



Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Pêches et Océans Canada

Canadian Coast Guard

Garde côtière canadienne



## Wanna be a Marine Communications and Traffic Services Officer?

Would you like to help vessels in distress? Prevent them from colliding? Do you enjoy a fast-paced environment? Then, we may have the job for you!

### What do they do?

Marine Communications and Traffic Services (MCTS) Officers with the Canadian Coast Guard provide one of the first responses to vessels in distress. They oversee the safety of waterways within Canada's 200 mile limit by communicating with vessels, issuing weather bulletins and monitoring marine traffic to ensure that vessels entering Canadian waters are in compliance with Canadian Acts and Regulations. The safe and orderly flow of ships is highly dependent on the traffic regulating and alerting network provided by MCTS Officers. These officers carefully monitor vessel movements to reduce the probability of accidents and can implement actions necessary for vessels to avoid collisions, groundings or strikings.

The job is challenging, fast-paced and always interesting, but can be stressful and demanding. You speak with vessel captains and crews in all kinds of situations, and are often the first contact in a marine emergency or crisis. During a marine emergency, you act as a go-between for Search and Rescue and the vessel in danger, and are often the voice those in danger look to for advice and comfort. You need to be able to multi-task and manage many issues at once. This career involves shift work because MCTS centres operate around the clock, 24 hours a day seven days a week, 365 days a year.

### How do I become a MCTS Officer?

To qualify as a MCTS officer you must have a high school diploma and pass a written aptitude test and interview and in some centres, have the ability to speak English and French.

There are three phases of training:

**Phase one:** Learn how a MCTS centre works. The trainee does not participate in duties of a MCTS officer, but watches others while they work.

**Phase two:** The trainee attends the Coast Guard College in Sydney, Nova Scotia for six months of classroom and simulator time. Further information about the College can be found at the following website: [www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/eng/College/Welcome](http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/eng/College/Welcome)

**Phase three:** On-the-job training at the assigned MCTS centre can take from three to six months, depending on the training needs of the individual.

After successful completion of the training process, the graduate becomes a certified MCTS officer.

Further information about the MCTS program can be found at [www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/eng/CCG/Mcts](http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/eng/CCG/Mcts).

Openings for jobs with the Canadian Coast Guard are advertised through the Public Service Commission website at [www.jobs.gc.ca](http://www.jobs.gc.ca). Please refer to this website regularly for employment opportunities.

Information requests may be sent to [mctsctmottawa@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:mctsctmottawa@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).



## SPOTLIGHT ON...

### VALERIE DWYER, MCTS OFFICER

Valerie works at the Canadian Coast Guard in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. She loves working as a MCTS officer.

"Believe it or not, one of the things I like most about this position is shift work. This allows me to have much more flexibility and spend time with my daughter. Being a MCTS officer is a challenging job and there is never a dull moment in this field. Between responding to distress calls, addressing the environment and new technological advancements, things are kept very interesting. If you have strong communications skills and are able to react well in a high stress situation, then this may be the job for you!"

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