



TOWN OF WASAGA BEACH

30 Lewis Street, Wasaga Beach
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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

October 16, 2025

Minister of Education
Honourable Paul Calandra
438 University Ave, 15th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2A5

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Minister Calandra,

RE: Resolution from the Town of Wasaga Beach – Mandatory Water Safety & Swim-to-Survive Training

Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Wasaga Beach, during their October 9, 2025 Council meeting, and at the request of the City of Dryden, passed the following resolution regarding Mandatory Water Safety and Swim-to-Survive Training.

Whereas drowning remains one of the leading causes of preventable death among children in Ontario, and research by the Lifesaving Society of Ontario indicates that most children who drown never intended to be in the water; and

Whereas evidence clearly demonstrates that basic swimming ability and water survival skills significantly reduce the risk of drowning; and

Whereas many children across Ontario face barriers to accessing swimming lessons outside of school, whether financial, cultural, or geographic in nature; and

Whereas municipalities across the province, including the City of Dryden, have expressed strong support for improved water safety education for children; and

Whereas the Ministry of Education holds the authority to include water safety and survival training in the elementary school curriculum, recognizing it as a vital life skill comparable to fire and road safety education; and

Whereas the Town of Wasaga Beach is home to the world's longest freshwater beach and welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors annually to its waterfront, underscoring the critical importance of water safety and swim survival skills for both residents and visitors, especially children;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Wasaga Beach supports the resolution passed by the Council of the Corporation of the City of Dryden urging the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Education, to incorporate mandatory water safety and Swim-to-Survive training into the elementary school curriculum for all Ontario students; and



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Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to The Honourable Minister of Education of Ontario, local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities with a request for their endorsement.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at mayor@wasagabeach.com or (705) 429-3844 ext. 2225.

Sincerely,

Brian Smith
Mayor, Town of Wasaga Beach

/mps

cc: Local Members of Provincial Parliament
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities