



# 2025 Annual Report

LIFESAVING SOCIETY BC & YUKON BRANCH



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# President & Executive Director Report

In 2025, Lifesaving Society BC & Yukon Branch continued to build strong momentum in advancing our mission of drowning prevention with a year marked by collaboration, growth, and meaningful progress in line with our strategic plan.

National Drowning Prevention Week exemplified the power of collective action, a true testament to this year's theme: Safer Together. The Branch hosted a launch ceremony at Kitsilano Pool in Vancouver, bringing together government, community, health, and public safety leaders. The week's visibility was amplified through the #BEWATERSMART marquee letter installation displayed at Kitsilano Beach throughout the week, complemented by a Lifesaving Society information tent where our team engaged with thousands of beach visitors. Across BC and Yukon, 27 landmarks and public sites lit up in blue for World Drowning Prevention Day and 26 municipalities issued proclamations. Affiliates spread awareness by hosting Swim to Survive, offering lifejacket fittings and activities, and sharing key water safety messages through social media and public displays.

These efforts helped bring lifesaving messages to more people, in more communities, than ever before.

New and strengthened partnerships expanded our reach further. With funding from Island Health, we delivered Swim to Survive to 178 children and adults in natural bodies of water across Vancouver Island and surrounding areas, reaching communities with limited access to pools. In partnership with Canucks Autism Network, we developed and piloted new Adapted Swimmer Instructor training modules to better support neurodivergent swimmers; starting in 2026, this inclusive training will be required for more than 4,000 Swim Instructors in BC and Yukon each year.

Our training programs remain at the heart of the Branch's impact. In 2025, we certified 32,144 candidates, launched a leadership recertification cycle, advanced program development, and updated key resources. At the same time, we continued to support quality and consistency across the field through Affiliate engagement, quality assurance processes, and direct relationship-building

with Instructors, Trainers, and Affiliates.

This year also brought continued progress in strengthening our organization from within. We expanded staffing capacity, supported a dedicated volunteer network, and launched a new website to better serve our Affiliates and the public. These investments in people, systems, and infrastructure are helping to position the Branch for long-term sustainability and continued impact.

We are deeply grateful to our staff team, volunteers, Affiliates, partners, and donors. Your support and passion bring our mission to life. Together, we are building a safer British Columbia and Yukon.

