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Investiture of Lifesaving Honours

COMMONWEALTH PRESIDENT'S AWARD

OCTOBER 29, 2020 | GOVERNMENT HOUSE | EDMONTON, AB

## Town of Banff

**THE COMMONWEALTH PRESIDENT'S AWARD** is presented to a business or organization for their exceptional continuing and sustained contributions or service to Society activities or operations.

The Town of Banff has been a longstanding supporter of the Lifesaving Society since 1995 when it first started offering Lifesaving programming.

They have since moved beyond programming to advocacy through community led initiatives. In 2018 and 2019 the Town began delivering Lifesaving Society Water Smart messaging at community events fostering a new community conversation about water safety. In 2019 the Town of Banff entered a partnership with the Society to assist in developing a Water Smart program for school aged children and they piloted this program with local schools.

The Town has also expressed interest in working with the Society to develop a program through settlement services that is managed by the Town with an aim to educate newcomers to Canada on the dangers water presents along with how they can be safe when in, on and around water. This program would be delivered throughout the Bow Valley region.

In 2019 the Town engaged the Lifesaving Society to conduct a River Ice Audit to assess the town in evaluating risk for a community event that has traditionally taken place on the river, and in 2020 they promoted National Drowning Prevention Week by placing a banner on City Hall with information posted to residents on their website. The Town has been instrumental in bringing Parks Canada to the table to review and install Water Safety Signage within Banff National Park.

For these contributions, and their ongoing commitment to fostering, maintaining, and promoting water smart communities that the **Town of Banff** is awarded the Commonwealth Presidents Award.