



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®

The Lifeguarding Experts

Investiture *citations*

Investiture of Lifesaving Honours

COMMENDATION CITATION

JANUARY 26TH, 2024 | GOVERNMENT HOUSE | EDMONTON, AB

Matthew Pequeno

County of Grande Prairie – April 16th, 2021

THE COMMENDATION CITATION *is awarded to a person who is deserving of recognition for a humanitarian act.*

In the early morning hours of April 16, 2021, a male suspect led Grande Prairie RCMP on a high-speed pursuit in a stolen vehicle. When the vehicle became stuck, the suspect fled on foot and attempted to cross a drainage pond, where he fell through the thin ice covering its surface. He could not pull himself out of the water and struggled to stay afloat, even as an RCMP officer and bystander in a canoe attempted to support him using a paddle.

When firefighters Matthew Pequeno and Nathan Beardmore arrived on the scene, they assessed the situation and immediately donned their ice rescue suits to enter the half-frozen pond and rescue the man. Despite not knowing whether he was armed or violent, Matthew and Nathan went in without police support, risking their own safety to save the man's life. Though the man was initially uncooperative and resisted their attempts to help by submerging himself in the icy water, Matthew and Nathan were able to grab hold of him and swim back to shore. Because of their actions, the man survived despite being in icy water for over 20 minutes.

For his quick response and outstanding effort, Matthew Pequeno is awarded the Commendation Citation.