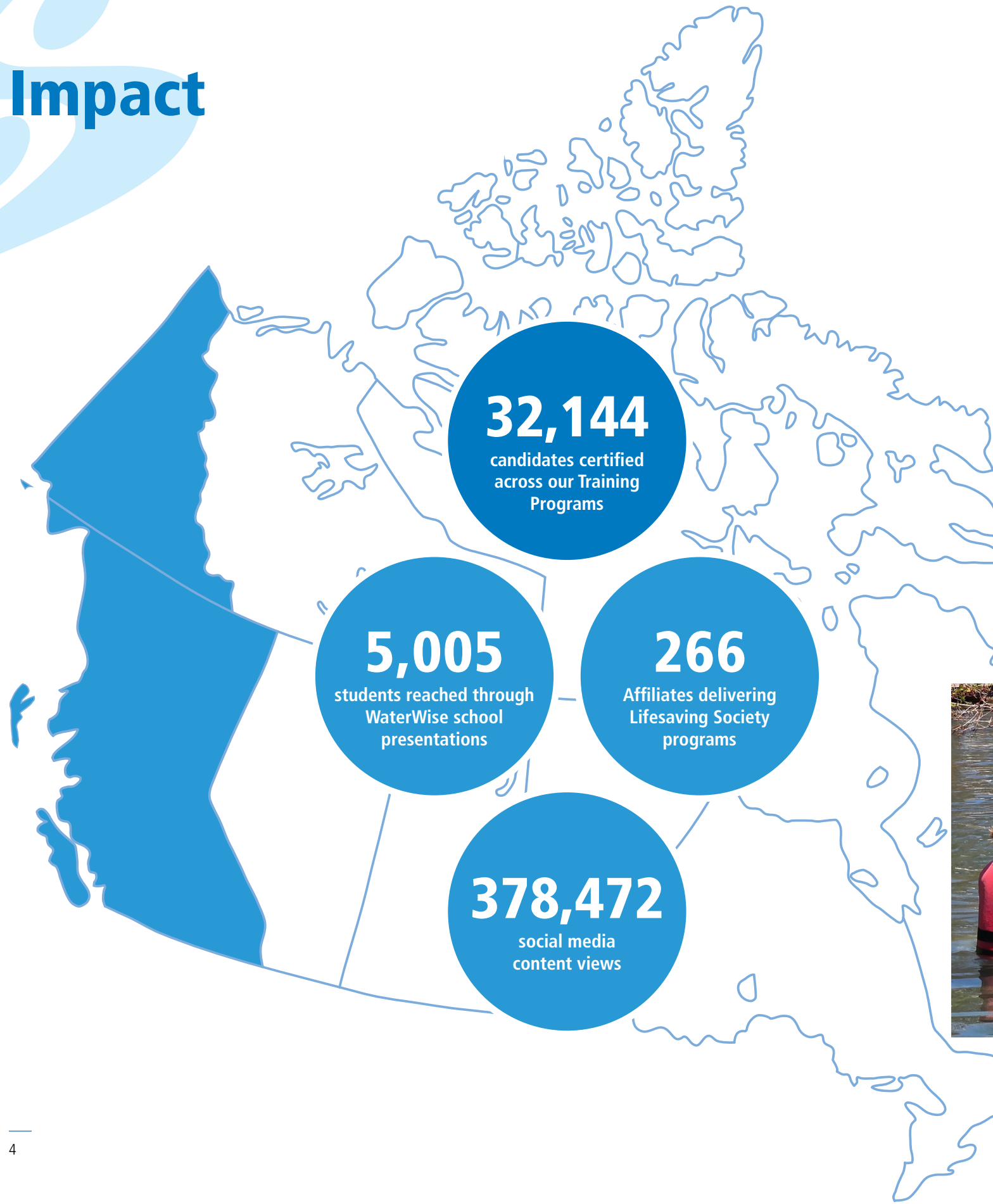
**Graham Esplen**  
President



**Lenea Grace**  
Executive Director



# Impact



*"I learned new skills that I didn't know about, for example how to help someone in deep water without putting me in a bad situation. A couple of weeks after the class, I helped a person that got caught in a strong current in one of our local beaches. I was confident to help her because I learned how to do it during the class. My son is keen in swimming after this program and I noticed he is more confident in the deep water."*

**Swim to Survive Participant**  
Vancouver Island

*"The Lifesaving Society's Swim to Survive program is slowly changing our small northern community for the better. In the last year, the Lifesaving Society helped us lead a program at a local lake that was free for everyone to attend. It helped us reach groups of people in our communities that never would have had access to swim programs and water safety education. The event helped bring together members of our community and spread water safety awareness as we've never seen before. These types of programs are now going to be a regular occurrence in our northern communities, thanks to the Lifesaving Society."*

**Morgan Wigglesworth**  
Lifeguard/instructor III  
Kenn Borek Aquatic Centre  
City of Dawson Creek



# Highlights



## National Drowning Prevention Week at Kitsilano Beach

During National Drowning Prevention Week, the Branch maintained a week-long presence at Kitsilano Beach in Vancouver with a public information booth, interactive activities, and a six-foot illuminated #BeWaterSmart installation that drew attention and sparked conversations about drowning prevention.



## Canucks Autism Network Partnership

The Branch continued its partnership with Canucks Autism Network to improve accessibility and inclusion in aquatic education. In 2025, the new Adapted Swim Instructor course was finalized and launched, equipping instructors with practical tools and strategies to better support neurodivergent swimmers while enhancing the learning experience for participants of all abilities.



## Schon Cup Surf Lifesaving Championships

After a 17-year hiatus, the Schon Cup Surf Lifesaving Championships returned to British Columbia, bringing athletes and volunteers together for two days of action-packed competition at Kitsilano Beach and White Rock Beach. The event marked an exciting milestone in expanding open-water competition in lifesaving sport across the province.



## Swim to Survive Online Auction

Thanks to generous community support, the Lifesaving Society's biannual Online Auction raised \$9,410, equipping 470 children and adults with the vital skills to survive an unexpected fall into deep water.



## Reaching remote communities on Vancouver Island

Thanks to funding from Island Health, the Branch delivered free Swim to Survive sessions in natural bodies of water across Vancouver Island and surrounding coastal communities. During a three-week period, 178 participants of all ages learned essential skills to survive an unexpected fall into deep water, helping expand access to lifesaving water safety education in rural and remote communities where swim lessons are often limited.



## Teaching water safety skills to northern Indigenous youth

In partnership with Northern Health and the Kenn Borek Aquatic Centre in Dawson Creek, the Branch hosted a free two-day Swim to Survive event at Moberly Lake for northern Indigenous youth. Participants practiced essential survival skills in a lake setting, gaining confidence and hands-on experience to stay safe in and around water.



