

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Coming changes to the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion's Aquatics program

Vaudreuil-Dorion, November 7, 2022 – In January 2022, the Canadian Red Cross announced it would be ending its swimming program to direct more attention to humanitarian demands. The City of Vaudreuil-Dorion will instead be offering the Lifesaving Society Canada's "Swim for Life" program. This transition will take effect as of the winter 2023 session, with registrations taking place starting on December 12th at 6 p.m. (residents) and December 14th at 9 a.m. (non-residents).

The Lifesaving Society, whose mission also centers on reducing drownings and aquatic injuries, will move into position while continuing to provide swimming lessons for all, as well as lifeguarding and leadership courses.

The "Swim for Life" program, consisting of five modules, provides a smooth transition to lifeguarding. The equivalencies between Red Cross courses and those offered by the Lifesaving Society's "Swim for Life" program are detailed on the City's website, under Recreation and Culture / Activities and Events / Swimming Lessons. It is strongly suggested you consult this information before the registration date which will take place online on December 12th for residents. Please remember that you must have a valid citizen card and must create an account on the registration platform before signing up. All course descriptions, as well as a decision support tool, are also available on the City's website.

"The transition to the "Swim for Life" program will be seamless since the teaching tools and swimming instructors are ready. Users will not be disoriented by the new program as the objective is one and the same, to develop swimming skills for young and old. The famous booklets, stickers and badges will continue to be given out to participants. In addition, more emphasis will be placed on the component dedicated to water safety and lifeguarding during the sessions," explains Anik Levac, Head of the aquatic program section.

For more information on the program change, simply contact the Recreation and Culture Department at 450 455-3371, option 4.

Free Lifeguard Training

Last June, the Ministère de l'éducation made the decision to offer free training to become a lifeguard or instructor. This initiative aims to alleviate the labour shortage in this sector by removing the monetary constraints related to these courses. This announcement fits within the framework of the Action Plan to be unveiled, which promotes the practice of physical, sports and recreational activities in Québec for the period 2022-2027, and which calls for a total investment of \$250 million over five years.

"We are excited to join in on this program which provides for free skills training offered by the Ministère. This agreement gives everyone the chance to obtain meaningful and essential employment in the field of aquatics. About forty lifeguards and instructors are currently benefitting from year-round employment with the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion, working at both indoor and outdoor pools", says Guy Pilon, Mayor of Vaudreuil-Dorion.

Starting on Monday, November 7th at 9 a.m., Vaudreuil-Dorion residents will be able to register on-line free of charge for courses including Swim Instructor, Bronze Medallion/Bronze Cross (combined course), National Lifeguard, and Standard First Aid, all scheduled to begin next December. Non-residents will be able to fill any remaining spaces as of November 21st, at 9 a.m. On December 12th and 14th, a second cohort will be able to register for another session that will begin in January 2023. Please note that spaces are limited for each course.

Complete course details, prerequisites and lesson dates are also available on the City's website, under Recreation and Culture / Activities and Events / Swimming Lessons.