



MEDIA RELEASE

DISTRICT OF KENT AQUATIC PROFESSIONAL WINS PROVINCIAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

Vancouver, BC (November 19, 2025) – BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) has presented Emalie Sutton, a District of Kent aquatics professional, with the 2025 DB Perks Young Professional Aquatics Award.

The prestigious DB Perks Young Professional Aquatics Award celebrates the outstanding achievements of an emerging leader in the early stages of their aquatics career. This award honours young professionals whose talent, drive, and leadership potential are set to make waves in the field of aquatics for years to come.

Emalie is a seasonal aquatic leader for the District of Kent in Agassiz. She has been part of the aquatic community for just over seven years and has taught advanced courses since 2019. She began her journey with the District of Kent in April 2023 and has since focused on sharing her passion and expertise in lifeguarding and water-safety education.

Emalie takes pride in helping others build a solid foundation in safety, teamwork, and aquatic competence. Over the past two summers, she has led a dedicated team of lifeguards and served as a mentor for new aquatic professionals, helping them build confidence, leadership, and practical skills.

“Emalie Sutton exemplifies the leadership, passion, and dedication that keep our communities safe and thriving around the water. Knowledgeable, compassionate, and deeply committed to safety and inclusion, she represents the future of aquatics in BC,” said Katie Fenn, CEO of BCRPA. “Her mentorship of new lifeguards and dedication to advancing water-safety education reflects exactly what is needed to address BC’s aquatics crisis and ensure safe, equitable opportunities for all to enjoy the water. We’re proud to recognize Emalie’s achievements and the positive ripple effect that her aquatic leadership creates across the province.”

This award, generously sponsored by DB Perks and Associates Commercial Aquatic Supplies, was presented at BCRPA’s Ripple Effects aquatics conference on Wednesday, November 19, 2025. Ripple Effects is one of just two aquatic professional development events in Canada. It’s where aquatics professionals gather to spark ideas, share expertise, and strengthen skills with the newest insights from the sector.

Images are available upon request. Background is included below.

CONTACT

Kathryn Tindale
Communications Manager, BCRPA
604.629.0965 ext. 225
ktindale@bcrpa.bc.ca

BACKGROUND

[BC Recreation and Parks Association \(BCRPA\)](#) convenes and empowers professionals who transform lives. We support over 97% of BC's communities through our 5,400 recreation and parks members and 2,700 registered fitness professionals. Through their essential work, communities across the province grow stronger, healthier, and more connected.

Our work is in the solution space. We bring people, knowledge, and resources together to champion policy, train fitness and aquatic professionals, and deliver programs that foster safe, active, and inclusive communities where everyone belongs.

Since 1958, we have provided leadership and support grounded in accessibility, equity, and inclusion—helping our members advance provincial and local priorities that improve quality of life for every British Columbian.

BCRPA has been host to the Ripple Effects aquatics conference since 2001.

www.bcrpa.bc.ca/about-us/