## Swim to Survive at the Canadian Swim Trials

In partnership with Bell and Swimming Canada, the Branch helped deliver a special Swim to Survive experience on behalf of Lifesaving Society Canada during the Canadian Swimming Trials at Saanich Commonwealth Place. Students from Craigflower Elementary participated in the program, met Olympic medallist Brent Hayden and Olympic athlete Apollo Hess, and practiced in the same pool where world-class athletes were competing.



# Financial Statements

This financial summary is based on the audited financial statements of the Royal Life Saving Society Canada – BC & Yukon Branch for the year ended December 31, 2025. Detailed audited financial statements are available upon request.

In 2025, the Society generated total revenue of \$3,018,464 (2024 — \$2,569,795), exceeding total expenditures of \$2,961,664 (2024 — \$2,391,820), producing a combined net surplus of \$56,800 and a total fund balance of \$814,067, up from \$757,267 at the close of 2024.

Program fees grew 12.9% from \$1,323,567 to \$1,493,933, and continued to represent approximately 50% of operating revenue. Safety management services saw the strongest

growth, rising 49.7% to \$444,799, driven by a significant expansion in contracted lifeguard services at Buntzen Lake, including the addition of daily service coverage in June and September. Grant income grew 64.3% to \$85,726, supported by a \$33,000 grant from Island Health for Swim to Survive delivery, \$25,000 in partnership with Canucks Autism Network to develop adapted swim resources, and \$27,726 through the Canada Summer Jobs program. An additional \$73,500 in grants is deferred at year-end and will be recognized as related program expenditures are incurred. Donations declined 17.8% to \$42,477 from \$51,670, reflecting the variable nature of this revenue stream year to year.

Expenditures rose in line with program growth. Staffing costs increased 28.4% to \$1,186,031 to support expanded program delivery and member services. The National Levy remitted to Lifesaving Society Canada rose 46.0% to \$177,799, reflecting both the three-year rolling average of Bronze Medallions awarded and an additional national assessment in 2025.

The Society enters 2026 with a strengthened fund balance and \$73,500 in committed grant funding. Management remains focused on revenue diversification and the Society's mission of drowning prevention across British Columbia and the Yukon.

**Ben Jones**  
Treasurer

## Statement of Financial Position

	2025	2024
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		
Cash	255,133	241,686
Accounts receivable	356,849	358,724
Inventory	212,629	144,657
Prepays	6,279	531
Vancouver Foundation	145,369	144,584
Property and equipment	156,244	141,040
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,132,503</b>	<b>1,031,222</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	104,959	92,825
GST payable	19,451	24,559
Deferred grant revenue	73,500	
Mortgage payable	120,526	156,571
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>318,436</b>	<b>273,955</b>
<b>FUNDS BALANCE</b>		
Balance, beginning of the year	757,267	579,292
Excess of receipts over (under) disbursements	56,800	177,975
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	<b>814,067</b>	<b>757,267</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUNDS</b>	<b>1,132,503</b>	<b>1,031,222</b>



## Statement of Operations

	2025	2024
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Program Fees	1,493,933	1,323,567
Literature sales	770,239	694,516
Safety management services	444,799	297,088
Merchandise sales	167,477	139,739
Grant income	85,726	52,167
Donations	42,477	51,670
Investment income	13,813	11,048
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>3,018,464</b>	<b>2,569,795</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
Salaries and benefits	1,186,031	923,518
Literature costs	323,397	292,624
Program costs	271,411	284,905
Safety management services costs	368,440	237,425
Office and administration	267,728	184,152
National levy	177,799	121,809
Merchandise costs	103,139	76,909
Travel and meetings	74,068	63,379
Amortization	27,901	42,279
Advertising and promotion	30,372	40,568
Premises	45,884	39,732
Awards and recognition	42,036	39,580
Interest and bank charges	19,048	22,920
Professional fees	16,670	16,020
Scholarships	7,740	6,000
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>2,961,664</b>	<b>2,391,820</b>
<b>EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER (UNDER) DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>56,800</b>	<b>177,975</b>

# Training Programs

Lifesaving Society, BC & Yukon is proud to share 2025 training program highlights. Throughout the year, our experienced Branch team of staff and Advisory Group volunteers developed key program resources to support the delivery of Lifesaving, Lifeguarding, First Aid, and Swim for Life programs. These updates help strengthen program quality, consistency, and accessibility.

