



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.

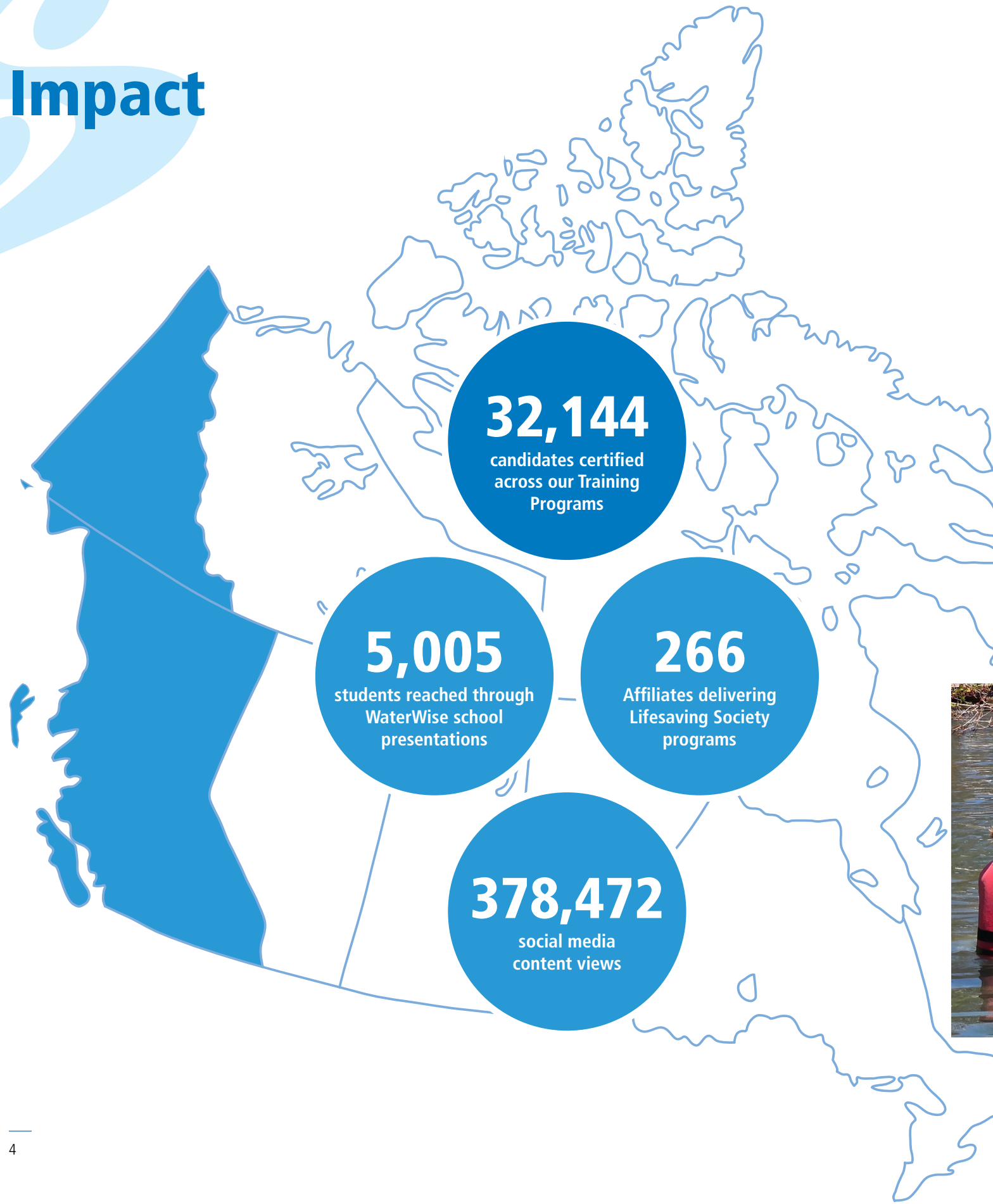
Graham Esplen
President



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
ASSETS		
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
TOTAL ASSETS	1,132,503	1,031,222
LIABILITIES		
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
Total Liabilities	318,436	273,955
FUNDS BALANCE		
Balance, beginning of the year	757,267	579,292
Excess of receipts over (under) disbursements	56,800	177,975
Balance, end of year	814,067	757,267
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUNDS	1,132,503	1,031,222



