

OUR HISTORY

Since 1985, Canada's chemistry sector has led the journey towards safe, responsible, and sustainable chemical manufacturing through its U.N.-recognized sustainability initiative, Responsible Care®. Founded in Canada, it is now practiced in **73 countries** and **by 96 of the 100 largest chemical producers in the world**.

1979

In Mississauga, Ont., a train carrying styrene, toluene, propane, caustic soda and chlorine derailed and caught fire leading to the evacuation of approximately **240,000 people**.

Dubbed the Mississauga Miracle because no one died, the event was a wakeup call to industry leaders, local communities and governments, who realized that there was little clarity about who was in charge of safety and other issues relating to the incident.



Bhopal photo credit: National Geographic

1984

In December, Bhopal, India experienced the world's worst industrial disaster.

Over 500,000 people were exposed to methyl isocyanate gas and an estimated 15,000–20,000 people were killed and hundreds of thousands left suffering chronic health issues.



1986

The National Advisory Panel is a group of academics, environmental leaders, and community members who provide an external, critical perspective on all matters related to the Canadian chemistry industry. In 1986, the First meeting of the National Advisory Panel was held.

The work of this National Advisory Panel and committees eventual informed the development of six **Responsible Care Codes of Practice**.

1989

The **International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA)** and the **ICCA Responsible Care Leadership Group** are formed. The ICCA Responsible Care Leadership Group exercises guardianship over Responsible Care globally and connects with other international institutions such as the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

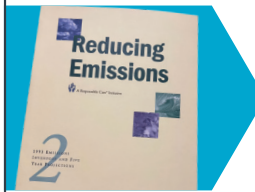


International Council of Chemical Associations

1993

CIAC's first **Reducing Emissions report** is published; the only publication of its kind in Canada. NERM is subsequently used to guide the design of Environment Canada's National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI).

The first verifications of CIAC members against Responsible Care are conducted in Sarnia and Elmira, Ontario.



1997

Responsible Care is extended to **transportation companies** and the chemical distribution industry.



2005

The Global Responsible Care Charter is approved. All multinational CEOs and **52 national Responsible Care associations** are expected to commit to the Charter by 2006. Five CCPA multinational CEOs are the first in the world to commit to the Charter — Methanex; Recochem; Chemtrade Logistics; Canada Colors; ERCO Worldwide.



2020

CIAC updates its **Responsible Care Codes** to include new commitments for Canada's leading chemical companies to engage **Indigenous communities** through proactive and formal processes.

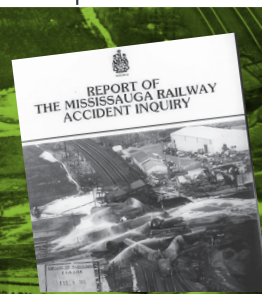


2023

The **"Godfather of Responsible Care,"** Jean Bélanger, passes away.



1979



Report of the Mississauga Railway Accident Inquiry, Library of Parliament Canada, 1980.

1983

In a government-commissioned study, **12 chemical industry leaders** evaluated the role of government in regulation. **Jean Bélanger**, then president of the Canadian Chemical Producers' Association (CCPA), now called the Chemistry Industry Association of Canada (CIAC), asked members to sign a Statement of Guiding Principles.

Later next year in February, the report was published, including the signed principles, which later formed the basis of Responsible Care®.



Jean Bélanger

1984

1985

1985

At a special CCPA meeting in January 1985, a motion to make Responsible Care mandatory was approved unanimously. All companies were urged to review safety practices to identify potential weaknesses and report findings. **Responsible Care was born.** Committees were formed to develop a safety assessment process and a set of codes for responsible management of chemical products. Members agreed to incorporate a verification process, voluntary publication of individual chemical emissions and five-year projections of emissions reduction, which formed the basis of the National Emissions Reduction Masterplan, or NERM. The Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response (TRANSCAER®) initiative is launched in 1985 by CCPA.

TransCAER®

1986



1988

1988

The **CCPA** presented its Responsible Care concept to representatives of the U.S. Chemical Manufacturers Association (now the American Chemistry Council), and it was adopted there. Soon after, an effort was initiated to bring together all national chemical associations, with the intention of establishing **Responsible Care worldwide**.



1989

1991

1991

The **TRANSCAER Safety Train (CCPX 911)**, a railway tank car that has been converted into a classroom on wheels for training emergency responders was launched. It was the first training car of its kind in Canada — a concept that has since been adopted by other organizations across North America and around the world.



1991 Safety Train

1993

1996

1996

Responsible Care is adopted in **40 countries**, bringing **86 per cent of global** chemical production under the umbrella of the program. Jean Bélanger is made an officer of the Order of Canada.



Jean Bélanger

1997

2000

2000

The new **Responsible Care Ethic** is approved, with a commitment to sustainable development through six new principles.

"We are committed to do the right thing and be seen to do the right thing. We are guided towards environmental, societal, and economic sustainability by the following principles."

2005

2007

2007

Another round of CCPA review on its ongoing initiative highlighted that public concern about **sustainability principles** had increased and there was now an expectation that the private sector would reduce its impact on the environment as it developed economically.

2020

2022

2022

CIAC introduces the first Responsible Care Codes for **equity, diversity and inclusion**.

CIAC launches the new **Responsible Care Awards** to recognize companies that exemplify leadership and outstanding performance based on the implementation and execution of Responsible Care. Through this recognition, CIAC provides its members and partners with opportunities to promote the Responsible Care brand while expanding business value.



2023

2025

2025

Responsible Care celebrates 40 years in Canada! Today, Responsible Care is practiced in nearly **70 economies** and **64 chemical manufacturers associations** around the world manage national Responsible Care programs — numbers that continue to grow.

This special year also marks **40 years of TRANSCAER®** and launch of the new Safety Train (CCPX 911).



RESPONSIBLE CARE®
Driving Safety & Sustainability



CHEMISTRY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