The contributions of our Advisory Groups are invaluable to this work, helping the Branch to remain current, effective, and responsive to the needs of Instructors, Trainers, and aquatic leaders.

The Branch also supported Instructors and Trainers through the 2025 Leadership Recertification Cycle, ensuring qualifications remain current and aligned with program standards and best practices.



## Lifesaving



Created Candidate Workbooks and Rescue Scenario Cards for Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross.



Developed Inservice Session Plans for Lifesaving Instructors on Bronze Challenge Exams, Continuous Evaluation, Setting up Situations and Providing Immediate Feedback, Setting up Progressive Rescue Situations, and Short-term Lesson Planning.

## First Aid



Developed the Continuing Education Credits (CEC) workshops, offered at no cost for First Aid Instructors to complete in 2026 and ensure compliance with new WorkSafeBC certification requirements.



Updated the Airway Management & Oxygen Administration (AMOA) program resources, including the AMOA Manual, Instructor Notes, Instructor Award Guide, and training videos.



Launched the revised AMOA program, offered at no cost for current Instructors and candidates through virtual classrooms.

## Lifeguarding



Redesigned the Instructor Guide for the National Lifeguard Pool Course to include updated time guidelines and improved course modules and headings.



Developed a new Candidate Supplement Guide for the National Lifeguard Pool Course to replace the Candidate Workbook. This new resource was designed to complement the Alert Manual and includes new digital tools that improve candidate accessibility.

## Swim for Life®



Updated the Stroke Drill activities in the Swim Instructor/Lifesaving Instructor Delivery Guide to better support Trainers.



Developed additional Adapted Aquatic resources to better support learners with diverse needs.



Finalized Swim for Life® progression support and developed practical “grab-and-go” activity cards to provide Instructors with accessible, on-deck teaching tools.



# Core Program Statistics

## Number of Candidates

		2025	2024	2023
LIFESAVING	Bronze Star	1,328	1,206	1,040
	Bronze Medallion	4,693	5,055	5,039
	Bronze Cross	3,789	4,125	3,963
	Safeguard	42	4	0
	<b>Total Lifesaving</b>	<b>9,852</b>	<b>10,386</b>	<b>10,042</b>
NATIONAL LIFEGUARD	NL - Pool	2,355	2,651	2,773
	NL - Pool Recertification	3,154	2,615	2,492
	NL - Waterpark	385	321	326
	NL - Waterpark Recertification	316	193	155
	NL - Waterfront	109	141	131
	NL - Waterfront Recertification	158	85	149
	NL - Surf	22	24	12
	NL - Surf Recertification	0	4	2
	<b>Total National Lifeguard</b>	<b>6,499</b>	<b>6,025</b>	<b>6,040</b>
LEADERSHIP	AMOA Instructor	246	70	37
	Swim Instructor	4,190	4,975	2,412
	Lifesaving Instructor	1,433	934	1,324
	National Lifeguard Instructor	246	55	184
	First Aid Instructor	240	52	33
	Trainer	257	124	255
	<b>Total Leadership</b>	<b>6,612</b>	<b>6,210</b>	<b>4,245</b>
FIRST AID	CPR/AED	836	1,247	1,370
	Aquatic Emergency Care	42	0	0
	Basic Life Support - HCP	538	685	701
	Emergency First Aid	2,056	2,330	2,357
	Standard First Aid	2,880	2,578	2,528
	AMOA	2,736	2,786	2,843
	<b>Total First Aid</b>	<b>9,088</b>	<b>9,626</b>	<b>9,799</b>
SPORT	Sport Coach 1	24	10	0
	<b>Total Sport</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>
SAFETY MANAGEMENT	Safety Management	69	54	213
	<b>Total Safety Management</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>213</b>
<b>Total number of candidates</b>		<b>32,144</b>	<b>32,311</b>	<b>30,339</b>

# Sport & Competition

Lifesaving Sport and Competition continued to grow and flourish in BC in 2025, as the Branch hosted three major competitions. Special thanks to the cities of Burnaby, Richmond, Vancouver, and White Rock for hosting events.

We extend our thanks to DB Perks & Associates for their continued support of Lifesaving Sport. We also recognize the ongoing dedication and excellent work from the Greater Victoria Aquatics Committee in hosting the Vancouver Island Regional Lifeguard Championship at Crystal Pool.

