



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®

*The Lifeguarding Experts*

# Investiture *citations*

## Investiture of Lifesaving Honours

RESCUE COMMENDATION AWARD CITATION

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

# Celia Schnell

Voyageur Park, North Saskatchewan River, Devon – July 1st, 2021

**THE RESCUE COMMENDATION CERTIFICATE** *recognizes an outstanding rescue by a person who is not a Lifesaving Society award holder.*

On July 1st, 2021, Nisha Deepumon was enjoying Canada Day with her husband and two children at Devon Beach. The water seemed calm and peaceful, with no lifeguards on duty or beachgoers wearing lifejackets. While playing in the water with her older son, Nisha decided to move a bit further out when a sudden current dragged her deep into the North Saskatchewan River, where she could not feel the ground beneath her feet or keep her head above the surface. Her husband and younger son had left to get ice cream and did not see her get swept away. Her older son screamed for help.

Celia was spending time with friends on the water when she heard Nisha's son's cries. Spotting Nisha in the middle of the river, Celia realized she was drowning and immediately started swimming out to help. At the same time, Simone was playing in the water with their children when they noticed Nisha struggling to stay afloat. Quickly grasping the situation, Simone began swimming upstream to reach her. Fighting against the strong currents, Celia and Simone reached Nisha at the same time. They worked together to keep her head above water as they towed her to shore, where Nisha was able to receive first aid until paramedics arrived.

For her quick response and outstanding effort, Celia Schnell is awarded the Rescue Commendation Certificate.