



Insurance – are you covered?

People often call us to ask about insurance coverage for lifeguards and instructors. The answer depends on whom you work for:

- If you are **employed by a corporation** such as a town, city or camp, the corporation likely carries general liability insurance that covers you as the employee. Therefore, you do not need your own insurance.
- If you are **asked to lifeguard or teach private lessons in a backyard pool** then insurance is required. Ask your employer if you are covered under their homeowner insurance policy; if they say yes, you should have them confirm this coverage in writing before you agree to work. If you are not covered under the employer's policy, or the owner is unwilling to confirm such coverage in writing, ensure that you secure adequate liability insurance on your own by contacting an insurance broker.
- Insurance is also required if you are **lifeguarding or teaching in your own backyard pool**. You may be covered under your (or your parents') home insurance policy, but it is best to confirm this with the insurance provider. If you are not covered, ensure that you secure adequate liability insurance on your own by contacting an insurance broker.
- If you are **volunteering your examiner services on behalf of the Lifesaving Society**, the Society covers you under its liability coverage so you do not need your own insurance.
- If you are a **volunteer**, the [Ontario Good Samaritan Act applies with regard to liability, details of which are online.](#)



Drowning is fast and silent

A message from the Lifesaving Society and children everywhere.

www.lifesavingsociety.com



The popular “Watch Me Not Your Phone” art is now available in 11x17” poster size. Sold in packages of 10.

50/50 RAFFLE FOR SWIM TO SURVIVE

The draw for the Society's first 50/50 Raffle for Swim to Survive took place on August 30. Rachel Tennant was the winner, taking home \$2,780.

Tickets for the next raffle go on sale on October 1, 2019. The draw will happen on November 29, 2019.

Visit our website starting on October 1 to buy tickets.



CLC 1st place winners Jacob Miess and Alexandra Ferguson.

CLC

On August 4, at Martinique Beach in Nova Scotia, 29 qualifiers (including 11 from Ontario) participated in the Canadian Lifeguard Challenge – the most demanding lifesaving sport event in Canada – a triple triathlon test of skill and endurance composed of three consecutive rounds of Oceanwoman/Oceanman. The by-invitation-only event pit Canada’s best lifesaving athletes against one another in head-to-head competition.

Coverage of the 2019 Canadian Lifeguard Challenge was live-streamed on Facebook ([watch it here](#)), reaching over 8,000 viewers.

Here’s how our Ontario athletes placed.

Women: Alexandra Ferguson (1st), Haylie Burton (2nd), Alexa Hunyady (5th) and Scano Hewa Batuwitige (12th).

Men: Jacob Miess (1st), Sebastian Reimer (2nd), James Verreault (3rd), Mackenzie Salmon (5th), Ethan Placek (6th), Owen Hollowell (8th) and John Wyatt (13th).

Congratulations to all of the competitors!

LifeguardDepot.com offers a great selection of Stearns lifejackets and PFDs. A wide range of sizes for everyone, from adults to infants. Easily adjustable, lightweight and comfortable!

Order online from LifeguardDepot.com or call 1-844-647-7033. Free standard shipping within Canada. Some exclusions apply.

LifeguardDepot.com is the online store of the Lifesaving Society. All proceeds from LifeguardDepot.com support drowning prevention and the development of young leaders through Lifesaving Sport.

Citizenship Ceremony

Citizenship Judge Albert Wong invited the Lifesaving Society to participate in the swearing-in ceremony of 1,800 new Canadians over three days in August. The ceremony, held at the Chinese Cultural Centre Of Greater Toronto, welcomed an audience of 3,000 including family and friends.

Judge Wong asked the Society to set up a water safety display at the ceremony in response to a high number of drownings in July, and to the higher drowning risk for new Canadians in general (as determined by the Drowning Prevention Research Centre Canada).

The Society's booth featured the newest Water Smart® tip cards in 12 languages and our mascot, Buddy the Lifeguard Dog. In addition, Alex Chu (a recent recipient of the Society's Rescue Award of Merit) and members of the Society staff were onstage to congratulate the new Canadian citizens.

We thank Judge Albert Wong for allowing us to be a part of this important ceremony and look forward to the opportunity of participating again this fall.