## DB Perks Pool Lifesaving Championships Watermania, Richmond

On April 6, the DB Perks Pool Lifesaving Championships brought together 25 competitors from four clubs across BC. Athletes demonstrated their skills in events such as the Obstacle Swim, Manikin Carry, and Manikin Tow with Fins. The Branch extends its thanks to the 48 volunteers who helped make the event possible and our congratulations to *Pacific Lifesaving Club* from Vancouver, winners of 2025 DB Perks Pool Lifesaving Championships.

## Barnsley Lifeguard Championships MacPherson Outdoor Pool, Burnaby

Held on July 26, the Barnsley Lifeguard Championships welcomed 41 competitors from 10 teams across BC and Alberta. Competitors showcased their lifesaving skills, first aid knowledge, and teamwork across seven challenging events. Thank you to the MacPherson Outdoor Pool staff and the 60 volunteers who supported the competition.

Congratulations to *Good Times on a Tot Dock* from Victoria, winners of the 2025 Barnsley Shield. *Aquaholics* were named Top Rookie Team, and Alannah Dobell received the Steward Schon Sportsmanship Award.

## Schon Cup Surf Lifesaving Championships Kitsilano Beach, Vancouver White Rock Beach, White Rock

Held August 8-9, the Schon Cup Surf Lifesaving Championships brought together 25 athletes for two days of competition. Events at Kitsilano Beach were hosted as part of KitsFest, Vancouver's premier beach festival. Special thanks to Surf Central Lifesaving Club for their mentorship and support in helping reintroduce this event to BC after a 17-year hiatus.

Congratulations to *Surf Central* from Alberta, winners of the 2025 Schon Cup Surf Lifesaving Championships.



## Athletes on the International Stage

### RLSS Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships (Wales)

- Samantha Burwell – *Canadian Record in Medley Relay*
- Cailtyn Fowler – *Bronze in Manikin Tow with Fins and Medley Relay*
- Matryna Zukowska – *Bronze in Manikin Carry Relay*
- Abigail Skinder
- Anna-Marie Skinder – *Canadian Record in Medley Relay*
- Joseph Skinder
- Megan Walshaw – *Bronze in Manikin Tow with Fins (Youth Canadian Record), Manikin Carry Relay (Youth Canadian Record), and Medley Relay*

### Orange Cup (Netherlands)

- Danika Lambke



# Public Education

## WaterWise

2025 was a milestone year for the WaterWise program, marking 25 years of reducing drownings and water-related injuries through education and outreach. From May to August, a team based in the Lower Mainland delivered free water and boating safety education in communities across British Columbia.

Key achievements include:

- **63 presentations** delivered at **28 schools** in May and June, teaching **more than 5,000 students** the four pillars of water safety: Prepare it, Wear it, Know it, Share it.
- **54 information booths** at waterfronts, marinas, and community events from May to August, generating **54,725 impressions** and **1,684 conversations** with families, boaters, and community members.
- **Expanded social media presence**, featuring daily posts and reels on Instagram and Facebook that combined practical safety tips with **creative, trend-driven content** that made messaging both engaging and educational.
- **Participation in major community events**, including Golden Spike Days, Across the Lake Swim, Cultus Lake Day, Sidney Marina Boating Safety Fair, Mundy Park Pool Grand Opening, and Cadboro Bay Festival.
- **National Drowning Prevention Week outreach in Kelowna, Christina Lake, and Kitsilano Beach**, connecting with families and boaters at some of BC's most popular summer destinations.
- **Province-wide engagement**, including activity along the west coast and a return visit to the iconic coastal community of Tofino.



WaterWise Team L-R: Erin Lee, Georgia Stone



# National Drowning Prevention Week

National Drowning Prevention Week (NDPW) is a national public awareness campaign focused on preventing drowning and water-related injuries. In 2025, NDPW took place July 20-26 and included World Drowning Prevention Day on July 25. For the BC & Yukon Branch, it was our biggest NDPW yet.

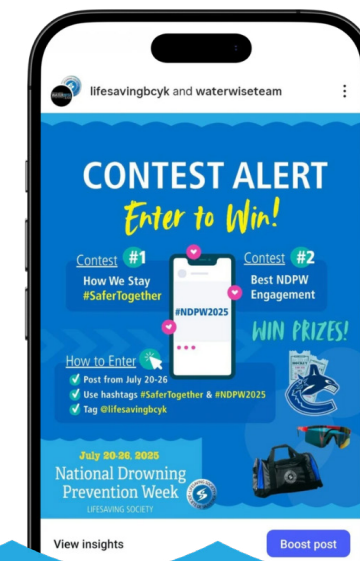
This year's campaign embraced the theme #SaferTogether, reinforcing that drowning prevention is a shared responsibility. Activities across the province included:

