

Criteria for Beaches



**BLUE FLAG
CANADA**
blueflag.ca



environmental
defence

Canadian operator
of Blue Flag



The Blue Flag is an internationally recognized and respected eco-label that is awarded annually to beaches and marinas which have met strict criteria in four categories: Water Quality, Environmental Management, Environmental Education, and Safety & Services. The Blue Flag program was founded in 1987 and is run internationally by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), a non-profit organization based in Denmark. There are currently over 4,000 Blue Flags flying in 49 countries.

Canada's National Operator of the Blue Flag program is Environmental Defence, a national environmental charity. In 2016, Blue Flags were awarded to 26 beaches and seven marinas across the country.

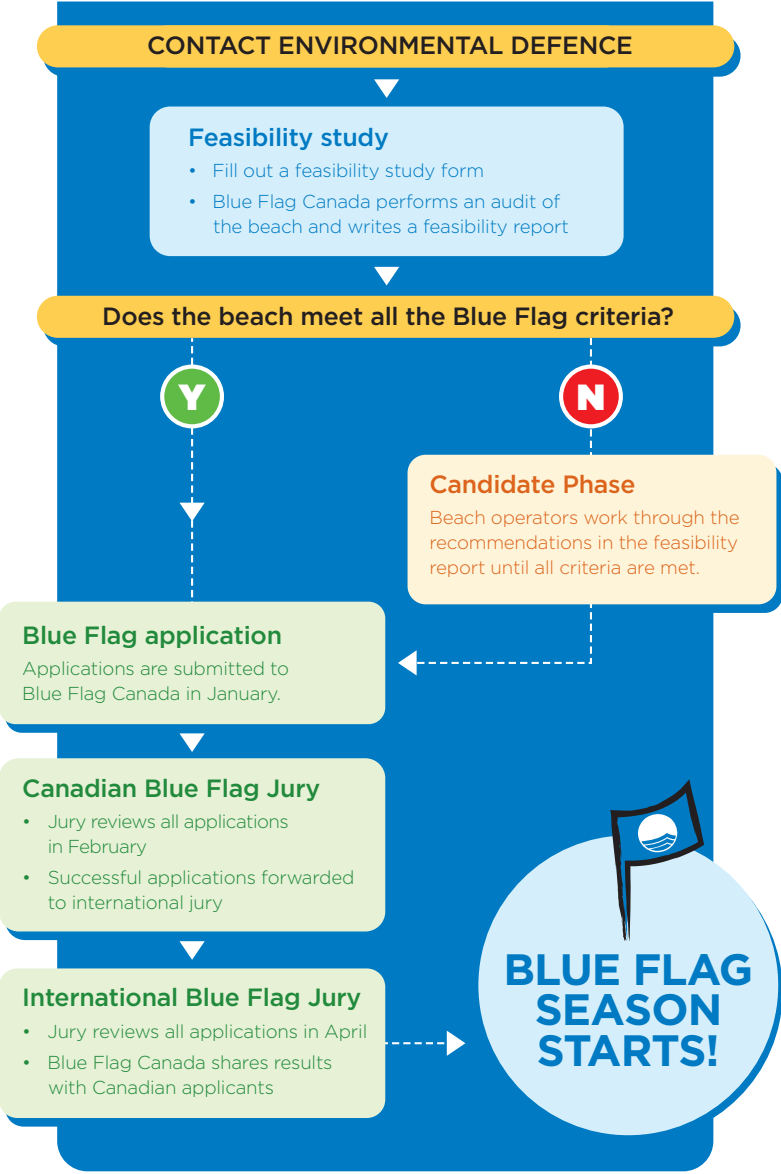
What makes the Blue Flag program so unique and successful is its holistic nature. The standards were developed to ensure that Blue Flag beaches are not only clean and environmentally sustainable, but provide the facilities and services that tourists around the world look for. It is for this reason that the Blue Flag program is embraced by the World Health Organization, the World Tourism Organization, and the United Nations Environmental Programme.

The Blue Flag criteria are organized into four main categories: Water Quality, Environmental Management, Environmental Education and Safety and Services. The criteria are further categorized as either imperative or guideline. Imperative criteria must be complied with in order for a beach to be awarded a Blue Flag. Guideline criteria are strongly encouraged, but are not mandatory.

We perform random and announced control visits to Blue Flag beaches during the swimming season in order to ensure that all criteria are being met. This is critical to ensure that all awarded beaches uphold the integrity of the program.

Steps to the Blue Flag Award

- 1 CONTACT US** - If you're thinking about getting your beach certified, contact us first - we have over a decade of experience helping communities achieve the Blue Flag. As part of a national and international network of beach operators, we can draw from the knowledge and experience of beach operators around the world.
- 2 FEASIBILITY STUDY** - Before you can apply for the Blue Flag award, we will conduct a feasibility study of your beach. In addition to reviewing water quality data and other documentation, we will meet with you to assess the beach and facilities. Following the site visit, we will prepare a feasibility study report outlining the steps required to meet all Blue Flag criteria. This report will provide a helpful framework to guide your initiatives.
- 3 CANDIDATE PHASE** - If your municipality/ park agrees to adopt the recommendations of the feasibility study and proceed with Blue Flag certification, your beach will enter the pilot phase and become a Blue Flag "candidate." As a candidate, you may promote your efforts to achieve the Blue Flag.
- 4 BLUE FLAG APPLICATION** - Once the beach is in compliance with the Blue Flag criteria, you will be invited to submit an application. Applications are accepted each January and include four years of water quality data and other supporting documentation.
- 5 REGIONAL BLUE FLAG JURY** - The jury is made up of independent experts in environmental education, water quality, environmental management, safety and tourism. The jury reviews all applications in February and forwards successful applications to an International Jury for final approval.
- 6 INTERNATIONAL BLUE FLAG JURY** - The International Jury reviews all applications in April. Once the jury announces its decision, Environmental Defence shares the results



with Canadian applicants. This information is embargoed from the media until the official announcement in May, when we issue a national press release to promote Canada's awardees and candidates.

- 7 BLUE FLAG SEASON BEGINS!** - Once the beach is open for swimming, the Blue Flag can be raised! Many awardees have flag-raising celebrations, and we help promote these events. Beaches are monitored by Environmental Defence throughout the season to ensure that they continue to meet all of the criteria. All of Canada's Blue Flag beaches and marinas are promoted on **BlueFlag.ca**.

