



KNOW YOUR PROTEST RIGHTS

BEFORE YOU GO

- Use a password, not a fingerprint, on your phone to protect against searches.
- If you will be engaging in activities that you believe will risk arrest: Memorize the phone numbers of your family and a lawyer who you can call (or, write those numbers on your arm). Take three days' worth of essential medication with you in its original bottle. If you have children, make emergency childcare plans.
- If you have a disability, special medical needs, or limited English or French: Wear a bracelet or carry a card explaining your circumstances

IF ARRESTED

- You have the right to be informed promptly of the reason for your arrest.
- DO NOT resist arrest. DO NOT give explanations or excuses.
- If you are arrested, you have the right to remain silent.
- Once arrested, you have a right to speak to a lawyer, and the police must advise you of this right as soon as possible.
- The police must stop questioning you until you have been given an opportunity to contact a lawyer.
- You have a right to a telephone and the right to make more than one call, if necessary, in order to reach a lawyer.
- You have a right to speak to your lawyer in private.
- Once you have spoken to your lawyer, the police may continue to ask you questions. You do NOT have to answer these questions.

ENCOUNTERING LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Along with municipal police, there may be provincial police, and/or RCMP at the demonstration. You can look up the badges of those police forces online in advance.
- The police are allowed to approach you and ask you questions. You do not have to answer questions if you don't want to. However, always be polite.
- During COVID, you may be required by law to provide your name, birthday, address, or identification depending on the emergency orders in place in your province or territory.
- Do NOT lie or provide false documents to police.
- Be aware that police can sometimes mislead you, such as by offering false promises.
- To find out if you are under arrest or detention, simply ask "Am I under arrest"? If they say yes, you can ask why. Alternatively, you may ask the officer "Am I free to leave?" If they answer no, you may ask "why not?"
- If you are detained by the police, they must inform you that you can talk with a lawyer and must provide you with an opportunity to do so.
- If you are detained, you do not have to answer any questions posed by the police. A police officer can conduct a pat down if they believe that their safety, or the safety of others, is at risk.
- DO say if you do not consent to a search.
- If you do not consent to a search, there are circumstances in which police might still have a right to conduct a search.
- Do NOT resist a search or struggle during a search

IF YOUR RIGHTS ARE VIOLATED

- If you believe your rights are being violated, record/document anything you can.
- When speaking to an officer, you may request and record their badge number. Record which force they are from (RCMP, provincial, or city) Try to get contact information for witnesses.
- If you are injured, seek medical attention. Once you have, take careful photos of any injuries as soon as possible. Keep all official paperwork and receipts for medical treatment.
- File a complaint! In most provinces and with the RCMP, a person does NOT need to be the victim of the misconduct to submit a complaint.
- They also do NOT need to be a Canadian citizen.
- If your complaint is against the RCMP, you should contact the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP. If it is against provincial or municipal police, make a complaint with your local complaints body.
- You should speak to a lawyer for additional help.