to save a life, regardless of the risk, through the application of first aid knowledge and skills. Life-saving awards of the Order are bestowed on individuals who, in a conspicuous act of gallantry, have endangered their own lives in saving or attempting to save another life.

First Aid Training—Providing Canadians with Life-saving Skills

Perhaps the largest area in which St. John Ambulance Canada has a direct impact on the safety and well-being of Canadians is in the provision of first aid and CPR training. Each year across the country, more than 6,000



Skills for Individuals with Benefits for the Community

While St. John Ambulance has helped millions of individuals obtain critical skills that can help save lives, the benefits of St. John Ambulance first aid and CPR training can be seen on a much wider scale. Proceeds from St. John Ambulance training programs are used to support community service efforts across the country.

Creating Safer Workplaces

St. John Ambulance has been a leader in workplace safety since the industrial revolution in the late 19th century. Today St. John Ambulance trains employees in virtually every kind of business setting in Canada including stores, restaurants, commercial vehicles, warehouses, offices and manufacturing facilities. Businesses and industries across Canada partner with St. John Ambulance to promote safety through off-the-shelf and custom training programs in first aid, CPR and automated external defibrillation (AED).



In first aid and CPR training, St. John Ambulance is widely recognized as the industry leader with its proven combination of expert trainers, personalized instruction, how-to videos and learn-as-you-go training guides.



Keeping Canadians Safe at Home

For families across Canada, St. John Ambulance provides training through local offices, community centres and schools. Our certified instructors teach critical first aid and CPR skills that bring peace of mind. From infant and child CPR to babysitting, wilderness and sports first aid training, Canadians feel safer at work, home and play with training from St. John Ambulance.

St. John Ambulance First Aid Products— Essential Tools in Any Emergency

St. John Ambulance is not only Canada's leading first aid and CPR trainer, it also provides a wide range of complete first aid kits and individual supplies that are trusted by Canadians from coast-to-coast. St. John Ambulance's vast knowledge and hands-on experience in training, emergency response and community services goes into every product that carries the St. John Ambulance name.

Developed for use at work, in the home and almost everywhere in between, first aid kits and products from St. John Ambulance are designed to provide quick and easy access to the tools needed in any emergency situation.



First aid kits and supplies are available through St. John Ambulance offices across Canada, online at www.sja.ca and through a network of retail partners. Proceeds from our products support much-needed community services from coast-to-coast.





St. John Ambulance

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at work, home and play

First aid and CPR save lives. As Canada's standard for excellence in first aid and CPR services, St. John Ambulance plays an integral role in our society. Building on a 900-year tradition, St. John Ambulance offers innovative programs and products, ensuring Canadians receive the best quality training and expertise. People across the country benefit from the care and safety provided by St. John Ambulance community service teams.

Quick Facts:

- *Established in 1883 in Canada*
- *Member of one of the world's oldest humanitarian organizations—the Order of St. John*
- *Serving communities across Canada*
- *25,000 volunteers provide two million volunteer hours annually*
- *6,000 certified instructors*
- *Provides first aid and CPR training programs that contain the latest protocols and meet provincial and federal regulations*
- *Trains more than 550,000 Canadians in first aid and CPR each year*
- *Markets a complete range of high quality first aid kits and supplies for use at work, home and play*
- *Supports humanitarian relief efforts across Canada and around the world*



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For further information about St. John Ambulance in your community, please visit www.sja.ca or contact

Provincial and Territorial Offices:

Newfoundland – St. John's	(709) 726-4200
Prince Edward Island – Charlottetown	(800) 618-4697
Nova Scotia – Dartmouth	(800) 565-5056
New Brunswick – Fredericton	(800) 563-9998
Quebec – Montreal	(514) 842-4801
Ontario – Toronto	(800) 268-7581
Federal District – Ottawa	(613) 722-2002
Manitoba – Winnipeg	(204) 784-7000
Saskatchewan – Regina	(306) 522-7226
Alberta – Edmonton	(800) 665-7114
British Columbia – Vancouver	(866) 321-2651
Yukon – Whitehorse	(867) 668-5001
Northwest Territories and Nunavut – Yellowknife	(867) 873-5658

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