



## OPP PROVINCIAL LIAISON TEAM (PLT)

The PLT are part of the OPP response to events such as demonstrations, protests, rallies, vigils and labour disputes.

### WHO ARE WE?

PLT work with individuals or groups to help facilitate peaceful events and are a great resource for those planning on organizing or attending an event.

Our job is to dialogue and work with all of those affected by an event.

Visit [www.opp.ca/demonstrator-rights](http://www.opp.ca/demonstrator-rights) for more information on this program and to view a contact list.

### WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Your rights
- The role of police
- Consider your actions
- Communicate with police pre-event
- When actions could result in charges
- Know the local by-laws
- Understand the consequences
- Ask questions
- Working together is better for everyone



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## YOU CAN:

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

The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* guarantees certain rights and fundamental freedoms. Section 2 of the Charter guarantees your right to believe what you choose, and to express your values. The OPP recognizes the importance of fundamental freedoms and all other protections in the *Charter*.

## YOU CAN'T:

- Block or obstruct a highway
- Breach the peace
- Cause a disturbance, take part in a riot
- Wear a mask or disguise during an unlawful assembly, or, with intent to commit an indictable offence
- Disobey a court order
- Harm or injure anyone
- Possess weapons of any kind including substances such as tear gas

The *Criminal Code* of Canada and/or “Case Law” contains various provisions that act to limit or control certain activities related to public demonstrations.

## IF YOU'RE NOT SURE, ASK:

- Is this considered a peaceful/lawful event?
- Does this event require a permit?
- Am I allowed to wear a mask?

Though all Canadians are entitled to rights and freedoms, Section 1 of the *Charter* calls for certain limitations. Rights and freedoms are not without responsibilities. The Supreme Court of Canada has recognized that freedoms in the Charter cannot be extended to protect and justify threats or acts of violence like assault, destruction of property, or unlawful conduct.

## KNOW THE CONSEQUENCES

There also may be provincial and municipal statutes that apply during demonstrations such as the *Highway Traffic Act*. Protesting unlawfully has the potential to affect your future in various ways.

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
- Further legal consequences if breaching a court order



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