Statement of Operations

	2025	2024
RECEIPTS		
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
TOTAL RECEIPTS	3,018,464	2,569,795
DISBURSEMENTS		
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
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	2,961,664	2,391,820
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER (UNDER) DISBURSEMENTS	56,800	177,975

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
	Total Lifesaving	9,852	10,386	10,042
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
	Total National Lifeguard	6,499	6,025	6,040
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
	Total Leadership	6,612	6,210	4,245
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
	Total First Aid	9,088	9,626	9,799
SPORT	Sport Coach 1	24	10	0
	Total Sport	24	10	0
SAFETY MANAGEMENT	Safety Management	69	54	213
	Total Safety Management	69	54	213
Total number of candidates		32,144	32,311	30,339

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.

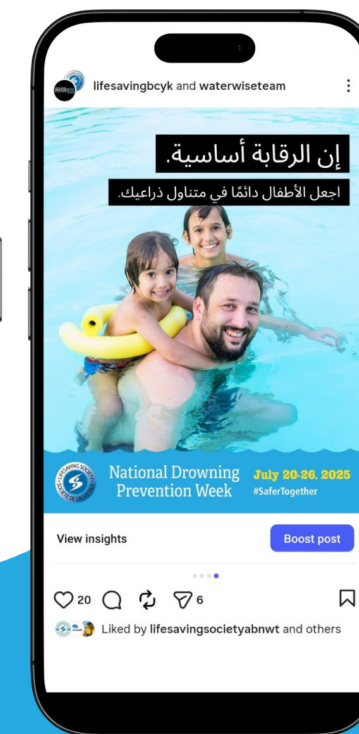
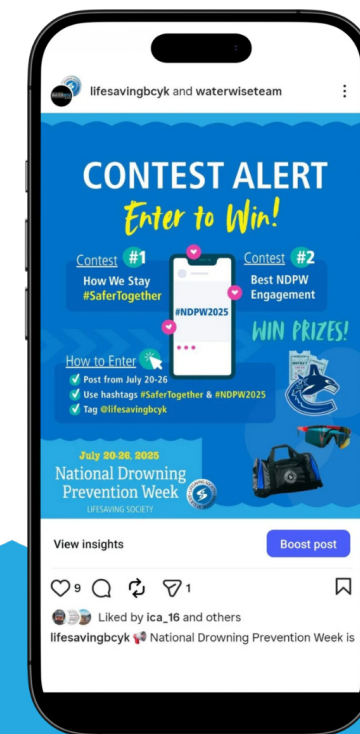
This year's campaign embraced the theme #SaferTogether, reinforcing that drowning prevention is a shared responsibility. Activities across the province included:

- **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.



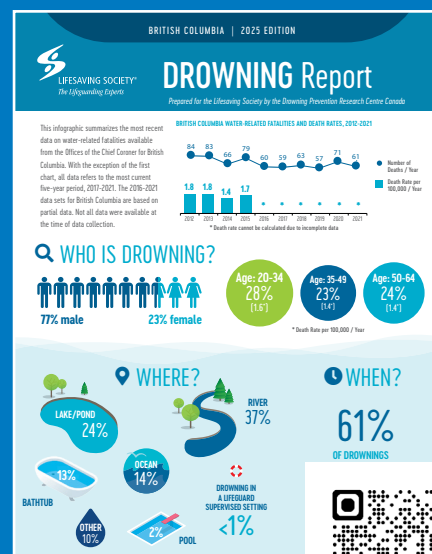
Lifeguard Services at Buntzen and Hayward Lakes

The Branch was proud to provide lifeguard services for a 6th 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.



