

PROTESTING IN CALGARY

The Calgary Police Service recognizes the Charter rights of everyone to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. We also recognize the rights of residents, visitors and businesses to a safe environment.

We police behaviour, not beliefs.

For a list of laws and bylaws with sections addressing protests and demonstrations, visit calgarypolice.ca

WHO TO CONTACT



The Calgary Police Service Police Liaison Team (PLT) works with individuals or groups to help facilitate peaceful events. Liaison officers are a great resource for those planning on organizing or attending an event.

To get in touch with the Police Liaison Team, visit calgarypolice.ca for a contact list.

BEFORE YOU GO

■ Know your laws and bylaws

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Section 2, guarantees your right to believe what you choose and to express your view. However, only peaceful assemblies are protected and all rights protected are subject to reasonable limits. No rights are absolute.

■ Know your rights and responsibilities

■ Know the role of police

■ Consider your actions

■ Communicate with police and ask questions



**CALGARY
POLICE
SERVICE**

YOU CAN:

- Gather peacefully to assert your rights
- Express your thoughts, beliefs and opinions
- Get your message out in a lawful way
- Have freedom of association

YOU CANNOT:

- Block or obstruct a highway
- Cause a disturbance or take part in a riot
- Wear a disguise during an unlawful assembly or with the intent to commit a criminal offence
- Disobey a court order
- Harm or injure anyone
- Possess weapons of any kind, including substances such as tear gas
- Trespass on private property
- Impede a parade

YOU MUST:

- Leave private property immediately if requested by the owner or an agent of the owner. You may be arrested and are subject to being charged with trespassing if you refuse to leave.
- Provide your personal information if arrested by a peace officer. You are legally required to provide your information and failure to do so could result in criminal charges.

THE ROLE OF POLICE

The Calgary Police Service will:

- Preserve the peace and maintain public safety
- Work with all those affected by an event
- In the case of traffic disruptions, work to minimize the impact on the travelling public and restore the orderly flow of traffic
- Work with property owners to remove people from private property who have been asked to leave
- Investigate criminal wrongdoing
- Respond to unlawful events in an appropriate manner. Violence and criminal activity will not be tolerated.

CONSIDER YOUR ACTIONS

Protesting unlawfully has the potential to affect your future. Charges resulting in a criminal record could result in things like:

- Travel limitations
- Possibility of limited employment prospects
- Impacts when obtaining insurance or renting housing
- Financial hardship due to fine payments
- Further legal consequences if breaching a court order