

2023 Community Water Safety Grants

Drowning prevention is a high priority in our province. The Manitoba Coalition for Safer Waters, its affiliated member organizations together with the Province of Manitoba make grants available to community organizations who want to help reduce drownings by improving water safety in their communities. A wide range of water safety activities as identified by the communities are considered for the grant. Past projects have included:

- Swimming lessons for children
- Improving signage at beaches and waterfronts
- Training for swim instructors and lifeguards
- Increased supervision of young people near water
- Offering boat operator training courses
- Constructing safety barriers at hazardous waterfronts

The 2023 Community Water Safety Grants application was posted on the Lifesaving Society's website as well as the Coalition's website in the fall of 2022. The Deadline for applying was November 30th.

A total of 43 applications were received requesting \$99,947.88 worth of funds. The Coalition's Core group met Thursday, December 8th in the board office at the Lifesaving Society, 100-383 Provencher Blvd, Winnipeg, MB and approved 24 applications requesting a total of \$50,258.35.

Successful applicants:

Anola – Springfield Colony

Anola – Ridgeland Colony

Austin – Cascade Forest Home Colony

Austin – Bloomfield Colony

Gimli – Gimli Harbour Authority

Lac du Bonnet – Brightstone Colony

Lac du Bonnet – Lac du Bonnet Community Development Corporation

Lowe Farm – Lowe Farm School

Morden – Prairie Crossroads School

Portage la Prairie – Fort la Reine School

Portage la Prairie – North Memorial School

Portage la Prairie – Yellowquill School

River Hills – Whiteshell Colony

Rosenort – Rosenort School

Rosser – Rosser School

Sagkeeng First Nation, Saint Georges, Powerview-Pine Falls – Strong Swimmers Survive

St. Eustache – Ecole St. Eustache

Selkirk – City of Selkirk

Split Lake (Tataskweyak Cree Nation) – TCN Recreation

Winnipeg – Freedom International School

Winnipeg (North Point Douglas) – Gonzaga Middle School

Winnipeg – The Manitoba Camping Association

Winnipeg (Downtown) – YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg

Woodlands – Woodlands School

Cheques for 70 percent of the grant totals will be issued in early February 2023. The remaining 30 percent will be issued once grant applicants file an activity report at the conclusion of their projects. A large number of projects approved this year are geared towards swimming instruction, water safety education as well as lifeguard and swim instructor training. The Gimli Harbour Authority received funding to construct a lifejacket loaner station to house personal floatation devices to be used by the public that were obtained through the Coalition's lifejacket loaner program.