Blue Flag Criteria for Beaches



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

- 1** Information about the Blue Flag program must be displayed. (pg. 5)
- 2** Environmental education initiatives must be offered and promoted to beach users. (pg. 6)
- 3** Information about recreational water quality must be displayed. (pg. 6)
- 4** Information about the local ecosystem must be displayed. (pg. 7)
- 5** A map of the beach indicating different facilities must be displayed. (pg. 7)
- 6** A code of conduct that reflects appropriate laws governing the use of the beach and surrounding areas must be displayed. (pg. 7)



WATER QUALITY

- 7** The beach must fully comply with the water quality sampling and frequency requirements. (pg. 8)
- 8** The beach must fully comply with the requirements for water quality analysis. (pg. 9)
- 9** No industrial, wastewater or sewage-related discharges should affect the beach area. (pg. 10)
- 10** The beach must comply with the Blue Flag requirements for the microbiological parameter *Escherichia coli* (E.coli) and intestinal enterococci (streptococci). (pg. 10)
- 11** The beach must comply with the Blue Flag requirements for the following physical and chemical parameters. (pg. 10)



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

- 12** The local authority/beach operator must establish a beach management committee. (pg. 11)
- 13** The local authority/beach operator must comply with all regulations affecting the location and operation of the beach. (pg. 11)
- 14** Sensitive areas must be managed accordingly. (pg. 12)

- 15** The beach must be clean. (pg. 12)
- 16** Seaweed or natural debris should be left on the beach. (pg. 12)
- 17** Garbage bins must be available at the beach in adequate numbers and they must be regularly maintained. (pg. 13)
- 18** Recycling bins must be available at the beach. (pg. 13)
- 19** An adequate number of toilet or restroom facilities must be provided. (pg. 13)
- 20** The restroom facilities must be kept clean. (pg. 14)
- 21** The toilet or restroom facilities must have controlled sewage disposal. (pg. 14)
- 22** Camping, driving and dumping are prohibited on the beach. (pg. 14)
- 23** Domestic animals must be prohibited from beach. (pg. 14)
- 24** All buildings and beach equipment must be properly maintained. (pg. 15)
- 25** Marine and freshwater sensitive habitats in the vicinity of the beach must be monitored. (pg. 14)
- 26** A sustainable means of transportation should be promoted in the beach area. (pg. 15)



SAFETY AND SERVICES

- 27** Appropriate public safety control measures must be implemented. (pg. 16)
- 28** First aid equipment must be available on the beach. (pg. 17)
- 29** Emergency plans to cope with pollution risks must be in place. (pg. 17)
- 30** There must be management of different users and uses of the beach so as to prevent conflicts and accidents. (pg. 18)
- 31** There must be safety measures in place to protect users of the beach. (pg. 18)
- 32** A supply of drinking water should be available at the beach. (pg. 19)
- 33** At least one Blue Flag beach in each municipality must have access and facilities provided for the physically disabled. (pg. 19)



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

1 Information about the Blue Flag program must be displayed.

Imperative

Blue Flag Information Board

Once awarded a Blue Flag, your beach must have a Blue Flag information board put in place by the beginning of the bathing season. The information board tells visitors about the Blue Flag program, what your community is doing to meet the criteria, and what your beach has to offer. It points out where people can find key facilities and services like washrooms and first aid, and tells people who they can contact for any questions or concerns. The information board is also used to describe the local ecosystem, advertise upcoming environmental education activities and post the latest water quality results.

You want your information board to be seen, so it is a good idea to situate it at a point of entry or another high-traffic location. For long beaches, there should be an information board in place at least every 500 metres.

Blue Flag Canada has a Blue Flag information board template which can be adapted to incorporate local information. This template saves Blue Flag communities from designing an in-

formation board from scratch, and ensures that the information board contains the following necessary information:

- 1 Blue flag logo
- 2 Name of the beach
- 3 Information about the Blue Flag program
- 4 Contact information for the local, national and international Blue Flag representatives
- 5 Information about bathing water quality
- 6 Code of conduct
- 7 Information about the local environment
- 8 Map of the beach indicating location of facilities
- 9 Safety precautions
- 10 Explanation of the four categories of the Blue Flag criteria
- 11 Length of the bathing season at your beach
- 12 Information about environmental education activities

2 Environmental education initiatives must be offered and promoted to beach users.

Imperative

The community must offer at least five environmental education initiatives during the Blue Flag season. At least some of the initiatives should be provided at the beach and have a direct focus on the coastal environment. These initiatives must be promoted at the beach. Upcoming activities can be advertised on posters, at an information centre, park office, bulletin board, whiteboard or sandwich board. This will be checked for during annual control visits.

It is not necessary for the applicant to organize all of the environmental education initiatives. We encourage partnerships with local organizations, such as “Friends of” groups, environmental NGOs, conservation authorities, naturalist clubs or other community groups. Environmental education can also be incorporated into community events, by setting up a Blue Flag information table and talking to the public about the program and relevant environmental issues.

Environmental education initiatives can take many forms, and can be divided into the following categories:

- 1 Passive participation: Exhibits, films, presentations, slide shows, conferences, debates, etc.
- 2 Active participation: Guided tours, educational games, beach cleanup days, photography or art contests, “adopt a

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beach” projects, eco-scavenger hunts, environmental monitoring programs, etc.

- 3 Training activities: Training sessions for teachers, municipal staff, lifeguards, cleaners, summers students, etc.
- 4 Publishing and media: The production of leaflets, brochures, stickers, t-shirts, bags, interpretive signage, school and municipal newsletters, books, posters, radio broadcasts, etc.
- 5 Blue Flag Environmental Information Centre: Blue Flag beaches are encouraged to have an Environmental Education Centre where specific information about Blue Flag and environmental issues can be provided. A common meeting area can be used as an information centre, so long as it offers activities and exhibitions and provides environmental information. The centre should be open to and have information for the general public, not just school children.

3 Information about recreational water quality must be displayed.

Imperative

People often seek out Blue Flag beaches because they are associated with excellent water quality, so it is important that the public can easily find the most recent water quality results at your beach. E.coli results must be posted once they are available, both at the beach and on your individual web page on blueflag.ca.

The Blue Flag information board template includes a spot for posting water quality results.

Results can also be posted on a sandwich board, whiteboard or bulletin board located at lifeguard stations or other facilities.

The ideal format for displaying the E.coli readings is a table or chart, accompanied by an explanation for how the results relate to the Blue Flag criteria. Most importantly, the results should be easy to find and displayed in a way that is easy to understand.

4 Information about the local ecosystem must be displayed.

Imperative

Beaches are not sterile sand boxes—they are living ecosystems that support coastal species. Every beach is unique, so your Blue Flag information board must include information about the natural features that characterize your beach and surrounding area. Information can also be displayed at tourist destinations, tourism offices and visitor centres.

Topics can include:

- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs)

- Species at Risk (SAR)
- Important Bird Areas (IBAs)
- Unique features like coastal dunes
- Function of riparian (shoreline) habitat
- Wetlands and their role in watersheds
- Local fish populations

If your beach is habitat for species at risk, you will need to include a management plan and relevant permits with your Blue Flag application.

5 A map of the beach indicating different facilities must be displayed.

Imperative

A map is required so that visitors can see the boundaries of the Blue Flag zone and locate facilities and services. The map should be easy to read and orientated to the beach with a “you are here” pointer. Standard symbols are to be used, and are provided by Blue Flag. The Blue Flag information board template includes a space for a map of the beach, so it is important to refer to the template before designing the map in order to ensure that the dimensions are correct.

The map must include:

- “You are here” pointers
- Lifeguards or lifesaving equipment
- The area patrolled (for beaches with lifeguards)
- First aid equipment
- Telephones
- Toilets (including accessible toilets)
- Drinking water

- Car and bicycle parking areas
- Authorised camping sites near the beach
- Recycling facilities
- Location of water sampling point(s)
- Access points and access for disabled persons
- Zoning (swimming, surfing, sailing, boating, etc.)
- Nearby public transport
- Footpaths
- Blue Flag boundaries
- Location of other information boards
- Rivers and inflows
- Local landmarks (where applicable)
- Stormwater outlets
- Nearby natural sensitive areas, etc.
- Compass rose
- Scale bar

6 A code of conduct that reflects appropriate laws governing the use of the beach and surrounding areas must be displayed.