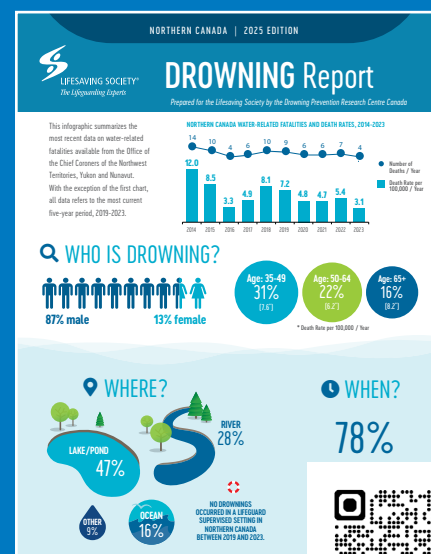
British Columbia Drowning Report 2025



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 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 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

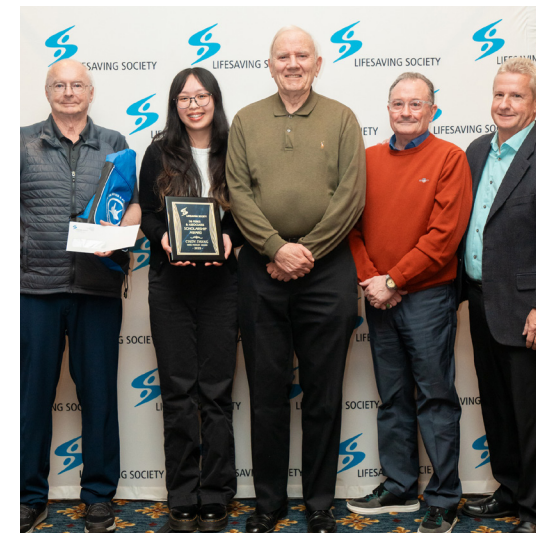
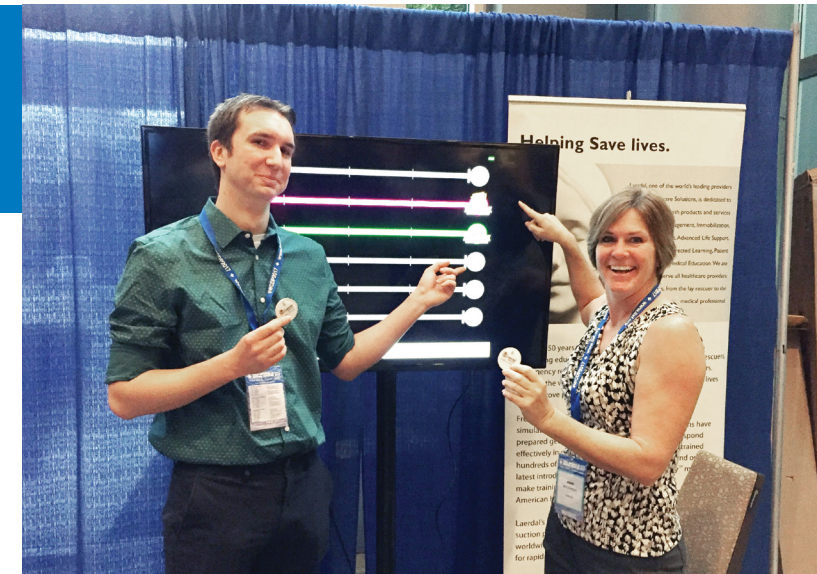
1995
Nicole Liddell, Vancouver
Dave Lyon, Burnaby

Past Recipients

2025
Rowan Smith, Williams Lake

2024
Elizabeth Hallborg, Castlegar

2023
lantha 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.

113th 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 113th 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

112 - 3989 Henning Drive
Burnaby, BC V5C 6N5

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

@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