



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®

The Lifeguarding Experts

2024 Annual Report

Lifesaving Society BC & Yukon Branch

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President & Executive Director Report

Two words come to mind in reflecting on 2024: Stronger. Together.

Collaboration has been at the heart of our efforts to prevent drowning through training programs, public education, aquatic safety services, and sport. This year, we amplified our reach thanks to collaborations with Affiliate members, community partners, and health authorities. These partnerships allowed for new initiatives across BC/ Yukon focusing on key target areas for drowning reduction as identified in the Canadian Drowning Prevention Plan.

In training programs, our certification numbers remain high. We commend our Affiliates on their excellent delivery of Swim Instructor (SI) training courses, with 2268 new Swim Instructors certified. This was the first year for SI recertification since the introduction of Swim for Life in BC/Yukon; we are pleased to share that 2706 Swim Instructors recertified. In November, our program team launched a major First Aid revision in alignment with WorkSafeBC’s new curriculum requirements. Much of the year was spent preparing for 2025 leadership recertification cycle.

To better support our Affiliates in program delivery, we restructured our Branch team, added positions, and welcomed five new staff members. In addition to our Burnaby headquarters, we now have staff stationed in the Okanagan, Kootenays, and Vancouver Island to improve regional service. Throughout the year, staff and National Trainers conducted over 100 Affiliate visits across BC/Yukon, strengthening relationships and gaining insight into regional challenges. Online Affiliate meetings and Trainer Talks created ongoing opportunities for connection and information sharing. Our annual Aquatic Professional Development

Meeting sold out with 120 aquatics professionals in attendance.

In March, we held the Annual General Meeting at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver, which saw the induction of Branch President Graham Esplen. The 112th Annual Commonwealth Honour & Rescue Ceremony took place at the Fairmont the next day showcasing heroic water rescues and longstanding volunteer dedication. We were delighted to welcome BC Premier David Eby, who spoke on the importance of lifeguard training and swim lessons.

We expanded our WaterWise outreach program to two teams, thanks to generous funding from Island Health. Our mainland team travelled throughout BC to deliver water safety education at schools, beaches, marinas, and community events, while the Vancouver Island team set up booths on lakes with the highest rates of drowning in the Capital Regional District.

In July, Vancouver lifeguard and swim instructor Jessi Harewicz swam across Lake Ontario to raise \$4,080 for Swim to Survive, spreading the message that all Canadians deserve the chance to learn basic swimming survival skills. The funds raised will support Swim to Survive initiatives in remote and indigenous communities in 2025.

National Drowning Prevention Week saw increased social media engagement, in-person events, and collaborations with Affiliates and community partners. BC Place and White Rock Pier lit up in blue to support the cause, and the week culminated with the successful return of the Barnsley Lifeguarding Championship after a six-year hiatus. Nine teams competed at South Arm Pool in Richmond and team Whistleblowers took the Shield.

2024 was a remarkable year for Lifesaving Sport in BC. We were proud to host the Canadian Pool Lifesaving Championships at Saanich Commonwealth Place in Victoria. Congratulations to BC’s own Pacific Lifesaving Club on winning the national team title! Later in August, BC athletes competed on Team Canada at the Lifesaving World Championships in Gold Coast, Australia. Caitlyn Fowler captained the Youth Women national team, and sisters Anna-Marie and Abigail Skinder won silver and bronze medals.

