



Lifesaving Society Update

September 4, 2020

As the Lifesaving Society continues to provide updated information and resources to support your plans related to staffing and reopening aquatic facilities, please note the following items:

- 1. National Lifeguard and Lifesaving Instructor Training at 15 Years Old:** Just a reminder that you can now adjust your program information and prerequisite requirements for [National Lifeguard](#) and [Lifesaving Instructor](#) courses with the adoption of 15 years as the minimum age prerequisite for certification. Candidates must be at least 15 years of age as of the final day of the course; all other award prerequisites remain unchanged.

The time is right! In an era of staff shortages in aquatics, this change means more candidates can participate in the certification training they need to be ready for employment. It also means that employers can tap into a larger talent pool and begin staff recruitment efforts earlier.

After much discussion and consultation, it was agreed that age is only one factor among many including physical, cognitive and emotional maturity that determine successful outcomes. There was also consensus that the Society's competency-based evaluation system (the Must Sees) is, in the end, the most useful and objective measure of success.

The Society's minimum age for certification has no impact on the minimum age for employment for lifeguards in BC & Yukon, still being 16 years of age, but it does allow more youth to better prepare themselves for work in aquatics as soon as they reach the age of employment.

- 2. Reopening Survey:** It's been over a month since the last update to the Pool Reopening Survey Results so if your indoor pool reopening information has changed in that time, please send a quick email with the new information to info@lifesaving.bc.ca and we'll update the results chart on the website by Friday, September 11.
- 3. Desk Calendar:** Our most popular item, and they're free! Yes, we now have the coveted 2021/2022 plastic desk calendar available to you with National Drowning Prevention Weeks highlighted in blue. With no regional Affiliate meetings this year, we want to minimize our mailing costs, so there's a catch to receiving them. With every order of merchandise made in September from the [Shop](#), we will drop a desk calendar in with your shipment (or pick-up order). As many of you request more than one, you can get one calendar for every \$100 of merchandise ordered to a maximum of 5. As always, they will help you in scheduling your Lifesaving Society courses over the next two years!

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