

## Child Death Review Committee

On July 25, 2025, the Child Death Review Committee provided the Minister of Justice with a review report. The report included the following advice and recommendations:

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF SIMILAR DEATHS**

The Committee feels that this case highlights an opportunity to enhance safety and supervision in public pool facilities<sup>1</sup>, while also recognizing that imposing strict requirements for lifeguards and adult/child ratios may also not be feasible.

The province has guidelines for the operation of pools and other aquatic facilities ([Public Swimming Pools | Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement](#)). This document was published in 2014.

- The Committee recommends that Nova Scotia should move beyond providing guidance for pool operators and adopt a regulatory framework governing public pools similar to those already in place in other Canadian jurisdictions.
- The Committee further recommends that the following points be considered in the development of a regulatory framework:
  - Pool facilities should have clear instructions posted that provide guidance on what to do in an emergency and how to alert first responders to the need for rescue.
  - Where appropriate and feasible, lifeguards should be available to supervise the pool area during times of peak usage.
  - It should be clearly communicated that adult supervision of children in the pool area is necessary.
  - Approved flotation devices and rescue equipment should be available for use in public pool facilities.
  - Consider whether an adult to child ratio should be implemented, recognizing that this may not be feasible for larger families.
  - Ensure that staff at public pool facilities receive regular training in emergency response, including first aid and CPR.

A copy of the Report has been shared with the Minister of Opportunities and Social Development.

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<sup>1</sup> These guidelines are intended to be used by all owners and operators of aquatic facilities and pools (as defined in this guideline) that serve the public and include • those connected to hotels and motels • campground operations • water parks • splash pads • municipal pools • other recreational pool operations that are open to the public • apartment and condominium complexes, and any other group, residential facility, or membership organization that offers the use of pools (e.g., daycare, recreation camps). [nova-scotia-operational-aquatic-guidelines.pdf](#)