Imperative

Sustainable beach tourism is only possible if beachgoers respect the environment. A code of conduct encourages safe and environmentally responsible behaviours and ensures that visitors understand the local rules and by-laws.

The code of conduct must be displayed on the Blue Flag information board, and can be posted at other locations such as entrance points and areas of concern. Standard symbols should be used wherever possible because they are internationally recognized and can be understood in different languages.



WATER QUALITY

Because the Blue Flag program is international, it is important that all beaches in the program meet the same global standards. The international water quality criteria are based on the European Union's Bathing Water Directive.

The international Blue Flag criteria are considered a minimum requirement, and any country may strengthen or add criteria which uphold national or regional guidelines. Blue Flag Canada has therefore built in requirements based Guidelines for Canadian Recreational Water Quality (2012). Blue Flag beaches in Ontario must adhere to the Ontario Beach Management Protocol.

7 The beach must fully comply with the water quality sampling and frequency requirements.

Imperative

Canadian Blue Flag Requirements

Canada's freshwater beaches are routinely sampled for E.coli and saltwater beaches are sampled for intestinal enterococci. Beaches must have multiple sample sites representing the majority of the bathing area. Beaches longer than 1,000 metres must have one sample site every 200 metres. Samples should be taken from fixed locations, including where the concentration of bathers is highest. Samples are taken 30 cm below the water surface and must be taken on a weekly basis at minimum, on the

same day of the week. They should be taken at regular times, ideally when bacterial levels are typically highest.

International Blue Flag Requirements

All Blue Flag beaches must be tested for both E.coli and intestinal enterococci at least five times per season. Samples should be spread evenly throughout the bathing season, with no more than 30 days between sample dates. One pre-season sample of each indicator must be taken up to 30 days before regular water quality monitoring begins.

Because most Canadian beaches are sampled regularly, additional testing is usually only required for the second indicator; freshwater beaches will require five single samples of intestinal enterococci, whereas saltwater beaches will require five single samples of E.coli. In most cases, public health personnel can take an extra sample during regular monitoring; alternatively municipal or park staff may be trained to take samples properly. The additional samples must be sent to an independent laboratory for analysis. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all of the necessary samples are taken and analyzed.

If sample results exceed provincial or federal standards, re-sampling should take place as soon as possible in order to ensure that conditions have returned to normal and the beach is safe for swimming. Waiting too long only prolongs the time that the beach is posted, discouraging the public from visiting the beach. This can negate your efforts to promote your beach to the community and tourists.

In the event that sample results exceed the guidelines, a sample may be excluded from the 95th percentile spreadsheet. If necessary to replace a discarded sample, an additional sample is to be taken seven days after the end of the short-term pollution. A maximum of 15 per cent



of samples in a season may be discounted.

In case of an oil spill, algal bloom, abnormal weather or other extreme factors which can have a serious adverse effect on water quality, the beach manager must temporarily take down the flag and clearly state the reason on the information board. It is recommended that the wording of this information is along the lines: "This beach has recently experienced abnormal weather. Swimming is not recommended at this time due to the possibility of pollution."

8 The beach must fully comply with the requirements for water quality analysis.

Imperative

A Blue Flag application must include data from at least 20 samples (each) of E.coli and intestinal enterococci, taken on separate dates. These samples can be spread over four years or taken within one bathing season, as long as there are at least five samples of each indicator per season. Four years of geometric mean data must also accompany the application.

Before your bathing season begins, establish a sampling calendar and make it available to Blue Flag. This will ensure that you collect the necessary number of samples, including a pre-season sample. Sampling should take place no later than four days after the date specified in the sampling calendar.

An independent laboratory must carry out the analysis of the bathing water samples. The laboratory must be nationally or internationally accredited to carry out microbiological and physical-chemical analyses.

Once your water quality results are available, upload them to the Blue Flag website, blueflag.ca.

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9 No industrial, wastewater or sewage-related discharges should affect the beach area.

Imperative

The collection, treatment and discharge of wastewater in the community must meet Ontario's *Environmental Protection Act* as well as Canada's Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations, established under the *Fisheries Act*.

There should not be any discharge of industrial pollution, urban wastewater or sewage into the Blue Flag swimming zone or surrounding area. If there are discharge points in the vicinity of the beach, these must be documented at the time of application. Any such discharges must not nega-

tively affect the environment or compromise the water quality.

A profile of the Blue Flag bathing area should be provided with the Blue Flag application, including information about potential sources of pollution, a description of the physical, geographical and hydrological characteristics of the bathing water, as well as assessment of the potential for cyanobacteria and algae formation. This information is collected by Public Health during routine public beach surveillance.

10 The beach must comply with the Blue Flag requirements for the microbiological parameter *Escherichia coli* (E.coli) and intestinal enterococci (streptococci).

Water Quality Criteria for Freshwater Beaches

Indicator	International	Canada	Ontario
E.coli	500	200	100
Intestinal enterococci	200	N/A	N/A

Water Quality Criteria for Coastal Beaches

Indicator	International	Canada	Ontario
E.coli	250	N/A	N/A
Intestinal enterococci	100	35	N/A

Canadian Blue Flag Requirements

In Canada freshwater beaches are sampled for E.coli and saltwater beaches are sampled for intestinal enterococci. Sample data is analyzed using a geometric mean of multiple sample sites.

This is the number which is reported to the public, and beaches are typically "posted" if the geometric mean exceeds the provincial or federal limit value. In order to qualify for a Blue Flag, at least 80 per cent of your geometric mean results must fall below the limit value. For instance, if you are a beach in Ontario, 80 per cent of your geometric mean results must be less than 100 cfu/100 ml.

International Blue Flag Requirements

To meet the international criteria, raw data from both indicators is analyzed using the 95th percentile methodology. A 95th percentile spreadsheet will be provided along with your annual Blue Flag application. You will simply be required to enter the raw data for at least 20 samples of each indicator, and the spreadsheet will automatically calculate whether the beach passes or fails.

11 The beach must comply with the Blue Flag requirements for the following physical and chemical parameters.

Imperative

Water quality can also be affected by physical and chemical parameters such as oil and floatables. Bathing water must meet the following requirements:

- The water must be free of odours and oily films.
- There must not be any floatables such as tarry residues, wood, plastic articles, bottles, containers, glass or any other substance.

Immediate action should be taken if abnormal changes are detected. This includes changes in the colour, transparency and turbidity of the water. Should physical or chemical pollution (or algal blooms) be detected repeatedly, the Blue Flag must be taken down for the remainder of the season.



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

12 The local authority/beach operator must establish a beach management committee.

Imperative

Blue Flag is a multi-disciplinary program, promoting cooperation between various agencies and stakeholders. This collaboration is most evident during the application process, as input is required from various departments to complete all of the questions and provide the necessary documentation. The beach management committee is a means of ensuring that these personnel continue working together throughout the years to maintain Blue Flag standards. The committee should also include representatives of community groups, clubs, non-profits and conservation authorities.

The committee should meet at least twice a year to discuss the management of the beach and ensure that all criteria are being met. Committee members may also take a hands-on approach, such as providing support to the beach manager, facilitating environmental education activities and promoting the program.

If there are multiple Blue Flag beaches within a community, only one committee is needed to oversee all of the sites.

13 The local authority/beach operator must comply with all regulations affecting the location and operation of the beach.

Imperative

As a standard of excellence, Blue Flag requires that applicants manage the beach and facilities in compliance with provincial and national legislation. This includes building codes, land use

planning, environmental assessments, wastewater treatment, environmental management, accessibility and endangered species legislation.