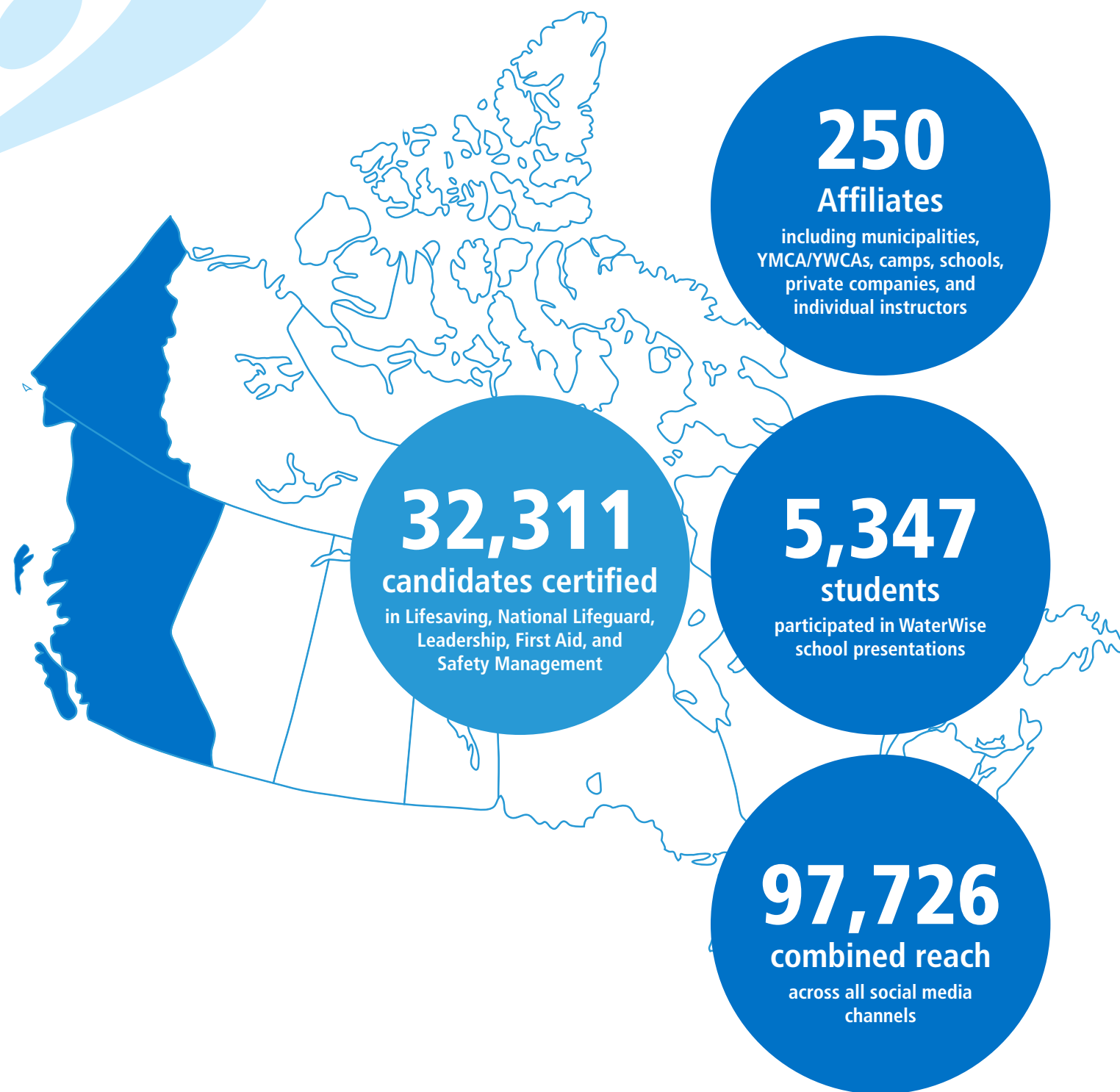
In line with our 2024-26 strategic plan, we have prioritized building partnerships to advance our mission. We have partnered with organizations like Canucks Autism Network to create adapted swim instruction materials for neurodivergent children. We were proud to offer translated Swim to Survive programs for newcomers to Canada with municipalities and DIVERSECity Community Resources Society. We worked closely with health authorities to address drowning as a significant and entirely preventable public health issue. We know we are stronger together.

We are grateful for the ongoing support of staff, volunteers, Affiliates, partners, and donors. Thank you for your contributions as we work towards a drowning-free Canada.

Graham Esplen President
Lenea Grace Executive Director



Impact

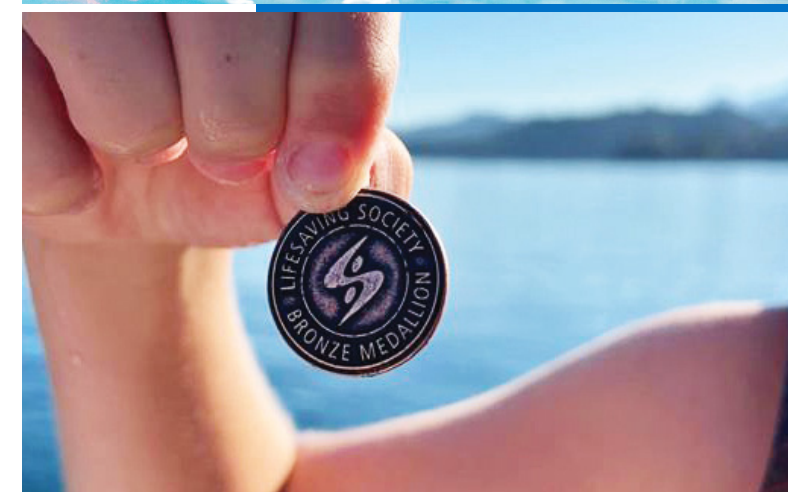


"From my first swim lesson to my current line of work, the Lifesaving Society has been with me from the very start, and has made me who I am today.

Starting at a young age, I received valuable first aid training and education through programs like Canadian Swim Patrol, Bronze Medallion & Cross, and the National Lifeguard program. The skills I received through taking these courses have allowed me to successfully respond to a number of major medical emergencies; not only in my workplace, but in my community too. The Lifesaving Society may have given me skills and knowledge, however it has also given me something even more important – purpose and fulfillment in my career."

Gabby Nicholls

Aquatics & Juniors Supervisor
Vancouver, BC



Highlights

Research shows that newcomers to Canada face a higher risk of drowning. Knowing this, we partnered with DIVERSEcity, a leading provider of immigrant supports and services, to deliver translated Swim to Survive in four different languages at Sungod Recreation Centre and Newton Pool. 56 participants gained essential survival skills in Punjabi, Mandarin, Arabic, and English. Many thanks to our Delta and Surrey Affiliates for providing pool space and inclusive instructors who were assisted by DIVERSEcity's language interpreters.



We were proud to collaborate with Canucks Autism Network to develop adapted swim instruction resources for neurodivergent children. Together, our teams have created professional instructional videos, digital and print materials, and an online course for Swim for Life instructors that will be mandatory for the 2026-28 recertification cycle.



