



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®

*The Lifeguarding Experts*

# Investiture *citations*

Investiture of Lifesaving Honours

RESCUE COMMENDATION AWARD CITATION

NOVEMBER 1, 2024 | GOVERNMENT HOUSE | EDMONTON, AB

## Markus Thiessen

Silver Springs Lake, BC – July 2023

**M.G. GRIFITHS CERTIFICATE** is the second highest national bravery award of the Lifesaving Society and is presented to a Lifesaving Society award holder who, while using approved techniques, demonstrates significant personal bravery in an outstanding rescue attempt.

In July 2023, Markus Thiessen was cliff jumping with his friends at Silver Springs Lake in British Columbia. As the group were preparing to leave for the day, another young man, unknown to Markus or his friends, invited them to watch him jump. As they did, the group realized something went wrong. The man landed painfully on his stomach and gestured to Markus and his friends for help before losing consciousness and starting to sink.

Without stopping to remove his shoes and hat, Markus leaped off the cliff into the water. After resurfacing for air, he executed a surface dive and located the man approximately 30 feet below, continuing to sink. Markus was able to grab the man under the arms and began swimming with him to the surface. Just as they were resurfacing, the young man regained consciousness. Though panicked, he was able to cough out water and support himself. With the help of one of the man's friends, Markus ensured that he got to shore safely.

For his quick response and outstanding effort, **Markus Thiessen** is awarded the M.G. Griffiths Certificate.