- **Launch ceremony at Kitsilano Pool** in Vancouver on July 20, featuring a **six-foot #SaferTogether marquee installation** and a collaborative **"making waves" activity** that symbolized the shared commitment to water safety.
- **26 municipalities** across the region **officially proclaimed** July 20-26, 2025, as National Drowning Prevention Week, helping raise awareness of water safety practices.
- **Week-long public engagement at Kitsilano Beach** in Vancouver, with an information booth providing water safety resources alongside a **six-foot illuminated #BeWaterSmart installation** that drew attention and sparked conversation.
- **27 landmarks and public sites across the province lit up in blue** in recognition of World Drowning Prevention Day, including BC Place, the Olympic Cauldron, Vancouver City Hall, Science World, Fitzsimmons Covered Bridge, Canada Place, the Bastion, and Burrard Street Bridge.



- **11 media interviews** across TV, radio, print, and digital platforms for CBC, CityNews, Omni News, CBC BC Today, Times Colonist, CBC Radio One and Radio Canada.
- **Free Swim to Survive sessions** delivered for **northern Indigenous youth at Moberly Lake** in partnership with Northern Health, and for **remote and underserved communities across Vancouver Island** in partnership with Island Health.
- Strong digital engagement including **three social media contests**, campaign content shared in **four languages**, more than **105,000 views**, and over **230 posts** from Affiliates and municipalities.

A special thanks to the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation for providing the facility for our launch ceremony and championing water safety.



# 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 2025 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.

# Aquatic Safety Management

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 Lifering, and works with Lifesaving Society Canada to establish national aquatic safety standards.

Key achievements in 2025 include:

- Responding to **48 requests** and supporting Affiliates and aquatic operations in the application of BC and Yukon regulations, guidelines and standards.
- Conducting **5 Comprehensive Pool Audits** and **4 Topical Waterfront Audits** located throughout the province.



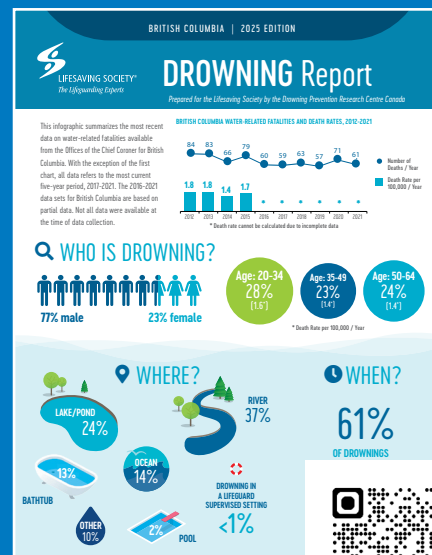
## Lifeguard Services at Buntzen and Hayward Lakes

The Branch was proud to provide lifeguard services for a 6<sup>th</sup> successful season at BC Hydro's Buntzen and Hayward Lakes. Coordinators Shanel Feller and Sven Bellamy provided leadership to a team of 25 lifeguards ensuring water safety for thousands of lake visitors.

Weekend lifeguard service began May 17 at both lakes; daily service ran from June 1 to September 30 at Buntzen Lake and June 27 to September 1 at Hayward Lake.



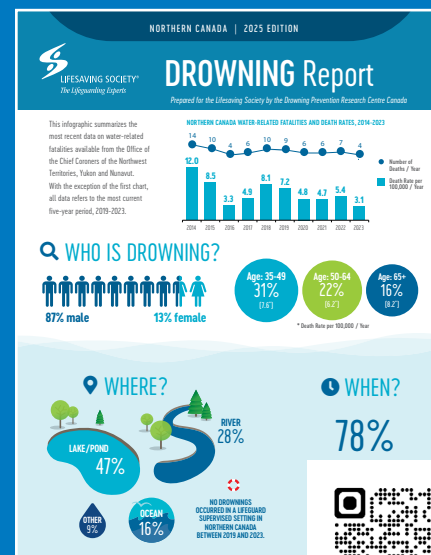
### British Columbia Drowning Report 2025



Scan the QR code to download the report



### Northern Canada Drowning Report 2025



Scan the QR code to download the report



# 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.

## 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. Through generous support from Joan's family, one scholarship of \$1,000 is awarded each year.

