

# Media Coverage

**SOURCE: MONTREAL**  
**STATION: CFCF-TV**  
PROGRAM: PULSE • TIME: 18:07  
REFERENCE: 8D98E.11  
LENGTH: 02:00  
DATE: 15 OCTOBER 2000

## CANADA'S COAST GUARD AUXILIARIES

DEBRA ARBEC (CFCF): Many of those who work for the Canadian Coast Guard aren't actually on the payroll. The Auxiliaries, as they're known, are there to patrol the country's waters for free. And at a conference this weekend, they demonstrated the value of some good volunteer help.

Stéphane Giroux has that story.

STÉPHANE GIROUX (Reporter):  
Coast Guard Auxiliaries are the eyes and ears of Canada's search and rescue operations. They're water lovers with a sense of mission.

UNIDENTIFIED (Auxiliary):  
I love the water, and I love being on the water, and figured if I have a chance to help somebody while I'm out there, that's just a bonus.

GIROUX:  
Search and rescue personnel from around the world spent a week in Montreal sharing their passion and knowhow. Only at such a convention could you find people climbing the walls of their hotel. The Canadian military also took part in a conference. The Air Force put on a display at Mirabel Airport to show off their own search and rescue capabilities.

Canada now boasts more than 5,000 volunteer Coast Guard Auxiliaries. They don't get to fly in

Hercules planes. Their fleet is somehow more modest.

UNIDENTIFIED (Auxiliary):  
Pleasure boats, fishing boats, tugboats. We have a couple of small oil tankers on the West Coast of the country. We don't have canoes.

GIROUX:  
But these men and women take their jobs very seriously. In fact, a quarter of all the search and rescue operations in Canada are actually carried out by the Coast Guard Auxiliaries.

The national Search and Rescue Secretariat provides them with full training, and at the end of the conference they got to measure their skills with their U.S. Coast Guard counterparts.

From basic first aid...

UNIDENTIFIED (Auxiliary):  
Your wounds are stabilized. I don't want you to move your neck, okay? I don't want you to move your neck.

GIROUX:  
To sea rescue operations...

GIROUX:  
And of course, boat rescue.

The Auxiliaries admit they do this out of passion. But they also think that Canadians venturing on the waters should remember their contribution.

UNIDENTIFIED (Auxiliary):  
We probably have a way to go as far as educating the public as to what our mission is. And the people that we've helped... you know, pulled off sinking boats and things like that, they definitely won't forget us, I'm sure.

GIROUX: Stéphane Giroux, Pulse News.