

# Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses Congrégation chrétienne des Témoins de Jéhovah



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January 2, 2015

TO ALL CONGREGATION SERVICE COMMITTEES IN CANADA

Re: Territory seldom worked

Dear Brothers:

The *Application for Territory Seldom Worked*, *Unassigned Territory* list, and *Frequently Asked Questions About Territory Seldom Worked* have been posted on [jw.org](http://jw.org). Please provide the publisher who would like to apply to serve as a team captain with a copy of each of the above. For those who wish to join a group from a different congregation, provide them with one copy of the application form only.

## Approving Applications

- Groups should be made up of at least 2 publishers and limited to 20, including minor children. Assignments will not be given to a publisher to work alone unless he is in the territory in conjunction with secular work. Two or more groups should not request the same territory at the same time in order to work closely together.
- Generally, a group planning to work territory on an Indian reserve should be limited to four or six to avoid attracting undue attention. Those considering such territory and other difficult-to-access communities should have the equipment, expertise, and means to accomplish such a task. The presence of married couples makes a good impression due to the family-oriented nature of remote communities. It is not recommended that single sisters apply for reserve witnessing in remote areas. One group commented: “Having native Indian brothers or sisters working with your group proves to be of invaluable and immeasurable assistance. It opens many doors, conversations, and hearts that would otherwise remain closed.”
- Do not submit an application for a group consisting solely of single brothers and single sisters. In this regard, a publisher traveling without his or her mate is considered single.
- Do not submit applications for persons currently experiencing marital difficulties. You will want to exercise discretion when approving a publisher who will not be accompanied by his or her mate.
- Review with the applicants the need to consider carefully their financial situation in order to be sure that they will be able to care adequately for their own food, lodging, and transportation when they receive an assignment. This should be emphasized even if the publishers have received offers of assistance from either individuals or congregations. Accommodations are generally expensive and/or very basic. At times camping is the only option. Local food prices may be more than twice the cost of similar items found in larger communities. Also, please verify that they will have adequate transportation to fulfill their assignment. If further information is required, we invite you to contact the branch on behalf of a group that qualifies and is seriously considering such an assignment.
- If for any reason an applicant does not qualify for the work, you should kindly inform the publisher of the reasons why he or she is not being approved. Do not leave it to the Service Department's Territory Desk to inform the publisher that he or she does not qualify.

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### **After a Group Receives an Assignment**

- Meet with the team captain to determine what further assistance can be given. If the group will be assisting a congregation, help the team captain to communicate immediately with the coordinator of the body of elders of that congregation.
- The team captain should arrange for the literature needs of his group. If extra literature is needed, he may request it through his congregation. He can either carry the literature to the assignment or arrange to have it sent to the assignment. If the literature and/or magazines are to be sent directly to the assignment, e-mail the request to [shippingcorrespondence.ca@jw.org](mailto:shippingcorrespondence.ca@jw.org). Write Seldom Worked Territory in the subject line along with the congregation name and number. List the required items, the date they are needed and the address of the desired shipping location along with a phone number. This request should be sent to the branch office at least one month prior to the departure.
- If available, a qualified brother would take the lead in conducting meetings for field service.
- After the group returns from their assignment, it would be appreciated if you would remind the team captain to **SUBMIT HIS REPORT TO THE TERRITORY DESK BY THE DUE DATE**. At times, we have waited several months before receiving these reports.

As a reminder, unassigned territory is cared for by the branch office and should not be worked without our permission. However, if your congregation borders unassigned territory, some of your publishers may wish to accompany the team captain's group. They should make inquiry of the team captain assigned to the territory so that he can inform them whether additional assistance would be appropriate. Otherwise, the team captain is expected to fulfill his assignment as best he can with the publishers in his group.

If your congregation has many territories that have not been worked for over a year and you would like to accept the assistance of a group to help you work the territory, please indicate this on your *Congregation Analysis Report* or speak to your circuit overseer the next time he serves your congregation.

The publishers in your congregation will appreciate your warm interest in their endeavors to expand their ministry to declare the good news. We thank you for your cooperation and due consideration of these matters.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation  
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

PS to coordinator of the body of elders:

At the next Service Meeting, please make an announcement to the congregation that updated information concerning territory seldom worked has been received. Any publisher who has questions regarding territory seldom worked may speak to a member of the Congregation Service Committee.