14 Sensitive areas must be managed accordingly.

Imperative

Some sites at or near a Blue Flag beach may be very sensitive and require special management. In these cases, the beach operator must consult with an appropriate conservation organization or expert for advice on how to manage these sites. Where areas require special management, at the time of application, the applicant must provide confirmation that this consultation has taken place and that a management plan will be implemented.

However, the sensitivity of certain areas may prevent them from being part of a Blue Flag beach or from having information posted at the beach

directing people to the area. An increased number of visitors could endanger wildlife and/or habitats, e.g. using land space for the construction of facilities, parking, paths, etc. As a general rule, Blue Flag accreditation is only given to sites that can demonstrate management of visitors and recreational use that prevents long-term irreversible damage to the local natural environment.

If a Blue Flag beach is in or near a Marine Protected Area, it is necessary to consult with the MPA management in order to ensure compatible ecosystem conservation and biodiversity goals.

15 The beach must be clean.

Imperative

When people visit a Blue Flag beach, they expect it to be clean—so it is critical that your beach lives up to that standard. Depending on the size of your beach and the resources at your disposal, you may clean your beach by hand or use a mechanical groomer. Where possible, hand-picking is preferable because it has the least impact on the natural ecosystem. Large beaches however, can be difficult and time-consuming to groom by hand.

Regardless of the method you use, it is imperative that beach grooming does not interfere with nesting species such as turtles, frogs and shorebirds. Some species like the endangered fowler's

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toad (*Anaxyrus fowleri*) burrow under the sand, and can be harmed by mechanical grooming. If the beach is habitat for species at risk, a management plan must be in place which includes the timing and method of beach grooming. This plan must be approved by the appropriate authorities.

16 Seaweed or natural debris should be left on the beach.

Imperative

Only man-made litter should be removed from the beach. In fact, natural debris can play a pivotal role in the beach's ecosystem. For example: when seaweed washes ashore, it helps sand collect to build dunes, releases nutrients and provides foraging habitat for shorebirds and other wildlife. Vegetation and natural debris should therefore be left on the beach. The strand line should be hand-picked however, to remove litter that may wind up in it.

Vegetation may only be removed if it accumulates to the point where it is a hazard or creates a foul odour. It can be moved to a designated area of the beach where it may continue to provide habitat. Seaweed can also be dried and used later as fertilizer or dune stabilizer. If these options aren't possible, it should be composted.

17 **Garbage bins must be available at the beach in adequate numbers and they must be regularly maintained.**

Imperative

Garbage bins should be of a suitable design and appearance as well as functionality. If possible, bins should be made of environmentally friendly products like recycled plastics or wood. It is best to use bins with covers, otherwise they can attract wildlife and birds.

There must be enough bins to service the whole beach and they should all be regularly maintained, well secured, and spaced appropriately. During the peak tourist season, the spacing between bins and the frequency at which they are emptied should be increased as necessary.

In summary, when choosing and locating bins, the following factors should be considered:

- Bin capacity
- Environmentally friendly products
- Type and source of litter
- Volume of pedestrian traffic
- Frequency of service
- Local environment, e.g. winds, high tides
- Scavenging by wildlife and birds
- Accessibility, e.g. height, surface

18 **Recycling bins must be available at the beach.**

Imperative

In order to encourage people to recycle, it has to be convenient—so it is important that there are enough recycling bins to service the entire beach, and that they are easy to find. Provide separate containers for the types of waste that are recycled in your municipality, such as paper, plastic, glass and cans. These bins should be well labeled and designed to encourage people to put materials in the appropriate containers. If your local recycling facility does not require source separation, this information should be communicated on signage.



19 **An adequate number of toilet or restroom facilities must be provided.**

Imperative

Restrooms must be equipped with sinks, soap and clean towels (paper or cloth) or a hand-dryer.

There must be enough restrooms to service the average number of visitors during the peak season. Also take into account the length of the beach and the location of major access points. Restrooms must be easy to locate through signage, including the map on the Blue Flag information board. Restrooms must be equipped with sinks, soap and clean towels

(paper or cloth) or a hand-dryer. If there is not running water, hand sanitizer must be provided. If possible, provide showers, change rooms and diaper changing stations.

For smaller beaches, it may be possible to use the restrooms in nearby shops, restaurants, cafés or other establishments so long as you have permission from the owner and have signage clearly indicating where they are located. Access to the restrooms must be safe and accessible for wheelchairs.

20 The restroom facilities must be kept clean.

Imperative

No matter how beautiful your beach is, filthy washrooms will leave people with a bad impression. It is important that your restrooms are checked and cleaned as often as necessary depending on the number of visitors on a given day.

Eco-friendly, non-toxic cleaning products and soaps should be used to protect both the environment and the health of staff and visitors. If paper towels are used, they should be made of post-consumer recycled paper.

21 The toilet or restroom facilities must have controlled sewage disposal.

Imperative

In communities with sewage treatment facilities, the toilets must be connected to the municipal sewer to ensure that sewage is treated properly.

If your washrooms are connected to a septic system, it is important that the system is well maintained and does not leak into the groundwater.

22 Camping, driving and dumping are prohibited on the beach.

Imperative

To protect the beach ecosystem and keep it clean, ensure that camping, driving and dumping are prohibited. There must be adequate signage to inform the public about these restrictions, including information about relevant by-laws.

Only emergency and work vehicles are permitted on a Blue Flag beach. If there are issues with unauthorized vehicles entering the beach, barriers

Only emergency and work vehicles are permitted on a Blue Flag beach.

should be put in place to prevent their access. In the case of special events that require the use of vehicles on the beach, a management plan must be developed which prevents damage to the ecosystem, as well as risks to beach users.

23 Domestic animals must be prohibited from beach.

Imperative

With the exception of guide dogs for the visually impaired, pets are not allowed on Blue Flag beaches. They are permitted in parking areas, parks and paths adjacent to the beach, but not on the beach itself. Animals in these areas must be kept on a leash and picked up after.

If there is significant demand from dog owners, and the beach is large enough, we recommend creating a dog-friendly zone which is outside of the Blue Flag boundaries. The zones must be physically separated, and there must be adequate signage. Signage should also ask people to pick up after their pets, and it is a good idea to provide baggies and waste bins to encourage responsible behaviour.



24 All buildings and beach equipment must be properly maintained.

Imperative

Facilities should be maintained with the smallest environmental footprint possible.

The facilities at your beach must reflect a standard of excellence. Make sure that buildings and equipment are clean, safe and well maintained.

Facilities should be maintained with the smallest environmental footprint possible. This includes using eco-friendly products like low VOC paints and non-toxic cleaning products.

Look for ways to conserve water by using low flow or composting toilets and motion sensor taps. You can also conserve energy by using LED light bulbs.

When designing new structures, ensure that the necessary permits are acquired. Construction should occur outside the Blue Flag season, and it is important that it doesn't disrupt sensitive ecosystems. If construction is necessary during the bathing season, it must be done without disrupting visitors or interfering with the ability of the beach to meet the Blue Flag criteria.

25 Marine and freshwater sensitive habitats in the vicinity of the beach must be monitored.

Imperative

If there is a sensitive habitat (such as coral reef or sea grass beds) located within 500 metres from any part of a Blue Flag beach, a monitoring program must be established to monitor the health of the habitat at least once a season.

