

## SOCIETY ANNOUNCES POLICY CHANGES

---

Newfoundland  
and Labrador

### **Change in Age of Certification**

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.

This change is the result of consultation with the Society's affiliate members, leadership personnel and aquatic industry leaders. 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 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.

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 Newfoundland and Labrador government in regulation 1023/96.

*.../continued*

## **Change in First Aid Prerequisite Policy**

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 Newfoundland and Labrador.

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 Newfoundland and Labrador.

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.

### **For more information:**

***See next page for PREREQUISITES AT-A-GLANCE-UPDATED JULY 2020.***

***See Prerequisite Policies: <https://lifesavingnl.ca/about-us/prerequisite-policies.aspx> for an updated summary including first aid prerequisites.***