



Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection  
BC Parks – Cariboo Region  
Bowron Lake Provincial Park

## **Code of Ethics for Boaters, Canoeists, and Kayakers on Bowron Lake**

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Bowron Lake is a multi-use recreational lake in the northwest corner of Bowron Lake Provincial Park. Bowron Lake is used by both motorized and non-motorized watercraft. BC Parks has developed a Boating Code of Ethics for Bowron Lake in response to requests from the public. The Code of Ethics was developed based on Environmental Concerns, Boating Safety, and Personal Safety.

### **Protect Your Environment**

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- Motorized and electric propeller-driven boats are prohibited from entering the inflow of the Bowron River at the south end of Bowron Lake, and any of the lakes on the canoe circuit. BC Parks staff and contractors are exempt from this rule.
  - Motorized boats must observe the 10km/hr speed limit within 30m of the shoreline to prevent erosion and minimize wildlife disturbance from boat wake.
  - Keep your distance when viewing or photographing animals to avoid stressing the wildlife. Canoeists and kayakers often get too close to wildlife, potentially disturbing the animal and placing themselves at risk.
  - Don't overfill fuel tanks. Remove fuel tanks from the boat when refuelling to minimize chances of spillage. Don't bilge pump oily water into the lake.
  - Dispose of fish entrails in garbage cans or in deep water; not on the beach. Dispose of garbage in the provided garbage cans.
  - Respect private property on the lake by only stopping at areas around cabins in the event of an emergency.
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## **Boating Safety**

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- Give canoes and kayaks a wide berth when passing. If you cannot give a wide berth when passing canoes and kayaks control your speed to minimize the height of your wake to avoid swampings.
- It can be difficult for larger vessels to see canoes and kayaks; therefore canoes and kayaks should move to avoid an oncoming vessel before it reaches them.
- Be aware of other boat traffic on Bowron Lake and approach and pass other boats with caution. This also applies to boats and other activities on the beach.
- Determine a safe speed for your boat based on your experience, weather conditions, visibility, other traffic on the lake, and manoeuvrability of your vessel.
- Ensure that there are enough suitable personal flotation devices (PFD's) for everyone on board your boat, and that everyone wears a PFD.
- Park Rangers and Park Facility Operators are not always available to assist boaters in distress. Be prepared to help fellow boaters as you would like to be helped yourself.

## **Personal Safety**

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- Be prepared for all weather conditions. The weather can change quickly on Bowron Lake, sometimes stranding boaters. Ensure that you have appropriate clothing, lifejackets, food, a signalling device, bailer, a length of rope and other safety equipment as required by Coast Guard regulations.
  - Canoes and kayaks should follow the shoreline wherever possible. Storms often blow up quickly in the afternoons.
  - Leave a trip plan with someone or in your vehicle. This can be invaluable in helping to locate missing parties.
  - Respect the water, weather and/or environmental conditions, and make choices based on your experience.
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