We expanded our WaterWise public education program this year by adding a second team based on Vancouver Island, thanks to \$25,000 in funding from Island Health. Throughout July and August, our new Vancouver Island team set up info booths on the 8 lakes with the highest rates of drowning in the Capital Regional District. The team created educational and informative social media content, collaborating with CRD, BC Parks, and Transport Canada to share their key messages of "Prepare it. Wear it. Know it. Share it."



We partnered with Tsawwassen First Nation to deliver a Bronze Medallion program, supporting youth in developing essential lifesaving skills. As this community is located right on the water, this partnership was especially meaningful, reinforcing the importance of water safety and rescue skills. Training took place both in the ocean at Crescent Beach and in pools. We were inspired by the candidates' enthusiasm and progress and look forward to continuing this partnership to invest in tomorrow's youth.



Vancouver lifeguard and swim instructor Jessi Harewicz swam across Lake Ontario, raising \$4,080 in funds for Swim to Survive with every stroke. Jessi completed the earliest crossing of Lake Ontario ever on July 8 with a time of 22 hours and 7 minutes. The funds raised will support Swim to Survive initiatives in remote and Indigenous communities in 2025.



In the Yukon, Lifesaving Society Instructors Karen Zaidan and Willow Brewster partnered up with First Nations and RPAY (Recreation and Parks Association of Yukon) to offer swim camps in communities without pools, like Teslin, Old Crow, and Ross River. Over the course of one week, almost 50 children from Tlingit, Vuntut Gwitchin and Kaska First Nations attended these river-based camps focused on water and boat safety, first aid skills, and Swim to Survive.



Peter Fox received the prestigious King Charles III Coronation Medal for his service to the Lifesaving Society. Peter has dedicated over 25 years to serving as a volunteer board member in both Canada and Australia. In Canada, he served as Vice-President on the Board of Directors for the BC & Yukon Branch from 2012-2018. In 2018, he took on the role of Branch President and further expanded his contributions by representing BC & Yukon on the Board of Directors for Lifesaving Society Canada.



We launched our 2024-26 Strategic Plan, focusing on three priorities:

1. Building and Enhancing Partnerships and Relationships
2. Quality Assurance, Capacity, and Sustainability
3. Financial Stewardship



Financial Statements

This financial summary is based on the Royal Life Saving Society Canada – BC & Yukon Branch's financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2024. Detailed audited financial statements are available upon request. In 2024, the Society generated total revenue of \$2,560,786, exceeding expenditures of \$2,333,323, resulting in an operating surplus of \$227,463.

Program fees comprised 52% of total revenue, which includes fees for lifesaving, lifeguarding, first aid, Swim for Life, and Lifesaving Sport. Program fee revenue saw a 2% decline compared to 2023, primarily due to a reduction in Swim for Life recognition purchases as the initial surge for essential recognition items tapered off. Noteworthy increases include a 12% rise in safety management revenue, driven by a higher number of lifeguard service hours provided at Hayward Lake.

Donations grew to \$51,670, reflecting the continued support of loyal donors who believe in our mission. Grant income also saw a significant 33% increase, fueled by a \$25,000 grant from Island Health and a \$27,167 boost from the Canada Summer Jobs program.

Expenditures were aligned with our financial objectives and budget, with staffing costs rising to \$923,518 to accommodate the growth of Swim for Life, public education programs, and the enhancement of overall training program support and member services. While safety management services saw higher costs, these were offset by corresponding revenue increases.

The Lifesaving Society, BC and Yukon Branch finished 2024 in a strong financial position. The operating surplus of \$227,463 will be strategically reinvested into training program and hiring to support awareness and advocacy, as we further advance our mission of drowning prevention.

Ben Jones
Treasurer

Statement of Financial Position

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	241,686	222,501
Accounts receivable	358,724	218,103
Inventory	144,657	160,782
Prepays	531	1,384
Vancouver Foundation	144,584	133,537
Property and equipment	141,040	109,274
TOTAL ASSETS	1,031,222	845,581
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	92,825	29,317
GST payable	24,559	19,356
Current portion of long term debt	156,571	217,616
Total Liabilities	273,955	266,289
FUNDS BALANCE		
Balance, beginning of the year	579,292	177,379
Excess of receipts over (under) disbursements	177,975	401,913
Balance, end of year	757,267	579,292
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUNDS	1,031,222	845,581



Statement of Operations

	2024	2023
RECEIPTS		
Program Fees	1,323,567	1,355,989
Literature sales	694,516	791,573
Safety management services	297,088	265,962
Merchandise sales	139,739	132,228
Grant income	52,167	34,994
Donations	51,670	13,520
Investment income	2,039	8,653
TOTAL RECEIPTS	2,560,786	2,602,919
DISBURSEMENTS		
Salaries and benefits	923,518	699,061
Literature costs	292,624	345,627
Program costs	284,905	234,649
Safety management services costs	237,425	208,600
Office and administration	184,152	238,757
National levy	121,809	128,295
Merchandise costs	76,909	113,484
Travel and meetings	63,379	49,171
Advertising and promotion	40,568	25,090
Premises	39,732	36,187
Awards and recognition	39,580	37,148
Interest and bank charges	8,702	11,388
Professional fees	16,020	39,435
Scholarships	4,000	5,000
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	2,333,323	2,171,892
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER (UNDER) DISBURSEMENTS	227,463	431,027

Training Programs



Lifesaving Society, BC & Yukon is pleased to showcase some of 2024's training program highlights here. Together, our experienced Branch team of staff and Advisory Group volunteers have aimed to ensure programs are of the highest caliber.