### 2026 AWARD RECIPIENTS

**Fred Smith Award**  
**Luis Almhanna**  
Sooke

**Mike Powley Award**  
**Emily Drdul-Kita**  
Coquitlam

**Derek Laverty Award**  
**Eitan Finkel**  
West Vancouver

**2026 Award Recipient**  
**Renata Jaeger**  
Grand Forks

### Past Recipients

**2025**  
Chase Budhwa, Smithers  
Cindy Zhang, Richmond  
Rayan Devbhandari, Surrey

**2024**  
Nick Ostrowka, Surrey  
Leticia Martel, Squamish  
Jordan Talbot, Victoria

**2023**  
Iantha 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 Wilmlink, 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 Townschoon, 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

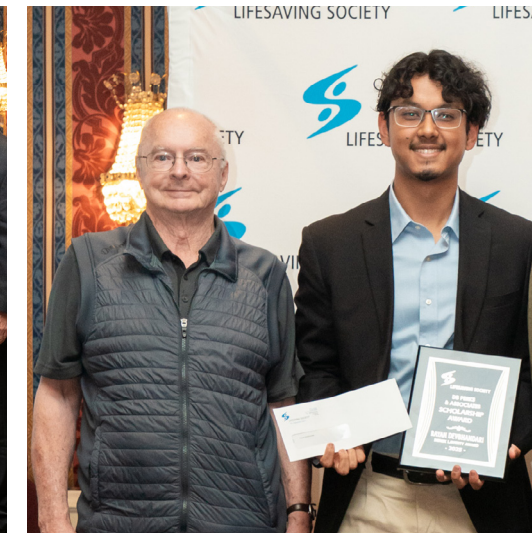
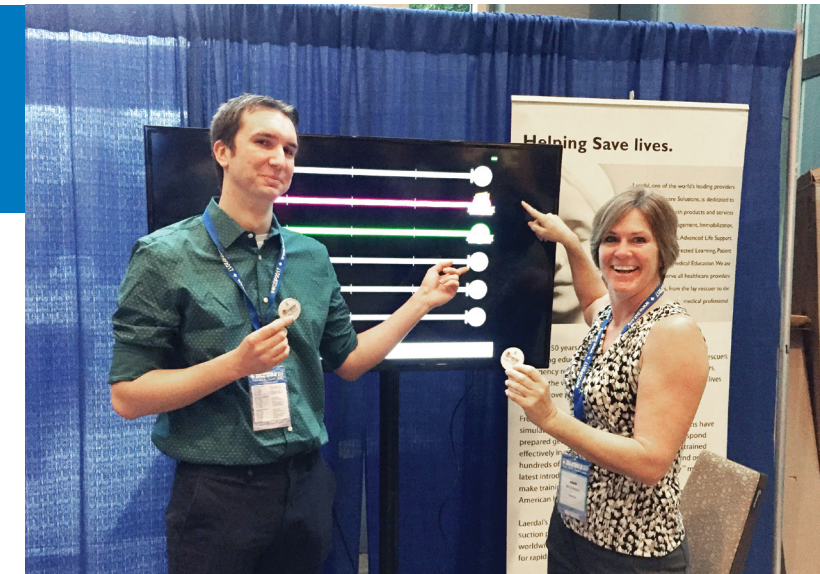
**1995**  
Nicole Liddell, Vancouver  
Dave Lyon, Burnaby

### Past Recipients

**2025**  
Rowan Smith, Williams Lake

**2024**  
Elizabeth Hallborg, Castlegar

**2023**  
Iantha Greer, Whitehorse



Pictured T-B: Aaron Moldenhauer and Joan MacKinnon; DB Perks 2025 Scholarship recipients Cindy Zhang, Rayan Devbhandari, and Joan MacKinnon Memorial Scholarship recipient Rowan Smith.

# 113<sup>th</sup> Annual Commonwealth Honour & Rescue Awards



Pictured L-R: Derek Martin, Kyle Boudreau, and BC Premier David Eby.



Pictured L-R: Karen Zaidan and Graham Esplen; Robb Wilson, Jordyn Eaves, Angela Eaves, and Yukon Commissioner Adeline Webber.

The Honour and Rescue Awards celebrate the human spirit of giving. Honour Awards recognize the dedicated volunteer commitment that supports the Lifesaving Society's mandate of safety on the water. Rescue Awards honour individuals who have demonstrated meritorious service or acts of bravery in saving a life during an aquatic emergency. Recipients are selected based on rescues reported in the news, individual nominations, and police reports. In 2025, the Water Safety Excellence Award was introduced to recognize an individual or organization with an unwavering commitment to water safety.