Congratulations to all of the new Canadian citizens sworn in over three days in August!

SWIM TO SURVIVE AND SWIM TO SURVIVE PLUS – NOW IN A SINGLE AWARD GUIDE

Our new *Swim to Survive and Swim to Survive+ Award Guide* helps instructors plan, teach and evaluate both programs:

The Lifesaving Society's Swim to Survive program teaches the essential skills needed to survive an unexpected fall into deep water: Roll into deep water – Tread for 1 minute – Swim 50 metres to safety. Swim to Survive+ (Plus) participants perform these survival skills while wearing clothing. They learn how to safely help a friend in trouble using talking, reaching and throwing assists, and they perform a clothed fitness swim.

Available October 1. Order your copy of the new combined award guide – 16 pages, saddle stitched and three-hole punched for binder compatibility. Same price: \$4.55. Available in English and French.





New Prestan Ultralite 12-Pack

Transport a complete classroom of CPR Training Manikins in one compact package. Easy setup, lightweight and convenient. Training-on-the-go!

Order from LifeguardDepot.com or call 1-844-647-7033. Free standard shipping within Canada. Some exclusions apply.

Order through
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New for affiliates – electronic invoices

Get your invoices and account statements by email direct to your inbox or to a designated receiver! No more copying, scanning or forwarding Lifesaving Society invoices to another person or department in your organization.

To let us know who the right people are and the email addresses to use, email customer_accounts@lifeguarding.com or call 416.490.8844 and ask for Lorna (ext. 227) or Dawn (ext. 230).

Remember that affiliate e-commerce users can also view, print and pay outstanding invoices online by [logging in to our website](#) and selecting Pay Your Account Online from the Organizations menu on the left.

2019 CANADIAN DROWNING REPORT

Seniors age 65 and older have the highest drowning rate of all age groups according to the Lifesaving Society's *2019 Canadian Drowning Report*. Despite the long-term downward trend, high numbers of preventable drowning deaths continue to occur: 2,220 people lost their lives in Canadian waters between 2012 and 2016, the most recent year for which complete data is available. [Open the report.](#)



New Sports Deluxe First Aid Kit



Attention coaches, trainers and team managers!
The Society's new Sports Deluxe First Aid Kit contains a comprehensive assortment of first aid supplies for the treatment of sport-related injuries or illnesses. Hard case to protect first aid contents. Includes personal protection supplies, a variety of bandages, dressings and splint materials.

Price: \$33.17.

Order online from LifeguardDepot.com
or call 1-844-647-7033.

Free standard shipping within Canada.
Some exclusions apply.

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Biletski v. University of Regina – A Standards Review

By Stas Bodrov, lawyer and Chair of the Lifesaving Society Standards Committee.

In June 2005, competitive swimmer Miranda Biletski dove from a starting block located in the shallow end of the University of Regina pool. Her foot slipped and she entered the water at a steep angle hitting her head on the bottom causing permanent quadriplegia. The water depth was 1.22 m.

Biletski sued the University and in October 2017, a jury found the University liable for some \$9 million in damages. The University appealed. In May 2019, the Court of Appeal for Saskatchewan, the highest court in the province, upheld the jury decision.

At the time of the accident, while the pool did not comply with the existing standard for the minimum depth (1.35 m) for starting blocks, it did comply with the “grandfathered” standard for pools built pre-2002. The University argued that since it met the pre-2002 standard, it could not be considered negligent. The jury found otherwise. The Appeal Court refused to interfere with the jury’s finding. Even though the pool complied with the grandfathered standard, the University was nonetheless found to be negligent by having the diving blocks placed in the shallow end of the pool.

This case underscores the need for pool owners and operators to assess the risks associated with their particular facility. Facilities should consider placing starting blocks in the deep end of swimming pools and ensure that FINA standards are met (a minimum 1.35 m depth from 1.0 m to at least 6.0 m from the wall where the starting platforms are installed).

Starting blocks should be inspected on a daily basis by the Pool Operator and used only under the direction/supervision of a certified coach or instructor. Additionally, facilities should conduct safety inspections with a certified Lifesaving Society inspector every year and Lifesaving Society safety audits at least once every five years.