



COASTAL STEWARDSHIP NETWORK

COASTAL FIRST NATIONS

GREAT BEAR INITIATIVE

Coastal Guardian Watchmen Uniform Policy

Why are Coastal Guardian Watchmen wearing uniforms?

A priority identified by members of the Coastal Guardian Watchmen Network has been to establish a regional brand for staff conducting Guardian Watchmen activities on behalf of their Nation. This started with a Coastal Guardian Watchmen flag that many Guardian Watchmen have been flying on their boats since 2009 and has now evolved into Guardian Watchmen wearing uniforms while conducting their activities.

The purpose of the Coastal Guardian Watchmen uniforms is to **increase the recognition and visibility** of individuals patrolling and monitoring their territories and to **increase the legitimacy and authority** of First Nation resource practitioners by having a consistent visual presence up and down the coast.

Wearing a uniform comes with **significant responsibility**. In wearing a uniform, Guardian Watchmen are representing their Nation, and all other Nations who share this uniform up and down the coast. Please take the responsibility of wearing a uniform very seriously. Know that you are an **ambassador for your territory**. Your actions and behaviour will be visible and noticeable.

Who can wear a Coastal Guardian Watchmen uniform?

The **uniform items are strictly for the use of Guardian Watchmen** and resource practitioner staff who **work directly for the Nation and have permission from the Nation** to wear the Coastal Guardian Watchmen uniform.

Uniform items are not for members of the public or community – this ensures the uniforms are exclusively associated with practitioners engaged in Guardian Watchmen efforts condoned by their Nation. Just as you would not expect to see a member of the public in a DFO uniform, neither would you expect to see a member of the community in a Coastal Guardian Watchmen uniform, unless they were specifically undertaking the responsibilities of Guardian Watchmen.

The exception to this rule is the baseball hats. Baseball hats with the Coastal Guardian Watchmen logo can be distributed to community members or others as the Nation sees fit.

What are the responsibilities associated with wearing a uniform?

The Coastal Guardian Watchmen **uniforms should only be worn by Guardian Watchmen and Stewardship staff when they are undertaking official monitoring and stewardship activities** in the traditional territory of their Nation.

Everyone wearing the Coastal Guardian Watchmen uniform must **abide by the ethics, authority and traditional laws of the respective Nation**, including interacting with all resource users in a respectful and appropriate manner.

Everyone wearing the Coastal Guardian Watchmen uniform must ensure that their **behaviour and activities are consistent with the provincial and federal regulations** that are the focus of their compliance monitoring efforts.

By wearing the uniform, Guardian Watchmen **represent their Nation at all times, and they also represent the regional Network of Nations** working together to create an effective and united presence on the Coast. Guardian Watchmen are the ambassadors of their territories.

When wearing the uniform, Guardian Watchmen are **responsible for acting in a timely and responsible manner to respond to any suspicious activities** that they encounter and/or that are reported to them by community members and/or the broader public.

The Coastal Guardian Watchmen **uniform must be treated with respect at all times**. Misuse of the Coastal Guardian Watchmen uniform must be reported to the local Guardian Watchmen or Stewardship program coordinator.

If you have any questions about the Coastal Guardian Watchmen uniforms or the Uniform Policy please contact info@coastalguardianwatchmen.com