We could not do this crucial work without the expertise and dedication of our volunteer Advisory Group members in supporting the Lifesaving, Lifeguarding, First Aid and Swim for Life streams. Our sincere thanks as we move forward to ensure quality is our number one priority in all training streams.

Lifesaving



Created the Lifesaving Instructor Recertification, which launched January 1, 2025, with a focus on quality of our Bronze Medal programs, including resources that instructors can use to enhance their training.



Advanced the creation of new Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross, and Bronze Star workbooks which include at-home and in-class activities.

First Aid



Revised the First Aid program, including adding new requirements from WorkSafeBC, that were essential to maintain the equivalency of our certification and allows Affiliates to offer Intermediate certifications.



Identified necessary improvements to the Airway Management and Oxygen Administration (AMOA) program and the Basic Life Support (BLS) Responder program.

Lifeguarding



Launched new precertification/recertification guides and supplementary materials for all four National Lifeguard options.



Created new programming options for combining Pool & Waterpark and Waterfront & Surf precertification/recertification clinics.



Published a new *Drowning Complications Information Bulletin* and *In-Water Seizures Information Bulletin*.



Created a new CPR Complications video to demonstrate the new protocols for management of vomiting and fluid/foam during resuscitation.



Swim for Life®



Launched the 2024/2025 Swim Instructor Recertification delivery guide and candidate workbook to ensure a streamlined and comprehensive approach to instructor recertification.



Collaborated with the Canucks Autism Network to develop additional resources to support Affiliates and instructors working with swimmers with diverse needs, including visuals, training videos, and an online course to be released for the 2026-28 recertification cycle.



Piloted a swim level placement form designed to assist instructors in accurately assessing swimmer progression.



In recognizing that Water Smart is taught best through active activities rather than discussing on a pool deck, the Water Smart Reference Guide was created to enhance drowning prevention efforts in both swim lessons and public outreach events.



Our popular Trainer Talks continued to offer networking opportunities, program updates and previews of future program initiatives to many of our instructors and trainers across the province and territory.



Mapped out detailed progression steps for each skill across all Swim for Life Swimmer levels.



Core Program Statistics

Number of Candidates

		2024	2023	2022
Lifesaving	Bronze Star	1,206	1,040	706
	Bronze Medallion	5,055	5,039	4,626
	Bronze Cross	4,125	3,963	3,651
	Total Lifesaving	10,386	10,042	8,983
National Lifeguard	NL - Pool	2,651	2,773	2,153
	NL - Pool Recertification	2,615	2,492	1,716
	NL - Waterpark	321	326	238
	NL - Waterpark Recertification	193	155	114
	NL - Waterfront	141	131	73
	NL - Waterfront Recertification	85	149	30
	NL - Surf	24	12	11
	NL - Surf Recertification	4	2	0
Total National Lifeguard		6,025	6,040	4,335
Leadership	AMOA Instructor	70	37	55
	Swim Instructor	4,975	2,412	3,529
	Lifesaving Instructor	934	1,324	543
	National Lifeguard Instructor	55	184	52
	First Aid Instructor	52	33	63
	Trainer	124	255	32
	Total Leadership	6,210	4,245	4,274
First Aid	CPR/AED	1,247	1,370	1,075
	Basic Life Support - HCP	685	701	700
	Emergency First Aid	2,330	2,357	1,905
	Standard First Aid	2,578	2,528	2,205
	AMOA	2,786	2,843	2,596
	Total First Aid	9,626	9,799	8,481
Sport	Sport Coach 1	10	0	0
	Total Sport	10	0	0
Safety Management	Safety Management	54	213	16
	Total Safety Management	54	213	16
Total number of candidates		32,311	30,339	26,089

Sport & Competition

2024 was a remarkable year for the sport in BC. With support from the cities of Richmond, Nanaimo, and Saanich, the Branch delivered three exciting competitions:

- Barnsley Lifeguard Championships
- British Columbia Lifesaving Sport Pool Provincials
- Canadian Pool Lifesaving Championships

We extend our thanks to DB Perks & Associates for their ongoing support of lifesaving sport. We also recognizes the excellent work from the Greater Victoria Aquatics Committee in hosting the Vancouver Island Regional Lifeguard Championships.

Canadian Pool Lifesaving Championships

The Canadian Pool Lifesaving Championships (CPLC) were hosted from June 7-9, 2024, at Saanich Commonwealth Place, Victoria, BC.

The event brought together 146 athletes from across the country and 80 volunteers. Athletes competed in 11 individual and team events that simulated rescue scenarios that emphasize water safety, fitness, and lifesaving skills.

Pictured below: Canadian Pool Lifesaving Championships.



Congratulations to Pacific Lifesaving Club on winning the national team title at the Canadian Pool Lifesaving Championships.



Several BC athletes medalled, earning spots on the podium at CPLC. Congrats to Iona Abolmaesumi, Samantha Burwell, Deniz Erturk, Hamed Faragardi, Caitlyn Fowler, Jaquelin Granados, Noah MacDonald, Andrew Naus, Alexander Siddiqui, Abigail Skinder, Anna-Marie Skinder, Joseph Skinder, Lily Volk, Megan Walshaw, Ian Wicken, Martyna Zukowska.



Kudos to the Whistleblowers from City of Richmond on their big win at the Barnsley Lifeguard Championships.