Awards were presented at the 113<sup>th</sup> Honour and Rescue Awards Ceremony on March 29, 2025 at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. We were honoured to welcome the Honourable David Eby, Premier of British Columbia; the Honourable Adeline Webber, Commissioner of Yukon; the Honourable Garry Begg, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General; Susie Chant, MLA for North Vancouver-Seymour; Councillor Peter Meiszner, Deputy Mayor for the City of Vancouver; and Pete Fry, Councillor for the City of Vancouver. We thank them for making water safety a priority.

## Honour Awards

### Certificate of Thanks

Kyla Atkins  
Jackson Drew  
Jessica Drew  
Rachelle Harron  
Martin Henderson  
Katie Hopp  
Cindy Larson  
Dan Marcotte  
Isabel Parkkari  
Phil Skinder  
Kim Watts

### Service Commendation

Gail Findlay-Shirras  
Michelle Hebein  
Ben Jones  
Nancy Liddell  
John Woolgar

### Service Medal

Leah Bertrand  
Megan Pilla  
Kendal Shepard  
Paula Thulin  
Karen Zaidan

### Bar to Service Medal

Louise Bishoff  
Veronica Grusnick  
Julie Kaufman

### Service Cross

Alyson Dewey  
Melina Sweezey

### Honourary Life Member

Lori-Ann Drew

### President's Plaque

Karen Zaidan

## Rescue Awards

### Silver Medal for Merit

Don Coulombe  
Angela Eaves  
Jordyn Eaves  
Lily Kennedy  
Jeff Skillen  
Jacqueline Snow  
Robb Wilson

### Silver Medal for Bravery

Alison Ambroso  
Kyle Boudreau  
Robert Griffiths  
Rosy Hartman  
Trip Larson  
Derek Martin  
Delbert Soles  
Marcio Tatagiba  
Neal Turnbull

### Water Safety Excellence Award

BC Ferries

### M.G. Griffiths Award

Alison Ambroso  
Rosy Hartman  
Trip Larson  
Marcio Tatagiba  
Robb Wilson

### Governor's Gold Medal for Bravery

Alison Ambroso  
Rosy Hartman



# Volunteers

Thank you to our incredible volunteers for their dedication and support throughout 2025. Whether through training, event assistance, or community outreach, 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	1980 - 1983
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 - 2026



Front row: Gail Findlay-Shirras, Graham Esplen, Lauralee March.  
Back row: Isabelle Taillon, John Woolgar, Lenea Grace, Ben Jones, Sean Hardiman.

## Board of Directors

**Governor**  
Nicole Liddell

**President**  
Graham Esplen

**President-Elect**  
Gail Findlay-Shirras

**Vice-Presidents**  
Sean Hardiman  
Lauralee March  
Isabelle Taillon  
John Woolgar

**Treasurer**  
Ben Jones

**Members-at-Large**  
Danny Burgi  
Samantha Bussieres  
Alyson Dewey  
Sienna Joyce

## Advisory Group and Committee Chairs

**Legal Advisor**  
Darnell Smith

**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

**Lifeguard Advisory Group**  
Renee Kelly  
Jonathan Noone

**Lifesaving Advisory Group**  
Breann Jauncey  
Ethan Wheatley (to 08/25)

**Lifesaving Sport & Competition Advisory Group**  
Chris Cordova  
Martin Henderson

**Swim for Life® Advisory Group**  
Katie Hopp  
Paula Thulin

## Staff

**Executive Director**  
Lenea Grace

**Director, Programs & Services**  
Kimiko Hirakida

**Director, Membership & Operations**  
Maria Rubinchik

**Aquatic Safety Services Manager**  
Len Manuel

**Program Managers**  
Amanda Beavers  
Veronica Grusnick

**Program Coordinators**  
Kyla Atkins  
Oliver Nugent

**Member Services Manager**  
Kaelan D'Sena  
Rose Sekhon

**Member Services Representatives**  
Michael Bleaney  
Andrew Buckley  
Jaden Bullock  
Danielle Dzus  
Indah Holmberg  
Jessica McNiff

**Communications and Events Manager**  
Dany Rubbo

**Public Education Coordinator**  
Dirk Popen

**Bookkeeper**  
Stephanie Joh

**Shipping**  
Elianny Colón Duarte  
Arsh Kumar



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 1,700,000 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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@LifesavingBCYK



*The Lifesaving Society - BC & Yukon Branch acknowledges that we are 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 BC & Yukon Branch