An expert organization or relevant authority must be consulted regarding the monitoring and management of this sensitive area

26 A sustainable means of transportation should be promoted in the beach area.

Guideline

Transportation can have a big impact on the environment, from affecting local air quality to increasing greenhouse gas emissions. A truly sustainable beach should be accessible by cycling, walking or public transit.

There are several ways that you can encourage sustainable transportation:

- Provide and encourage public transportation like trains, buses and streetcars
- Offer shuttle buses to and from the beach
- Provide cycling and pedestrian trails to the beach
- Provide cycling infrastructure like trails, bike racks and bike rentals or loans
- Ensure that there are adequate sidewalks to encourage walking





SAFETY AND SERVICES

27 **Appropriate public safety control measures must be implemented.**

Imperative

Every beach has different physical characteristics and risks. To make your beach as safe as possible, the first step is to have an aquatic safety audit done. Contact the Lifesaving Society, a registered charity dedicated to drowning prevention. A representative can evaluate your beach, taking into account factors like the size of the beach, the number of visitors and the risks present. The audit will list recommendations on the safety measures that should be taken and will clarify whether you need lifesaving equipment or lifeguards. To be awarded a Blue Flag, you will be required to follow the recommendations of the audit.

Beaches with Lifesaving Equipment Only

Lifesaving equipment consists of a reaching pole, ring buoy and rope mounted on a stand that is clearly identified as a lifesaving station. Equipment should be accompanied with instructions on how to use and what to do in the event of a rescue.

Lifesaving stations must be located every 100 metres and positioned so they can be reached from any point on the beach. Because theft or vandalism of equipment can happen, it is im-

portant to install signage that warns of the consequences of tampering with equipment. Equipment should be inspected regularly and replaced when necessary. It is a good idea to have an inspection schedule, at least once per week.

It is not necessary to leave lifesaving equipment out 24 hours per day, as long as signage indicates the times when it is available. If theft is a concern, equipment may be taken into storage at night, so long as it is put back in place during regular hours.

In addition to lifesaving stations, an emergency phone must be located within close proximity to the beach.

Beaches with Lifeguards

Where lifeguards are required, there must be at least two on duty at all times. Lifeguard stations should be spaced 200 metres apart or less, depending on visibility and numbers of people. It may be necessary to increase the number of lifeguards during peak usage, for example on weekends and holidays.

Lifeguards must have their up-to-date National Lifesaving Society (NLS) certification.

Lifeguards must also be easily recognizable, wearing a standard uniform. Each lifeguard station must be equipped with first aid and lifesaving equipment according to regulations.

The lifeguarded area should be clearly marked out, either with buoys or flags. If flags are used, the system should be clearly explained in a way that can be understood universally. The lifeguarded area must be defined on the map of the beach, with information about when lifeguards are on duty.

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NOTE: The provision of lifesaving personnel/equipment at a beach should be seen as only one element of an overall strategy that includes information and education aimed at preventing accidents from happening in the first place.

28 First aid equipment must be available on the beach.

Imperative

First aid may be available by means of any or all of the following:

- a** A lifeguard on site
- b** An attended first aid station with trained personnel
- c** Equipment located in a shop or other beach facilities at the beach
- d** First aid kit on the beach

It is strongly recommended that busy beaches and family beaches have first aid stations with staff in attendance. First aid personnel must have appropriate qualifications. Unattended first aid

stations should have standard supplies, including bandages, gloves, disinfectant, plasters, etc.

Attended first aid stations should also have:

- Cold and hot water
- First aid bed
- Oxygen cylinder and mask
- Immobilizing trauma board

First aid stations should be clearly posted so that they are easy to locate by visitors. Their location and times of availability should also be included on the Blue Flag information board.

29 Emergency plans to cope with pollution risks must be in place.

Imperative

Preparedness can make all the difference during an emergency or a natural disaster. An emergency in this context would be defined as an event which has a large scale impact on the beach or bathing water. Your emergency plan therefore has to take into account temporary pollution risks such as oil spills, toxic waste spills, toxic algal blooms and sewage discharge due to flooding and extreme weather.

An emergency preparedness plan will provide elected officials, personnel and emergency response agencies with guidelines on how to respond during an emergency or natural disaster and who is responsible for what. This will help ensure that the situation is dealt with efficiently.

The emergency plan should include the following:

- 1** List of people to contact and their responsibilities
- 2** Evacuation procedure if necessary
- 3** Communications procedure to warn the public
- 4** Communication to Blue Flag and withdrawal of Blue Flag

The public must be informed immediately of any pollution incidents that make the water unsafe for swimming. Information should be posted at the beach, at all access points, and by way of media releases and on the municipal website. The beach should be closed and the Blue Flag taken down until the incident has passed.

30 There must be management of different users and uses of the beach so as to prevent conflicts and accidents.

Imperative

Blue Flag encourages healthy outdoor activities—sports like paddleboarding, kiteboarding, surfing and kayaking get people outside connecting with nature. If your beach does support multiple uses, it is important for these activities to be zoned in order to prevent accidents. A designated swimming area must be marked with standardized swimming buoys. Recreational zones must be shown on the map of the beach.

Motor craft should operate at least 100-200 metres away from the swimming area. Furthermore, patrons who operate powered craft should be provided with guidelines for the use of their craft and the location of different zones.

If the beach is guarded, lifeguards must enforce the zoning of the different recreational areas in

the water. Different activities on the beach must also be clearly marked and zoned.

Consideration should also be given to potential noise impacts from some activities (motorized activities, stereos and kites).

If special events are to be held on the beach then these should be located outside of the main swimming areas or after swimming hours. Sensitive habitat must be protected from human traffic. If an event prevents the beach from upholding the Blue Flag criteria, the flag must be withdrawn for the duration of the event. When such an event takes place, users of the beach should be notified through public warnings at the beach and preferably in the local media prior to the event.

31 There must be safety measures in place to protect users of the beach.

Imperative

Access to the beach must be safe. Beaches that are physically challenging must have facilities for safe access, e.g. secured steps with handrails. Similarly, there should be designated pedestrian crossings on busy roads in the vicinity of the beach.

Beach promenades and steps onto the beach must be complete and in good condition. The parking lot should be well maintained. Wheelchair accessible parking must be available and clearly marked. Other access paths must also be safe, with regulations for cars and bicycles. Bicycle paths should be encouraged whenever relevant.

Where promenade edges are higher than 2 metres above the beach, warning signs and/or a barrier must be in place to prevent accidents. This is especially important where the beach surface is rocky.

The public must have access to Blue Flag beaches without being a client of a certain hotel or beach club. Access to the beach should preferably be free, although at some beaches public access is provided through charging a small and reasonable fee.



32 A supply of drinking water should be available at the beach.

Guideline

There should be a safe, potable water source at the beach. Not only is this important for public health, but it will prevent the number of water bottles that people buy and discard.



33 At least one Blue Flag beach in each municipality must have access and facilities provided for the physically disabled.

Imperative



Accessibility is an important feature of a Blue Flag beach, so it is important that your beach has accessible parking, pathways and facilities. Wheelchairs should at least be able to get to the beach, but access to the water is encouraged. This can be facilitated by ramps, wheelchair mats, and other accessible pathways. It is recommended

that the ramp design and material fit the natural environment and wherever possible, environmentally friendly materials should be used.

