

SOCIETY ANNOUNCES POLICY CHANGES

New Brunswick

Change in Age of Certification Effective July 1

The Lifesaving Society Canada is adopting 15 years as the minimum age prerequisite for certification as a Swim Instructor, Lifesaving Instructor, or National Lifeguard. Candidates must be at least 15 years of age as of the final day of the course. Award prerequisites for these certifications remain unchanged.

This is a national change in these national awards. In New Brunswick, the change to 15 years is effective July 1, 2020.

This change is the result of two years of thoughtful consultation with the Society's affiliate members, leadership personnel aquatic industry leaders. We thank them for their hard work.

The time is right. In an era of chronic staff shortages in aquatics, this change means more candidates can participate in the certification training they need for employment earlier than ever. And it means employers can tap into a larger talent pool too and begin staff recruitment efforts earlier.

In the discussions about age as a determinate of success, it was recognized that age is only one factor among many including physical, cognitive and emotional maturity that determine successful outcomes. There was consensus that the Society's competency-based evaluation system (e.g., the Must Sees) is, in the end, a more useful and objective measure of success.

The Society's minimum age for certification has no impact on the minimum age for employment for instructors and lifeguards (16 years) established by the *New Brunswick Public Pool Safety Standards*.

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Change in First Aid Prerequisite Policy – Effective July 1, 2020

Workplace Standard First Aid (SFA) is a prerequisite certification to National Lifeguard and can be used as a prerequisite for several other Lifesaving Society courses including Bronze Cross. To date only SFA awards issued by the national agencies (Lifesaving Society, St. John Ambulance, Canadian Red Cross or Canadian Ski Patrol) were eligible as prerequisites. This changes for exams held after July 1, 2020.

In light of the significant growth in the number of first aid providers and recent changes in government regulations, the Lifesaving Society is broadening access to its lifesaving and lifeguard courses by accepting, for prerequisite purposes, SFA certifications provided by training agencies approved by the Government of New Brunswick.

The Society will post on its website the list of approved agency SFA certifications that may be used as prerequisites to the Society's awards. The Society will update its list periodically to align with changes approved by the Government of New Brunswick.

We hope that this change means easier access to Lifesaving Society certification courses for more candidates, and that this change makes things a little easier for the Society's affiliates.

Office reopening – Effective July 2

On a final note, the Society's office reopening plan moves to stage 3 as of July 2. A limited number of visitors at a time will be permitted on site to pickup orders or recertify leadership awards. Strict physical distancing and other recommended public health protocols are in place for everyone's protection. ***Curbside pickup / drop-off is available Monday - Friday (10:00a to 4:00p).***