Pictured below: Winning team, Whistleblowers, lifts the Barnsley Shield at the Barnsley Lifeguard Championships.



Barnsley Lifeguard Championships

The Barnsley Lifeguard Championships made their long-awaited return in 2024, marking the first time since 2018. Held at Richmond's South Arm Pool, this year's competition saw 9 teams and 20 volunteers from across the province come together to support the event. The day was filled with intense competition, fitness challenges, and first aid simulations, where participants showcased their lifesaving skills in realistic pool-incident scenarios.

British Columbia Lifesaving Sport Pool Provincials

The BC Lifesaving Sport Pool Provincials were hosted on April 13, 2024, in Nanaimo, BC. 21 athletes competed in six events: 100m manikin carry with fins, 200m obstacle swim, 50m manikin carry, 100m manikin tow with fins, 100m rescue medley, and 4x50m medley relay.

Athletes Competing on the International Stage

Orange Cup (Netherlands)

- Megan Walshaw

2024 Lifesaving World Championships (Australia)

- Caitlyn Fowler (team captain)
- Abigail Skinder - **Bronze in the Youth 200m Super Lifesaver (new Canadian Youth & Open Record)**
- Anna-Marie Skinder - **Silver in Youth Simulated Emergency Response Competition**
- Samantha Burwell
- Noah MacDonald
- Otis Chan
- Joseph Skinder (alternate)



Pictured L-R: Megan Walshaw; Anna-Marie Skinder (right) smiles with Team Canada Members Oliver Johnson, Isaac Thibodeau, and Yannick Morgans.

Public Education

WaterWise

Since its inception by the BC & Yukon Branch in 2000, the WaterWise Team has been on a mission to prevent drownings and reduce water-related injuries. From May to August each year, the team actively engages with thousands of people in communities across British Columbia with free water and boating safety education. We extend our thanks to Island Heath, who provided support for WaterWise activities.

Key achievements from 2024 include:



Launched a second WaterWise team in Vancouver Island stationed at the 8 lakes in the Capital Regional District with the highest drowning rates.



67 presentations delivered to **5,347 students** across **30 schools**, leading to **6,108 meaningful conversations** on water safety.



43 booth set-ups in the Lower Mainland and **40 booth set-ups** in Vancouver Island.



Sharing key safety messages at **high-profile events**: Cultus Lake Day, Golden Spike Days, Across the Lake Swim, Strawberry Festival, and Move to Cure ALS.

LIFESAVING SOCIETY WATERWISE TEAM Drowning is Preventable

WaterWise Team L-R: Georgia Stone, Michal Witecki



National Drowning Prevention Week

National Drowning Prevention Week (NDPW) is a week of media and public awareness events focused on drowning prevention. In 2024, NDPW took place from July 21-27 and included World Drowning Prevention Day on July 25.

Highlights from NDPW 2024 include:



Affiliates across BC and Yukon hosted Swim to Survive events on **Swim to Survive Day** mid-week.



BC Place and White Rock Pier lit up in blue for **World Drowning Prevention Day** and to mark the conclusion of NDPW.



14 media interviews delivered across TV, radio, digital and print for CBC, Global, AM600, Chek News, Vancouver Sun, and CKNW 980.



Reaching **36,000+ people** on social media with posts in **4 different languages** and **3 engaging contests**.



Hosting **WaterWise booths** at: Osoyoos Lake, Christina Lake, Buntzen Lake, Camp Douglas, Thetis Lake, Durrance Lake, Willows Beach, and Florence Lake.

July 21-27, 2024

National Drowning Prevention Week

LIFESAVING SOCIETY



Research

Working through the Drowning Prevention Research Centre, the Lifesaving Society conducts drowning research to support its work in the prevention of water-related injuries and fatalities.

The collection and analysis of data provides an information base for the development of programs, safety promotion strategies and drowning prevention strategies. The information also provides an educational tool and information base for the Society's customers and instructors, governments, other organizations and the general public.

Conducting annual drowning research enables the Society to identify risk factors and to focus its drowning prevention efforts on the highest risk populations, locations, and activities.

This 2024 Drowning Report Infographic summarizes the most recent data on water-related fatalities available from the Office of the Chief Coroner for British Columbia, and from the Office of the Chief Coroners of the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut.



The Aquatic Safety Management team provides affiliates and aquatic industry support to prevent catastrophic aquatic incidents in aquatic facilities and waterfronts. The team responds to affiliate and industry requests for regulation and guideline clarification, conducts Aquatic Safety Audits, designs training courses and programs, sells Public Access Liferings, and works with Lifesaving Society Canada to establish national aquatic safety standards.

Key achievements in 2024 include:

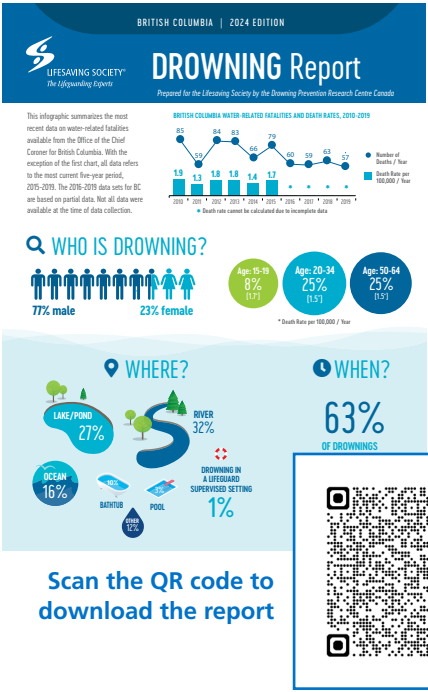


Responding to **52 requests** and supporting affiliates and aquatic operations in the application of BC and Yukon regulations, guidelines and standards.