The beach and facilities must comply with provincial and national regulations regarding access and facilities for people with disabilities. In addition, parking areas should have reserved spaces for accessible parking.

When the Blue Flag is raised at a beach or marina, it is a celebration of a community's commitment to meet the strict Blue Flag standards, protecting our coastal ecosystems and helping foster a culture of environmental stewardship. For beachgoers, the Blue Flag is a symbol of excellence. When tourists and residents see a Blue Flag, they know a beach or marina is meeting the same high standards as any other Blue Flag beach or marina around the world.



For more information about the Blue Flag program and how to apply for the award:

Website: BlueFlag.ca
Email: info@blueflag.ca
Phone: 416-323-9521 ext.238

Blue Flag Best Practices

With Blue Flag beaches across the country, we've got some great examples of what different communities are doing to meet the criteria for environmental management and education. We hope these initiatives will inspire you.

Environmental Management

State of the art waste management: Halifax Waterfront, Nova Scotia

The Halifax Regional Municipality installed 15 four-stream waste receptacles along its waterfront boardwalk. The eco-friendly receptacles collect discarded drink containers, paper, organics and garbage. The contents are compacted using energy from solar panels, and once the bins are full a sensor emails the waste management office. This enables efficient use of staff resources and ensures that the bins are emptied when they need to be. The eye-catching design, easy-to-understand illustrations, and appropriately shaped openings make recycling and composting easier than ever. In fact, the system resulted in a 95 per cent diversion rate for beverage containers and a paper diversion rate of 83 per cent. It is considered one of the greenest initiatives in Canada. The project was funded by Nestle Waters Canada, and the bins are manufactured by Big Belly Solar. www.bigbelly.com/benefits/recycling/



Dune Restoration Program: Wasaga Beach Provincial Park, Ontario

To maintain a sustainable and healthy beach ecosystem each year, Wasaga Beach Provincial Park staff and local community groups work together to restore freshwater dunes. During the summer, shorelines of Wasaga Beach are assessed and areas deemed suitable for dune formations and beach vegetation are identified. Restoration takes place in autumn once the plants have become dormant, ensuring a higher chance of survival during transplantation. Marram grass plugs are taken from areas of the beach where high densities of it exist and are then transplanted to the designated areas. Once planted, marram grass will begin to collect



sand blown around its base. This in turn stimulates its growth upward and outward, making it well suited for the ever-changing dune system to which it has adapted itself.

Environmental Education

Waterfowl Management Program: City of Toronto, Ontario

The City of Toronto purchased its first border collie in 1997 as part of a plan to manage Canada geese. Large flocks of Canada geese can be problematic for beaches because their droppings foul the sand and water, impairing water quality. A Canada goose can eat up to 1.8 kg of food and excrete almost 1kg of fecal matter per day.

Border collies have a natural instinct to herd, so they are effective at moving geese off site to preferred locations nearby. Carol Guy, a professional sheepdog handler, trains the dogs on sheep until they are mature and fully trained on whistle and voice commands. They are able to work in high-traffic locations and stay intently focused on their job, working as a team to herd geese without causing the birds any harm.

In addition to being valuable for environmental management, the border collies are great ambassadors for the waterfowl management program. The public is very receptive to the dogs, and this provides Carol the opportunity to talk to park users and explain that feeding waterfowl is detrimental to both the birds and our environment. Carol provides pocket-sized cards that describe how geese affect water quality. Signage has also been installed at sites where the feeding of birds is prevalent—it is easy to read and uses pictograms that can be under-

stood in any language. This is a great example of integrating environmental management with environmental education.



Junior Naturalist Programs: Wasaga beach Provincial Park, Ontario

Families join park naturalists at the Wasaga Nordic & Trail Centre each week during the summer months for a series of Junior Naturalist programs that explore the unique ecosystems and inhabitants of Wasaga Beach Provincial Park. Some examples of topics include: species at risk, dune ecology and invasive species. Participants are given a Junior Naturalist Passport at the beginning of the season to record what they have learned and stick the sticker given to them by the park naturalists during each program. Once complete, the Junior Naturalist Passport can be submitted for a prize.

**Preventing the spread of invasive species:
City of Greater Sudbury, Ontario**

The City of Greater Sudbury is doing a fantastic job working with community members to improve the local environment. The City's Lake Water Quality Program, in conjunction with the Greater Sudbury Watershed Alliance, offered a boat cleaning workshop at the Ramsey Lake Boat Launch. Citizens learned how they can help stop the spread of invasive species like Eurasian water milfoil and spiny water flea. Power washing boats on land is a great way to keep these invasive species from sneaking into areas where they shouldn't be. It also helps to protect the natural ecosystem and maintain biodiversity in our waterways.



**Environmental movie nights:
Rural Municipality of Gimli, Manitoba**

The Rural Municipality of Gimli has a free beach-front film festival where a big screen is set up over the water and people can watch from the beach. In addition to popular Hollywood movies, environmental films are shown. This summer they played the film "How to Change the World," a documentary about the founders of Greenpeace. This movie inspired residents to be aware of the challenges the environment faces and the opportunities we have to be environmental

stewards. This was a great way to target environmental education at a large audience; at least 5,000 people attended the film festival this year. Environmental films were also shown at the Visitors Centre in conjunction with the Lake Winnipeg Foundation's Walk for Water. The films included "Fat Lake" and "What You Do Matters."

What better way to learn about environmental issues than relaxing on the beach and taking in a great flick!

Resources

Conservation Authorities/Districts

BRITISH COLUMBIA - MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Regional Office	Website	Phone Number
Vancouver Island Region	www.env.gov.bc.ca/van-island/	250-751-3100
Lower Mainland Region	www.env.gov.bc.ca/lower-mainland/	604-582-5200
Thompson Region	www.env.gov.bc.ca/thompson/	250-371-6200
Kootenay Region	www.env.gov.bc.ca/kootenay/	250-354-6333
Cariboo Region	www.env.gov.bc.ca/cariboo/	250 398-4530
Skeena Region	www.env.gov.bc.ca/skeena/	250-847-7260
Omineca Region	www.env.gov.bc.ca/omineca/	250-565-6135
Okanagan Region	www.env.gov.bc.ca/okanagan/	250-490-8200
Peace Region	www.env.gov.bc.ca/peace/	250-787-3411

MANITOBA - CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Regional Office	Website	Phone Number	Email
Alonsa	www.gov.mb.ca/	204-767-2101	
Assiniboine Hills	www.assiniboinehillscd.ca	204.535.2139	ahcd@mymts.net
East Interlake	www.eicd.ca	204-642-7578	eicd@mts.net
Intermountain	www.intermountaincd.com	204-742-3764	imcdmgr@mts.net
LaSalle Redboine	www.lasalledboine.com	204-526-2578	mail@lasalledboine.com
Lake of the Prairies	www.lpcd.mb.ca	204-564-2388	lpcd@mts.net
Pembina Valley	www.pvcd.ca	204-242-3267	pvcd@goinet.ca
Seine-Rat River	www.srrcd.ca	204-424-5845	manager@srrcd.ca
Turtle Mountain	www.tmcd.ca	204-747-2530	tmcd.mgr@goinet.ca
Turtle River Watershed	www.trwcd.com	204-447-2139	trwcd@mts.net
West Interlake Watershed	www.wiwcd.com	204-762-5850	admin.wiwcd@mts.net
West Souris River	www.wsrcd.com	204-877-3020	manager@wsrcd.com

