



January 5, 2021

Government of Canada - Let's Talk Transportation Forum

Subject: Safe Quiet Lakes and the Muskoka Lakes Association Support the Proposed Changes to the Modernization of the Pleasure Craft Licensing Program and the Operator Competency Program.

Safe Quiet Lakes in partnership with the Muskoka Lakes Association have reviewed the proposed changes to the Pleasure Craft Operators Program (PCOC). We support the proposed changes and in particular we agree on the following points:

1. Modernizing the pleasure craft licensing to include Personal Water Craft (PWCs), and that similar regulations apply to them as other small vessels. Specifically, that all PWC's with an engine of 7.5 kilowatts or more must acquire a pleasure craft license (PCL) or register their pleasure craft in the Canadian Register of Vessels. And, that PCL holders be required to notify of a name or address change within 30 days. And, that the Minister has the authority to cancel a PCL for reasons of non-compliance.
2. Modernizing the Pleasure Craft Operator Competency Program with enhanced accreditation requirements for the providers.
3. Reducing the licensing period to 5 years, and the introduction of a \$15 licensing fee. This requires boaters to stay current at a very low fee of \$3/year and saves taxpayers the cost of providing this service.
4. The removal of the Rental Boat Safety Checklist as a form of proof of competency under the PCOC. Renting a boat should be like renting a car, the driver requires a valid license as proof of competency.

In addition to supporting these changes, we feel very strongly that these new regulations should come into effect as soon as possible. Under the current framework the proposed regulations would not take effect until the Fall of 2022. That means that it would not affect Ontario and the majority of Canada's boating season until 2023. We feel that this is too long to wait for changes to increase boating safety. We recognize that the legislative process has many steps, but we ask that you expedite this process so that the proposed changes to enhance safety can be brought in for the 2022 boating season.

Sincerely,

Diana Piquette
Chair, Safe Quiet Lakes
Safe Quiet Lakes