



*An agreement to declare support for  
the International Lifejacket Principles*

## **Lifejacket Wear – the Muskoka Principles for boating safety authorities and organizations**

At a meeting hosted by the Canadian Safe Boating Council at Lake Muskoka, Ontario, representatives of national boating authorities and organizations from Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom considered their collective experience from working to reduce fatalities arising from recreational boating.

The following text was proposed for consideration as a set of principles to describe this collective experience, and as a guide to approaches to work at an international level.

### **Overview:**

The majority of all fatal boating accident victims drown and of these, around 4 out of 5 are reported as not wearing a lifejacket.

The single greatest challenge facing the recreational boating safety community today is increasing the lifejacket wear rate among the boating public.

Each national boating safety authority and organization listed below conducts a range of activities to support the wearing of lifejackets. The principles below are described so as to build on these varied approaches by seeking unity of action regarding the promotion of wearing lifejackets. We have a joint goal of achieving a higher level of collaboration and coordination between leading boating authorities and organizations around the world.

We believe international unity of purpose and direction regarding the promotion of wearing lifejackets will help strengthen and clarify the importance of lifejackets across all our jurisdictions.

### **Agreed principles:**

We the organisations listed below<sup>1</sup>, agree to the following principles regarding lifejackets<sup>2</sup>:

- We recognise the fundamental role the wearing of lifejackets plays in the safeguarding of life for water users;
- We recognize the importance of promoting the wearing of lifejackets when boating;
- We will endeavour to ensure that any publication including brochures, DVD, video, websites, and the like will feature all people wearing contemporary style lifejackets when in an outside area of a small craft<sup>3</sup> that is underway;
- We will recommend to the recreational boating industry that its publications similarly feature all people shown wearing lifejackets when in an outside area of a small craft<sup>3</sup> that is underway;
- We will require our own on-water education and compliance staff to wear lifejackets whenever they are on the water;
- We will use the term “lifejacket” in public information and education; and
- We agree to engage our own boating safety networks to encourage them to become ‘safety partners’ by supporting the above principles.

<sup>1</sup> Includes organisations not at the initial discussion in Lake Muskoka in 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Lifejacket is a generic term covering all nationally approved personal lifesaving appliances/devices.

<sup>3</sup> Different jurisdictions, largely depending on marine conditions, define small craft variously as under 4.8m, under 16ft, under 6m or under 7m. Small craft includes tenders.

# SOCIÉTÉ NATIONALE DE SAUVETAGE EN MER

Association reconnue d'Utilité publique par décret du 30 avril 1970



Héritière de la Société Centrale de Sauvetage des Naufragés  
et de la Société des Hospitaliers Sauveteurs Bretons



Paris, le 18 avril 2013.

Je soussigné, Amiral Yves LAGANE, président de l'association française « Société Nationale de Sauvetage en Mer » dont la mission première est le sauvetage des personnes en danger en mer, déclare adhérer et souscrire aux principes proposés et adoptés, par des organismes et représentants d'autorités et d'organismes nationaux en matière de navigation de plaisance réunis à MUSKOKA en 2013.

A ce titre la Société Nationale de Sauvetage en Mer :

- Reconnaît le rôle fondamental du port des gilets de sauvetage dans la sauvegarde de la vie humaine en mer;
- Reconnaît l'importance de la promotion du port des gilets de sauvetage en bateau;
- S'engagera à faire en sorte que toute publication, dont les brochures, DVD, vidéos, sites Web et autres produits de même nature montrent des personnes portant des gilets de sauvetage de style contemporain lorsqu'ils sont à bord d'un petit bateau non ponté ou sur le pont d'un petit bateau ponté faisant route;
- Recommandera à l'industrie nautique nationale ainsi qu'à tous les acteurs du nautisme que leurs publications montrent également des personnes portant des gilets de sauvetage lorsqu'ils sont à bord d'un petit bateau non ponté ou sur le pont d'un petit bateau ponté faisant route;
- Exigera de ses propres bénévoles et volontaires qu'ils portent des gilets de sauvetage à chaque fois qu'ils sont sur l'eau ;
- Utilisera le terme « gilet de sauvetage » dans l'information et l'éducation du public;
- Encouragera son propre réseau et celui de ses partenaires à devenir des «acteurs de la sécurité nautique » sur la base des principes susmentionnés.



*Yves Lagane*

**Le Vice-Amiral d'Escadre (2s)**  
**Yves LAGANE**  
*Président de la Société Nationale  
de Sauvetage en Mer*

Foundation signatories to the International Lifejacket Principles on Wednesday 1 May 2013 at the Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney, are as follows:

**Australian Recreational Boating Safety Committee**

Chair, Howard Glenn 

**Royal National Lifeboat Institution, UK**

Sea Safety Manager, Peter Chennell 

**Canadian Safe Boating Council**

Chair, Jean Murray 

**Societe Nationale de Sauvetage en Mer**

on behalf of Admiralty, Lagans   
Head of Mission, Pierre Brugnon

**Maritime NZ**

for & on behalf of   
Maritime Officer, Alistair Thomson