ONTARIO CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

Conservation Authority	Website	Phone Number	Email
Ausable Bayfield	www.abca.on.ca	519-235-2610	info@abca.on.ca
Cataraqui Region	www.crca.ca	613-546-4228	crca@cataraquiregion.on.ca
Catfish Creek	www.catfishcreek.ca	519-773-9037	admin@catfishcreek.ca
Central Lake Ontario	www.cloca.ca	905-579-0411	mail@cloca.com
Credit Valley	www.creditvalleyca.ca	905-670-1615	cvc@creditvalleyca.ca
Crowe Valley	www.crowevalley.com	613-472-3137	info@crowevalley.com
Essex Region	www.erca.org	519-776-5209	admin@erca.org
Ganaraska Region	www.grca.on.ca	905-885-8173	info@grca.on.ca
Grand River	www.grandriver.ca	519-621-2761	grca@grandriver.ca
Grey Sauble	www.greysauble.on.ca	519-376-3076	k.mckee@greysauble.on.ca
Halton	www.conservationhalton.ca	905-336-1158	admin@hrca.on.ca

Conservation Authority	Website	Phone Number	Email
Hamilton	www.conservationhamilton.ca	905-525-218	nature@conservationhamilton.ca
Kawartha	www.kawarthaconservation.com	705-328-2271	geninfo@kawarthaconservation.com
Kettle Creek	www.kettlecreekconservation.on.ca	519-631-1270	elizabeth@kettlecreekconservation.on.ca
Lakehead Region	www.lakeheadca.com	807-344-5857	info@lakeheadca.com
Lake Simcoe Region	www.lsrca.on.ca	905-895-1281	info@lsrca.on.ca
Long Point Region	www.lprca.on.ca	519-842-4242	conservation@lprca.on.ca
Lower Thames Valley	www.lowerthames-conservation.on.ca	519-354-7310	admin@ltvca.ca
Lower Trent	www.ltc.on.ca	613-394-4829	information@ltc.on.ca
Maitland Valley	www.mvca.on.ca	519-335-3557	maitland@mvca.on.ca
Mattagami Region	mrca.timmins.ca	705-360-2660	mrca@timmins.ca
Mississippi Valley	mvc.on.ca	613-259-2421	info@mvc.on.ca
Niagara Peninsula	npca.ca	905-788-3135	npca@npca.ca
Nickel District	www.nickeldistrict.ca	705-674-5249	ndca@city.greatersudbury.on.ca
North Bay-Mattawa	www.nbmca.on.ca	705-474-5420	nbmca@nbmca.on.ca
Nottawasaga Valley	www.nvca.on.ca/	705-424-1479	admin@nvca.on.ca
Otonabee	www.otonabee.com	705-745-5791	otonabeeca@otonabee.com
Quinte	www.quinteconservation.ca	613-968-3434	quinteca@quinteconservation.ca
Raisin Region	www.rrca.on.ca	613-938-3611	info@rrca.on.ca
Rideau	www.rvca.ca	613-692-3571	postmaster@rvca.ca
Saugeen	www.svca.on.ca	519-367-3040	publicinfo@svca.on.ca
Sault Ste. Marie	www.ssmrca.ca	705-946-8530	nature@ssmrca.ca
South Nation	www.nation.on.ca	613-984-2948	info@nation.on.ca
St. Clair Region	www.scrca.on.ca	519-245-3710	info@nation.on.ca
Toronto and Region	www.trca.on.ca	416-661-6600	info@trca.on.ca
Upper Thames River	thamesriver.on.ca	519-451-2800	infoline@thamesriver.on.ca

NEW BRUNSWICK - CONSERVATION DISTRICT OFFICES

Regional Office	Phone Number
Miramichi	506-627-4050
Fredericton	506-453-2345
Bathurst	506-547-2080
Edmunston	506-735-2040

NOVA SCOTIA CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES

Regional Office	Area	Phone Number
Western Region	Bridgewater, Kentville, Yarmouth	902-679-6086
	Kings & Annapolis Counties	902-679-6086
	Lunenburg & Queens Counties	902-543-4685
	Digby, Yarmouth & Shelburne Counties	902-742-8985
Central Region	HRM, East Hants, West Hants	902-424-7773

NOVA SCOTIA CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES (CONTINUED)

Regional Office	Area	Phone Number
Northern Region	Amherst, Antigonish, Truro, Pictou	902-893-5880
	Cumberland County	902-667-6205
	Antigonish & Guysborough Counties	902-863-7389
	Colchester County	902-893-5880
Eastern Region	Pictou County	902-396-4194
	Port Hawkesbury & Sydney	902-563-2100
	Richmond Co., Southern Inverness, Town of Mulgrave, Community of Auld's Cove	902-625-0791

Public Health Units

BRITISH COLUMBIA HEALTH UNITS

Public Health Unit	Website	Phone Number
Fraser Health	www.fraserhealth.ca/	604-587-4600
Interior Health	www.interiorhealth.ca	250-862-4200
Island Health	www.viha.ca/	250-370-8699
Northern Health	northernhealth.ca/	250-565-2649
Vancouver Coastal Health	www.vch.ca/	604-736-2033

MANITOBA HEALTH UNITS

Public Health Unit	Website	Phone Number
Interlake-Eastern Regional Health Authority	www.ierha.ca	204-785-4700
Northern Regional Health Authority	www.northernhealthregion.ca	204-687-1300
Prairie Mountain Health	www.prairiemountainhealth.ca	1-888-682-2253
Southern Health-Santé Sud	www.southernhealth.ca	204-428-2720
Winnipeg Regional Health Authority	www.wrha.mb.ca	204-926-7000

ONTARIO PUBLIC HEALTH UNITS

Local Health Integration Network (LHIN)

(LHIN)	Location	Website	Phone Number	Public Health Unit
Erie St. Clair	Chatham	ckphu.com	519-352-7270	Chatham-Kent Health Unit
	Point Edward	www.lambtonhealth.on.ca	1-800-667-1839	Lambton Health Unit
	Windsor	www.wechealthunit.org	519-258-2146	Windsor-Essex County Health Unit

ONTARIO PUBLIC HEALTH UNITS (CONTINUED)