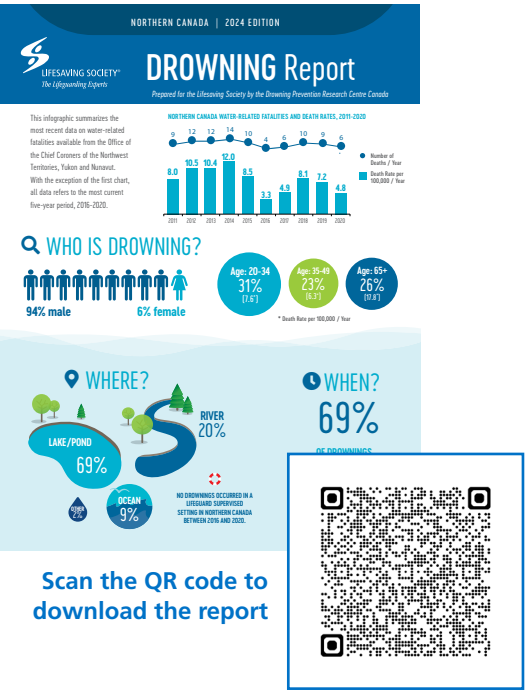


Conducting **1 Comprehensive Pool Audit** and **3 Topical Waterfront Audits**, including one for the Haida Gwaii Recreation Department in collaboration with the Haida Gwaii First Nations, Skidegate Band Council, and BC Parks.

British Columbia Drowning Report 2024



Northern Canada Drowning Report 2024



Lifeguard Services at Buntzen and Hayward Lakes

The Branch had a 5th successful season providing lifeguard services for BC Hydro's Buntzen and Hayward Lakes with 24 staff employed. Weekend lifeguard service began May 18 and full service took place July 1 to September 2.

This initiative helped maintain a safe environment for thousands of lake visitors, reinforcing our commitment to water safety in the community.

Recognition

DB Perks & Associates Scholarships

The DB Perks Scholarships aim to support and assist Lifesaving Society lifeguards and instructors trained and working in BC & Yukon who are pursuing post-secondary education. Through generous support from DB Perks & Associates Ltd, three scholarships of \$1,000 are awarded each year.

2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Fred Smith Award
Chase Budhwa

Mike Powley Award
Cindy Zhang

Derek Laverty Award
Rayan Devbhandari

Past Recipients

- 2024**
Nick Ostrowka, Surrey
Leticia Martel, Squamish
Jordan Talbot, Victoria
- 2023**
lantha Greer, Whitehorse
Dana Riseling, Whitehorse
Layla Sadafi, Surrey
- 2022**
Kayla Sevensma, Abbotsford
Aramis St-Gelais, Salt Spring Island
Jaiden Budhwa, Smithers
- 2021**
Rachel DeCicco, Coquitlam
Jasmin Schlick, Prince George
Julie Kaufman, Surrey
- 2020**
Elliott Gee, Burnaby;
Ceilidh Robertson-Jones, Victoria;
Natalia Lupynis, Richmond
- 2019**
Katie Bowers, Victoria;
Michelle Jun, Port Coquitlam;
Rachel Way, New Westminster
- 2018**
Riley Huntley, Surrey
Jamie Magrill, Richmond
Sarah Schlatter, Victoria
- 2017**
Martin Chan, Richmond
Anthony Lee, Burnaby
Lindsay Munroe, Coquitlam
Sarah Schlatter, Victoria
Becky Tomlin, Whitehorse

- 2016**
Timothy Bientjes, Kamloops
Matteo Ferraresso, Burnaby
Wyatt Henry, Kamloops
Sienna Joyce, Port Moody
Ryan Wilmink, Vancouver
- 2015**
Rachel Hennig, Langley
Julie Kaufman, Vancouver
Anna Legault, Victoria
Michelle Lukas, Vancouver
Rebecca Roy, Kamloops
- 2014**
Claire Bruce, Prince George
Marc Lacroix, Surrey
Cameron Meldrum, Chilliwack
Julia Sharma, Burnaby
Amanda Tuey, Burnaby
- 2013**
Vanessa Butler, Surrey
Sheena Fulop, Pender Island
Melissa Gillespie, Saanichton
Colin Pistawka, Kelowna
- 2012**
Noel Lai, Vancouver
Sasha Maleki, Coquitlam
Amanda Penny, Williams Lake
David Slade, Delta
- 2011**
Veronica Grusnick, Surrey
Emily Hails, Coldstream
Cailey Hume, Sparwood
Ben Tettamanti, Vancouver

