



## NEW FEDERAL REGULATIONS ACROSS CANADA

### Important update for boat owners | No more lifetime pleasure craft licences (ownership)



As we begin 2026, the WLAW would like to share more information about upcoming changes to Canada's pleasure craft licensing system that will impact everyone with a boat licence. As of December 31, 2025, new federal regulations have changed how pleasure craft licences are issued and managed across Canada.

The federal government has indicated that these changes are intended to modernize the system, improve the accuracy of the national vessel database, and ensure that owner information is kept up to date for safety and enforcement purposes.

#### These are the main changes:

- Existing lifetime pleasure craft licences (ownership) will be phased out over time
- New licences, and all renewals, will be issued for a **5-year term**
- A **\$24 fee** will apply whenever a licence is issued, renewed, transferred or replaced (this fee will be adjusted periodically to account for inflation)
- Boat owners will be required to update any change of name or address within **30 days (no charge)**
- The goal is to ensure that the ownership and contact information contained in the federal registry, which is used by enforcement agencies and emergency services, remains current

**Transport Canada** has stated that a more up-to-date and accurate licensing database supports boating safety, environmental protection, and more efficient program administration.

**For boat owners**, this means that licences will need to be renewed periodically, like other registrations and permits, rather than being issued for life as in the past.

**The change is being phased in based on the expiry date of your current licence.** Your current licence remains valid until its expiry date. Your first step, then, is to check your expiry date. If it is coming up soon, you will have to start the renewal process online. If the expiry date is several years in the future, you don't have to do anything right now. However, if you have recently bought or sold a boat, or need a replacement licence, then the new rules apply immediately.

**Full details** are available in the federal government's announcement here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2026/01/minister-of-transport-and-leader-of-the-government-in-the-house-of-commons-announces-changes-to-make-boating-safer-for-canadians.html>


We'll share more reminders as the season approaches.

Kind regards, Anna Rijk

COMMUNICATIONS | WOLFE LAKE ASSOCIATION WESTPORT  
Editor WOLFE LAKE MAGAZINE  
[com-wolfelake@outlook.com](mailto:com-wolfelake@outlook.com)

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Pleasure craft licence

[Start an application](#)

[Check your licence expiry date](#)

[Information on Pleasure Craft Licensing](#)

**Start an application**

 Changes have been made to Pleasure Craft Licences:

- pleasure craft licences now have an expiry date of 5 years (does not affect expiry date on existing licences)
- all licences without an expiry date have been given an expiry date
- a \$24 fee is required to complete a new, renewed, transferred or duplicated pleasure craft licences application
- if the information on your licence changes, you must update it within 30 days (updating your licence information is free).

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