



UPDATED AS OF FEBRUARY 2026

# Pleasure Craft Licencing

As of **December 31, 2025**, new changes to the federal Pleasure Craft Licencing process are now law across Canada. A Pleasure Craft Licence (PCL) is a unique identification number displayed on both sides of the bow of recreational boats. All power boats with 10 hp or more require a PCL.

## What's Changing?

Here are the key updates you should be aware of:

### Licence Expiry

- All new, renewed, transferred, and replaced pleasure craft licences will now be valid for five (5) years.
- Licences that previously did not have an expiry date will now be assigned one (see expiry table on right).

### Licence Fee

- A \$24 fee will apply to all new, renewed, transferred, or replaced pleasure craft licences.

### Updating Your Information

- Licence holders must update their information within 30 days of a change (such as a name, address, or phone number). Updating information is free of charge.
- Operating a pleasure craft without a valid licence or with outdated information may result in a fine. Accurate licence information is essential for search and rescue services to assist you in an emergency.
- As of January 6, 2026, licence holders can update their information online at no cost through Government of Canada's website: <https://bit.ly/4aqfmXZ>

### Licence Cancellation

- The criteria for cancelling a licence have expanded. A licence must be cancelled if the vessel is no longer seaworthy or for other reasons specified by the Minister of Transport.

### Wind-Powered Craft

- As of December 31, 2027, wind-powered pleasure craft over 6 metres in length will also require a Pleasure Craft Licence. This requirement does not apply to human-powered vessels such as kayaks, canoes, or dragon boats.

### Indigenous Rights

- You do not have to pay the \$24 fee if your pleasure craft is used to exercise Indigenous rights recognized under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, such as hunting, fishing, or trapping. This declaration can be made by selecting the appropriate checkbox on the licence application form.

## Why This Matters in The Archipelago

The Township of The Archipelago is a primarily water-based community, where boating is not only a recreational activity but an essential part of daily life. With thousands of residents and visitors relying on marine navigation, ensuring vessels are properly licenced and information is up to date is critical for boater safety, search and rescue operations, and regulatory compliance.

## New Expiry Dates for Older Licences

If your licence did not previously have an expiry date, the following now apply:

Licence Issue Date	Licence Expiry Date
December 31, 1974 or earlier	March 31, 2026
January 1, 1975 to December 31, 1985	December 31, 2026
January 1, 1986 to December 31, 1995	December 31, 2027
January 1, 1996 to December 31, 1999	December 31, 2028
January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2005	December 31, 2029
January 1, 2006 to April 28, 2010	December 31, 2030

You can check your licence expiry date online using your pleasure craft licence number on the Government of Canada's website: <https://bit.ly/405Rzre>

## Learn more

Additional information is available through the Government of Canada's website: <https://bit.ly/4ajiOn6>



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