- 2010**
Leo Chan, Coquitlam
Christian Gotengco, Vancouver
Brittany Hollett, Kamloops
Brittany Williams, Surrey
- 2009**
Natasha Corewyn, Vancouver
Eric Iadarola, Kamloops
Jerry Michael, Victoria
Quinn Yu, Surrey
- 2008**
Lisa Flegel, Bella Coola
Jamie Lee McSweeney
John-Jose Nunez
Adam Pospisil, Burnaby
- 2007**
Sarah Glenn, Ladysmith
Yvonne Gomez, Victoria
Jessamyn Logan, Saanich
Amanda Lust, Penticton
- 2006**
Janet Maxsted, Kelowna
Ashley Rota, Vancouver
Christina Smirl, Sooke
- 2005**
Sven Bellamy, Burnaby
Jen Brett, Savona
Lois Moore, Whitehorse
- 2004**
Natasha Files, Surrey
Janice Newkirk, Hagensborg
Ryan Radford, Vancouver

- 2003**
Candace Brown, New West
Brian Campbell, West Vancouver
Trevor Roy, Kelowna
- 2002**
Sarah Canning, North Vancouver
Nicholas Crump, Surrey
Kaitlin Pasqualotto, Trail
- 2001**
Christine Anderson, 150 Mile House
Robert Cousins, Port Alice
Kim TownSchon, Crescent Beach
Dave Lyon, Burnaby
- 2000**
Kelly Holman, Victoria
April Lacheur, Delta
Ryan Radford, Kelowna
- 1999**
Jason Blood, Nanaimo
Stephanie Eby, Victoria
James Helliwell, Vancouver
- 1998**
Michael Lawless, Victoria
Heather Marshall, Coombs
- 1997**
Carmen De Menech, Abbotsford
Carmen Jackson, Victoria
- 1996**
Gene Benoit, North Vancouver
Rob Evans, Vancouver
- 1995**
Nicole Liddell, Vancouver
Dave Lyon, Burnaby

Joan MacKinnon Memorial Scholarship

The Joan MacKinnon Memorial Scholarship aims to support someone at the start of their aquatics career and remove barriers, such as course fees, travel, food, lodging, or associated costs. Joan filled many roles in aquatics as a mentor, instructor, coach, and a friend to many. She was always kind, compassionate, and giving of herself. Through generous support from Joan’s family, one scholarship of \$1,000 is awarded each year.

2025 Award Recipient Rowan Smith

Past Recipients

- 2024**
Elizabeth Hallborg, Castlegar
- 2023**
Alli Daniele, Prince Rupert



Pictured T-B: DB Perks 2024 Scholarship recipients Leticia Martel, Nick Ostrowka, and Jordan Talbot; Aaron Moldenhauer and Joan MacKinnon.

112th Annual Commonwealth Honour & Rescue Awards



The Honour and Rescue Awards celebrate the human spirit of giving. The Honour Awards recognize the dedicated volunteer commitment provided to assist the Society in meeting its mandate of safety on the water. The Rescue Awards honour civilians for performing meritorious service in saving a life in an aquatic emergency and rescues involving significant acts of bravery. The selections are made from rescues reported in the news, from individual recommendations, and from police reports. Awards were presented at the 112th Honour and Rescue Awards Ceremony on March 9, 2024 at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver.

Pictured L-R: Jason Sherratt, Chris Pearson, Nixen Sherratt, Cole Pearson, Cooper Pearson, and Premier David Eby.

Honour Awards

Certificate of Thanks
Ruth Depew

Service Medal
Judi Ambrozaitis-Torrao

Service Medal
Michelle Wilcox

Bar to Service Medal
Peter Fox

Service Cross
Christopher Cordova

Honourary Life Member
Sheila Polard

President's Plaque
Paula Thulin

Rescue Awards

Silver Medal for Merit
Ben Carlson
Chris Carlson
Robert Cole
Kelly Lance
John Mahaffy
David Murphy
Preston Hayden
Ty Hurley
Nixen Sherratt
Cooper Pearson
Cole Pearson
John Planes
Ryan Planes

Silver Medal for Bravery
Chris Pearson
Jason Sherratt
Shanahan Blake-Simon
Lucia Dell
Fadi Jabo
Rylie Matthews

M.G. Griffiths Award
Ty Hurley

George A. Brown Memorial Gold Medal & Scholarship
Lucia Dell

Governor's Gold Medal for Bravery
Chris Pearson
Jason Sherratt

Pictured L-R: Lucia Dell and Councillor Pete Fry; Paula Thulin and Graham Esplen; Chris Cordova and Graham Esplen.



Volunteers

Thank you to our incredible volunteers for their dedication and support throughout 2024. Whether through training programs, event assistance, community outreach or governance, their passion, hard work, and commitment have made a profound impact and been instrumental in advancing our mission to prevent drowning and water-related injuries.

We are fortunate to have BC & Yukon representation on four Lifesaving Society Canada commissions. These volunteers lend their expertise on a national scale to support Training Programs, Public Education, Safety Standards, and Lifesaving Sport.