(LHIN)	Location	Website	Phone Number	Public Health Unit
South West	Clinton	www.huronhealthunit.ca	1-877-837-6143	Huron County Health Unit
	London	www.healthunit.com	519-663-5317	Middlesex-London Health Unit
	Owen Sound	www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/	519-376-9420	Grey Bruce Health Unit
	Simcoe	www.hnhu.org	519-426-6170	Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit
	St. Thomas	www.elginhealth.on.ca	1-800-922-0096	Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit
	Stratford	www.pdhu.on.ca	519-271-7600	Perth District Health Unit
	Woodstock	www.oxfordcounty.ca/health	1-800-755-0394	Oxford County Public Health
Waterloo Wellington	Fergus	www.wdgpulichealth.ca	1-800-265-7293	Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Health Unit
	Owen Sound	www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/	1-800-263-3456	Grey Bruce Health Unit
	Waterloo	www.regionofwaterloo.ca/ph	519-575-4400	Region of Waterloo, Public Health
Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant	Brantford	www.bchu.org/	519-753-4937	Brant County Health Unit
	Hamilton	www.hamilton.ca/publichealth	905-546-2424	City of Hamilton - Public Health & Social Services
	Oakville	www.halton.ca/cms/one.aspx?portalId=8310&pageId=9090	1-866-442-5866	Halton Region Health Department
	Simcoe	www.hnhu.org	519-426-6170	Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit
	Thorold	www.niagararegion.ca/living/health_wellness/default.aspx	1-800-263-7248	Niagara Region Public Health Department
Central West	Fergus			Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Health Unit
	Newmarket	www.york.ca	905-895-4511	York Region Public Health Services
	Toronto	www.toronto.ca/health/index.htm	416-338-7600	Toronto Public Health
Mississauga Halton	Mississauga	www.peelregion.ca/health/	905-799-7700	Peel Public Health
	Oakville	www.region.halton.on.ca/health/	1-866-442-5866	Halton Region Health Department
	Toronto	www.toronto.ca/health/index.htm	416-338-7600	Toronto Public Health
Toronto Central	Toronto	www.toronto.ca/health/index.htm	416-338-7600	Toronto Public Health
Central	Newmarket	www.york.ca	905-895-4511	York Region Public Health Services
	Toronto	www.toronto.ca/health/index.htm	416-338-7600	Toronto Public Health
Central East	Peterborough	www.pcchu.ca	705-743-1000	Peterborough County-City Health Unit
	Port Hope	www.hkpr.on.ca/	1-866-888-4577	Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit
	Toronto	www.toronto.ca/health/index.htm	416-338-7600	Toronto Public Health
	Whitby	www.durham.ca/health.asp?nr=/departments/health/healthinside.htm	905-668-7711	Durham Region Health Department

ONTARIO PUBLIC HEALTH UNITS (CONTINUED)

(LHIN)	Location	Website	Phone Number	Public Health Unit
South East	Belleville	www.hpechu.on.ca	613-966-5500	Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit
	Brockville	www.healthunit.org	613-345-5685	Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit
	Kingston	www.kflapublichealth.ca	1-800-267-7875	Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Health Unit
	Port Hope	www.hkpr.on.ca/	1-866-888-4577	Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit
Champlain	Brockville	www.healthunit.org	613-345-5685	Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit
	Cornwall	www.eohu.ca	1-800-267-7120	Eastern Ontario Health Unit
	Ottawa	ottawa.ca/health	1-866-426-8885	Ottawa Public Health
	Pembroke	www.rcdhu.com	1-800-267-1097	Renfrew County and District Health Unit
North Simcoe Muskoka	Barrie	www.simcoemuskokahealth.org	705-721-7520	Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
	Owen Sound	www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca/	1-800-263-3456	Grey Bruce Health Unit
North East	Kenora	www.nwhu.on.ca	1-800-830-5978	Northwestern Health Unit
	New Liskeard	www.timiskaminghu.com	705-647-4305	Timiskaming Health Unit
	North Bay	www.healthunit.biz	705-474-1400	North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit
	Sault Ste. Marie	www.algomapublichealth.com	1-866-892-0172	Algoma Public Health Unit
	Sudbury	www.sdhu.com	705-522-9200	Sudbury and District Health Unit
	Timmins	www.porcupinehu.on.ca	705-267-1181	Porcupine Health Unit
North West	Kenora	www.nwhu.on.ca	1-800-830-5978	Northwestern Health Unit
	Thunder Bay	www.tbdhu.com	807-625-5900	Thunder Bay District Health Unit

NEW BRUNSWICK - REGIONAL HEALTH PROTECTION BRANCH OFFICES

Region	Location	Phone Number	Address
Central	Fredericton	506-453-2830	300 St. Mary's Street, Rm 1400 Fredericton, NB E3A 2S4
	Perth-Andover	506-273-471	35 F Tribe Road Perth-Andover, NB E7H OA8
	Woodstock	506-325-4408	Bicentennial Place
East	Miramichi	506-778-6765	1780 Water Street Miramichi, NB E1N 1B6
	Moncton	506-856-2814	81 Albert Street Moncton, NB E1C 1B3

NEW BRUNSWICK - REGIONAL HEALTH PROTECTION BRANCH OFFICES (CONTINUED)

Region	Location	Phone Number	Address
North	Bathurst	506-549-5550	165 St. Andrew Street Bathurst, NB E2A 1C1
	Campbellton	506-789-2549	113 Roseberry Street, 2nd Floor Campbellton, NB E3N 2G6
	Caraquet	506-726-2025	295 St. Pierre Boulevard West Caraquet, NB E1W 1A4
	Edmundston	506-737-4400	121 Church Street Edmundston, NB E3V 3L3
	Grand Falls	506-737-4400	131 Pleasant Street Grand Falls, NB E3Z 1G6
	Shippagan	506-336-3061	239 B J.D. Gauthier Boulevard Shippagan, NB E8S 1N2
	Tracadie	506-394-3888	3520 Principale Street Tracadie-Sheila, NB E1X 1C9
South	Saint John	506-658-3022	55 Union Street Saint John, NB E2L 5B7
	St. Stephen	506-466-7615	41 King Street St. Stephen, NB E3L 2C1
	Sussex	506-432-2104	30 Moffett Avenue Sussex, NB E4E 1E8

NOVA SCOTIA PUBLIC HEALTH UNITS

Public Health Unit	Phone Number
Amherst	1-800-767-3319
Annapolis Royal	902-532-0490
Antigonish	902-867-4500 ext. 4800
Arichat	902-226-2944
Baddeck	902-295-2178
Barrington Passage	902-637-2430
Berwick	902-538-3700
Bridgewater	902-543-0850
Canso	902-366-2925
Chester	902-275-3581
Cheticamp	902-224-2410
Digby	902-245-2557
Elmsdale	902-883-3500
Glace Bay	902-842-4050
Guysborough	902-533-3502
Halifax	902-481-5800
Inverness	902-258-1920
Liverpool	902-354-5737
Lunenburg	902-634-4014
Meteghan Centre	902-645-2325
Middle Musquodoboit	902-384-2370
Neil's Harbour	902-336-2295
New Germany	902-644-2710

NOVA SCOTIA PUBLIC HEALTH UNITS (CONTINUED)

Public Health Unit	Phone Number
New Glasgow	902-752-5151
New Waterford	902-862-2204
Port Hawkesbury	902-625-1693
Sheet Harbour	902-885-2470
Shelburne	902-875-2623
Sherbrooke	902-522-2212
Sydney	902-563-2400
Sydney Mines	902-736-6245
Truro	902-893-5820
Windsor	902-798-2264
Wolfville	902-542-6310
Yarmouth	902-742-7141

Lifesaving Society Chapters

Province	Website	Phone Number	Address
British Columbia	www.lifesaving.bc.ca	604-299-5450	3989 Henning Dr #112, Burnaby, BC V5C 6N5
Manitoba	lifesaving.mb.ca/	204-956-2124	383 Provencher Blvd #100, Winni- peg, MB R2H 0G9
New Brunswick	www.lifesavingnb.ca/	506-455-5762	34-55 Whiting Road, Fredericton, NB E3B 5Y5
Nova Scotia	www.lifesavingsociety.ns.ca/	902-425-5450 Ext. 331	5516 Spring Garden Road, 4th Fl Halifax, NS B3J 1G6
Ontario	www.lifesavingsociety.com/contact-us/area-chairs.aspx	416-490-8844	400 Consumers Road, Toronto, Ontario, M2J 1P8
Quebec	www.sauvetage.qc.ca/en	514 252-3100	4545, avenue Pierre-De Couber- tin, Montreal, QC H1V 0B2

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