

## Make your voice heard

Transport Canada's consultation on the mandatory wearing of PFDs and lifejackets.

Transport Canada has launched a consultation process to consider the mandatory wearing of PFDs or lifejackets for recreational boaters. As recreational boaters, we know how to be safe on the water and it is crucial that our community stands together and advocates for solutions that make sense. Mandating PFDs in all cases will lead to resistance rather than compliance in the boating community, so we must advocate for non-regulatory solutions where possible, while

The consultation period is now closed. Thank you for your support!

Thanks to you, 260 letters were submitted to the Government of Canada as part of this consultation!

Here are our top recommendations submitted to government:

### 1. Age for Mandatory PFD Wear

I believe that wearing a PFD or lifejacket while a recreational boat is moving would have the most impact in preventing boating deaths for individuals 12 years or younger. Children in this age group are particularly vulnerable due to their limited swimming skills and their natural tendency to panic in emergencies. By mandating PFDs for younger children, we can significantly enhance their safety and reduce the risk of drowning.

### 2. Size and Type of Boat for PFD Mandate

I believe that wearing a PFD should only be mandated on any human-powered vessel (canoe, kayak, etc.) and any personal watercraft.

At the same time, a three-year national law enforcement survey should be implemented to gather comprehensive data on the size and type of watercrafts involved in safety incidents. This survey will provide critical insights into the relationships between vessel size and safety outcomes, enabling policymakers to make informed, evidence-based decisions regarding the extension of mandatory PFD requirements to different vessel sizes.

### 3. PFD Requirements in Certain Circumstances

While I recognize the value of safety measures, requiring all recreational boaters to wear PFDs in all circumstances is not the most effective approach. Blanket regulations will not address all practical considerations and will lead to resistance rather than compliance in the boating community.