

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ENDERBY

AGENDA

MEMO

To: Mayor and Council
From: Tate Bengtson, CAO
Date: July 12, 2024
Subject: Proclamation of National Drowning Prevention Week

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council provides an opportunity for Enderby & District Recreation Services to request that Council declares National Drowning Prevention Week;

AND THAT Council declares July 21-27, 2024 as National Drowning Prevention Week in the City of Enderby;

AND FURTHER THAT Council authorizes the Mayor and Corporate Officer to sign and seal a proclamation to this effect.

BACKGROUND

The Lifesaving Society – BC & Yukon Branch is asking local governments to proclaim National Drowning Prevention week, in an effort to focus on education and respect for the potential danger that any body of water presents.

Attached is a proclamation for Council's consideration. Council has a policy of only considering proclamation requests when a "requestor" appears before Council. As this is a national week of recognition which is core to its mission, Enderby & District Recreation Services will appear before Council to make the request.

Legislative authority for this matter flows from Section 157 of the *Community Charter*, which states:

A council may declare, or the mayor may proclaim, a day of recognition that is to be observed in the municipality.

Respectfully submitted,



Tate Bengtson
Chief Administrative Officer

Tate Bengtson

From: aholmes@cityofenderby.com
Sent: July 11, 2024 11:09 AM
To: Tate Bengtson
Subject: FW: Proclamation Request - National Drowning Prevention Week
Attachments: NDPW 2024 - Proclamation Template.docx

From: Kaelan D'Sena <kaeland@lifesaving.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2024 10:41 AM
Subject: Proclamation Request - National Drowning Prevention Week

Hello,

Canada faces a major problem – and a preventable one: over 450 people die every year from drowning. In fact, the drowning burden is so great around the world that the United Nations General Assembly passed the UN Resolution on Drowning Prevention (A/75/L.76) and named July 25th of each year as World Drowning Prevention Day. On behalf of the Lifesaving Society, British Columbia & Yukon Branch, I am writing to ask that you proclaim July 21st-27th, 2024 as **NATIONAL DROWNING PREVENTION WEEK** in your municipality. Please see a proclamation template attached.

The Lifesaving Society is a national, charitable organization working to prevent drowning and reduce water-related injury through our training programs, WaterSmart® public education, drowning research and aquatic safety standards. The Lifesaving Society certifies Canada's National Lifeguards.

National Drowning Prevention Week is one of the Society's leading public education initiatives, with events taking place across the country to focus media and community attention on the drowning problem and drowning prevention. During this week, the Society urges individuals to:

- Supervise children in and around the water.
- Refrain from drinking alcoholic beverages while participating in aquatic activities.
- Wear a lifejacket when boating.

If every Canadian followed these steps, we could greatly reduce Canada's drowning rate.

A proclamation from your office would give greater exposure to our lifesaving efforts to residents of British Columbia and Yukon. I hope you will consider our request.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Kindly,

Kaelan D'Sena
Member Services Manager

Lifesaving Society - BC & Yukon Branch

604.299.5450 ext. 103

lifesaving.bc.ca | @LifesavingBCYK

I acknowledge the land on which I live, work, and learn on is the traditional territory of the Coast Salish peoples, specifically the Semiahmoo, Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Kwantlen, Qayqayt, and Tsawwassen First Nations.

NATIONAL DROWNING PREVENTION WEEK PROCLAMATION 2024

WHEREAS the mission of Lifesaving Society Canada is to prevent drowning throughout this great country, and even one drowning [city/municipality/province] is one too many; and

WHEREAS most drownings are preventable in a Water Smart community, and only through Water Smart education and a healthy respect for the potential danger that any body of water may present can we genuinely enjoy the beauty and recreation opportunities offered by these bodies of water; and

WHEREAS the Lifesaving Society urges Canadians and residents of [city/municipality/province] to supervise children who are in and around the water, to refrain from drinking alcoholic beverages while participating in aquatic activities, and to always wear a lifejacket when boating; and

WHEREAS the United Nations General Assembly passed the UN Resolution on Drowning Prevention (A/75/L.76) and named July 25th of each year as World Drowning Prevention Day; and

WHEREAS Lifesaving Society Canada has declared July 21st-27th, 2024 National Drowning Prevention Week to focus on the drowning problem and the hundreds of lives that could be saved this year.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, I, [Name and Title] do hereby proclaim July 21st-27th, 2024 **NATIONAL DROWNING PREVENTION WEEK** in [city/municipality/province] and do commend its thoughtful recognition to all citizens of our [city/municipality/province].