

Coquitlam Amateur Radio Emergency Services Society (CARESS)

I want to learn more about Amateur Radio



Amateur Radio is a growing and rewarding hobby. The requirements are now easier than ever for anyone interested in becoming a licensed amateur radio operator in Canada. Did you know that Morse Code is no longer required – but still used widely?

Amateur radio is for anyone interested in electronics, high technology, career enhancement, emergency preparedness and much more. It has immediate benefits and applications for workers in remote areas, hunters, boaters, and campers; anyone that requires additional means of wireless communication – for additional safety or just for the fun of establishing contacts with friends and operators around the world.

There are two levels of licenses in Canada: **Basic** and **Advanced**. Passing the **Basic** exam with 70% or better will allow you to operate radio equipment on the VHF/UHF bands (frequencies above 30MHz). If you pass the **Basic** exam with 80% or better, you can operate on the HF bands (frequencies below 30MHz - which provide worldwide range without repeaters or the Internet). The **Advanced** license is for technical operators that want to operate and manage repeater stations, construct their own radios and more. You can take courses offered by amateur radio clubs such as ours and then write the exam when ready.

ISED (Innovation, Science and Economic Development) is the governing body in Canada that regulates the hobby and assigns the licenses and call signs – which once obtained, is good for the life of the operator.

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) is a member-based, non-profit organization that represents the interests of amateur radio operators, provides technical advice and assistance to amateur radio enthusiasts, and supports a number of educational programs throughout Canada.

Below is a list of useful web sites that can assist you with insightful information about amateur radio:

- Radio Amateurs of Canada:** <https://wp.rac.ca/>
<https://wp.rac.ca/how-to-begin/>
- ISED Canada:** www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/h_sf01709.html
- Coquitlam Amateur Radio:** <http://ve7scc.org/>
- American Radio Relay League:** www.arrl.org
- Coax Publications Study Guides:** www.coaxpublications.ca
- Ham Study Guide:** www.hamstudy.com
- Practice Exams:** https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/025.nsf/eng/h_00040.html
<https://wp.rac.ca/examiner-v2-5/>