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Mr. Dave Adamson
Lifeguarding and Legislation Advisor
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Central and Northern Region
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Dear Dave,

Thank you for taking the time to write regarding the plans of the Red Cross Society and requesting clarification on behalf of your customers. I appreciated the opportunity to meet with you last month to discuss initiatives on lifeguarding and pool safety and your participation in the review of the Pool Standards. I am planning to send out a second draft of the Pool Standards for review and discussion in early January.

The first question, "*Can my aquatic centre use the Canadian Red Cross Lifeguard Program to train our staff?*", refers to lifeguard training and certification in Alberta. The Alberta Swimming Pool, Wading Pool and Water Spray Park Regulation is silent on lifeguard training requirements. Unlike some provinces, Alberta's pool legislation does not specify training requirements for lifeguards and leaves that issue to the industry experts. Therefore, an aquatic operator has the option to choose a lifeguard training program that best fits their needs.

Your second question, "*Is the Lifesaving Society's Pool Safety Standards document a reference that facilities can use or, are facilities required by legislation to follow this document?*" relates to Section IV Written Policies in the 2006 Pool Standards. In that section, each operator is required to develop a safety and supervision plan which includes bather to lifeguard ratios. In the Practice Note for that section, the Lifesaving Society standards are mentioned as one source of information to assist them. This information is not part of the formal requirements of the standard, and an operator is not obligated to refer to the Lifesaving Society resources.

I hope that this information answers the questions that you have raised. If you would like to discuss further, please call me at 780-427-8273.

Yours truly,



Debra Mooney
Project Team Lead
Surveillance and Environmental Health