



INTERNATIONAL LIFE SAVING FEDERATION

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Members of the Alberta and NWT Branch, Lifesaving Society

I would like to provide you with encouragement and an endorsement from the International Life Saving Federation to provide Swim to Survive skills to all children in Alberta and the Northwest Territories. There is clear evidence that Survival Swimming skills decrease drowning, promote active citizens and decrease health costs. This long term investment in our children reduces mortality and morbidity from aquatic disasters by 50%.

The International Life Saving Federation advocates and supports survival swimming for all children. This is a proven effective strategy to reduce drowning and water accident deaths. In this 100th anniversary year of the Lifesaving Society in Canada, it would be recommended that the Alberta and NWT Branch embrace the child survival revolution by joining with partners in education and delivery to ensure that a program is established to provide every school child with survival swimming education. This could be a model public health partnership involving the organization with the prime focus for drowning prevention – the Lifesaving Society, the Ministries of Education and Health, and the municipal aquatic facilities to provide elementary children in Alberta and the Northwest Territories with essential life skills.

It is important that Swim to Survive education be barrier free and available to every child during their education in public, private and home school systems. This would be an effective public health initiative to immunize all children against drowning. The benefit is seen in all family members and is lifelong. The cost benefit is clear, substantial and impressive. Swim to Survive skills empower children to save themselves and others, from drowning and other injuries.

I encourage you and wish you success in providing this essential life skill to all children.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stephen B. Beerman
President
International Life Saving Federation