

# Community Service Order

It's your community



## Introduction

The Community Service Order provides judges with a sentencing alternative as a means of dealing with the offender in his/her community. Included as a condition of a probation order, the Community Service Order encourages offender and community responsibility in the resolution of some types of criminal activity.

In 1999–2000 there were 199 adult offenders who performed 3,720 hours of community service. In the same year, 456 young persons were sentenced to community service, completing 23,556 hours of community work in soup kitchens, for boys and girls clubs, churches and other agencies.

## Objectives

By providing a number of hours of meaningful community service the offender not only repays the community for the harm he/she has done but also has the opportunity to find outlets in the community for developing skills while discovering new interests and abilities. Rather than being punitive, Community Service Orders focus on offender responsibility and accountability.



## How Community Service Orders work

When appropriate, the court will order an offender to perform a set number of hours of community service, as a condition of probation.

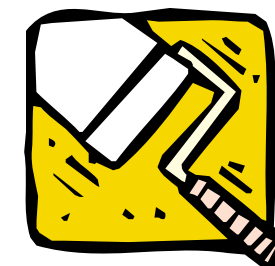
A Community Service Order involves well-prepared, meaningful activity, which whenever possible, relates to the offender's interests, skills and abilities.

The offender must be willing to participate in the program. A Community Service Order can be for a maximum of 240 hours and must be completed as soon after the sentence as is reasonable, and within the terms of the probation order.

Failure to complete a Community Service Order can result in a jail term of eighteen months for a summary offense, and, two years for an indictable offense.

People who participate in a Community Service Order may find themselves involved in a wide variety of activities, such as:

- working with the disabled, senior citizen groups or providing services in hospitals
- assisting volunteer groups in a variety of community projects
- providing services to victims such as repairing vandalized homes or property
- or, providing light maintenance and/or repair work, such as painting, clean-up and carpentry, for non-profit organizations.



## Supervision

Since the Community Service Order is a condition of a Probation Order, supervision of the order is essential. Although primarily the responsibility of a probation officer, staff members of community agencies share in providing levels of supervision.

## Community Involvement

The Community Service Order Program has been operating in New Brunswick since January 1977. To date, there has been strong support for the concept from the various communities in which it has operated. The program has involved a wide range of community, municipal and provincial government agencies, service clubs, church groups and individuals in providing community services.

## You can participate

If you would like further information on the program, contact the following Public Safety regional offices:

Fredericton, 453-2367  
Moncton, 856-2313  
Saint John, 658-2495  
Edmundston, 735-2030  
Bathurst, 547-2159