Governance

Branch Governors

Alfred H.J. Swencisky	Dates Unconfirmed
Major-General John M. Rockingham	1990 - 1998
George A. Brown	1988 - 1994
Peter Legge	1995 - 1997
Jon MacKinnon	1997 - 2008
Ian Robertson	2008 - 2017
Nicole Liddell	2017 - Present

Branch Presidents

Frederick William Burrows	1923 - 1925
William Reid Owen	1925 - 1926
Frederick William Burrows	1926 - 1930
Alfred H. J. Swencisky	1930 - 1932
Lestock Charles Reid	1932 - 1933
George Alexander Burrows	1933 - 1934
Gordon Vance	1934 - 1937
Thomas M. Galloway	1937 - 1938
Lestock Charles Reid	1938 - 1940
John Lawrence Lugin	1940 - 1942
Rollie S. Henderson	1942 - 1945
Gordon Vance	1945 - 1946
Edward Frank Forsyth	1946 - 1947
George Alexander Burrows	1947 - 1948
John Thomas Kelly	1948 - 1957
H. Douglas Whittle	1957 - 1966
George Alexander Burrows	1966 - 1968
R. Gordon Edmonds	1968 - 1969
James Bertram Snelgrove	1969 - 1970
Maxwell E. Gordon	1970 - 1972
Margaret Jean Lathwell	1972 - 1976
Nestor Nick Korchinsky	1976 - 1980
Dan E. Moon	1980 - 1982
Doreen Drysdale	1982 - 1987
Ellen Lloyd	1987 - 1992
Julia Oulton	1992 - 1994
Ron Aubrey	1994 - 1996
Tony Toriglia	1996 - 1998
Heather Straight	1998 - 2000
Nicole Liddell	2000 - 2002
Ian Robertson	2002 - 2004
Dan Galazka	2004 - 2006

Sean Healy	2006 - 2008
Craig Amundsen	2008 - 2010
Len Manuel	2010 - 2012
Dalyce Brandt	2012 - 2014
Michael Lawless	2014 - 2016
Heidi Ogilvie	2016 - 2018
Peter Fox	2018 - 2020
Jeffrey Holland	2020 - 2022
Anita Chevalier	2022 - 2023
Jeffrey Holland	2023 - 2024
Graham Esplen	2024 - Present



Front row: Lauralee March, Graham Esplen, Gail Findlay-Shirras.
Back row: Jeffrey Holland, Tony Toriglia, Lenea Grace, Ben Jones, John Woolgar.

Board of Directors

- Governor**
Nicole Liddell
- President**
Graham Esplen
- Past President**
Jeffrey Holland
- Vice-Presidents**
Gail Findlay-Shirras
Lauralee March
Tony Toriglia
John Woolgar
- Treasurer**
Ben Jones
- Members-at-Large**
Danny Burgi
Samantha Bussieres
Alyson Dewey
Isabelle Taillon

Advisory Group and Committee Chairs

- Legal Advisor**
Chris Bennett
- Medical Advisor**
Dr. Adam Lund
- Honour Awards Chair**
Ron Aubrey
- Rescue Awards & G.A. Brown Fund Chair**
Lori-Ann Drew
- Aquatic Safety Management Advisory Group**
Denise Yoreff
- First Aid Committee**
Riley Huntley
Trevor Sproule
- Lifeguard Advisory Group**
Renee Kelly
Jonathan Noone
- Lifesaving Advisory Group**
Breann Jauncey
Ethan Wheatley
- Lifesaving Sport & Competition Committee**
Chris Cordova
Martin Henderson
- Swim for Life® Advisory Group**
Michelle Hebein
Paula Thulin

Branch Staff

- Executive Director**
Lenea Grace
- Director, Programs & Services**
Kimiko Hirakida
- Aquatic Safety Services Manager**
Len Manuel
- Program Managers**
Amanda Beavers
Veronica Grusnick
Kyle Kronebusch (until 09/24)
- Program Coordinators**
Kyla Atkins
Oliver Nugent
- Member Services Manager**
Kaelan D’Sena
Carla Pruner (until 02/24)
- Member Services Representatives**
Michael Bleaney
Danielle Dzus
Jessica McNiff
Rose Sekhon
- Communications**
Kaelan D’Sena
- Public Education Coordinator**
Dirk Popen
- Bookkeeper**
Stephanie Joh
- Shipping**
Elianny Colón Duarte

The Lifesaving Society is a national, independent, charitable organization that works to prevent drowning and water-related injury through its training programs, Water Smart® public education, aquatic safety management services, drowning research and lifesaving sport.

Annually, over 1,200,000 Canadians participate in our swimming, lifesaving, lifeguard and leadership training programs. As Canada’s lifeguarding expert, the Lifesaving Society sets the standard for aquatic safety and certifies Canada’s National Lifeguards.

The Society represents Canada internationally in the Commonwealth Royal Life Saving Society and we are Canada’s Full Member in the International Life Saving Federation. We are the governing body for lifesaving sport – a sport recognized by the International Olympic Committee and the Commonwealth Games Federation.



Mission: To prevent drowning and reduce water-related injury.

Vision: Canada free from drowning and water-related injury.

Values: Guided by humanitarian principles,

- We are the Canadian leader in the prevention of drowning and water-related injury;
- We are collaborative, innovative, and ethical;
- We operate with fairness, respect, trust and integrity;
- We value diversity, flexibility, and creativity;
- We seek inclusiveness, driven by the needs of our community;
- We are a dynamic organization that succeeds through volunteerism, pro-active leadership, and the pursuit of excellence.

Lifesaving Society - BC & Yukon Branch
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Burnaby, BC V5C 6N5

604-299-5450
info@lifesaving.bc.ca
lifesaving.bc.ca

@LifesavingBCYK



The Lifesaving Society - BC & Yukon Branch acknowledges that we on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. We are grateful to pursue our mission of water safety and drowning prevention on these extraordinary lands.



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®

The Lifeguarding Experts

Lifesaving Society - BC & Yukon Branch
lifesaving.bc.ca