

Students in York Region high schools to receive lifesaving training

SUBMITTED BY
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On June 26, the Advanced Coronary Treatment (ACT) Foundation, in partnership with the Government of Ontario, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and supporting partners is launched the ACT High School CPR and Defibrillator Training Program in all high schools in York Region. The event will take place at 11 a.m. at Bill Crothers Secondary School in Unionville.

"My sincere congratulations to the ACT Foundation and their partners for their tremendous commitment and hard work to bring this initiative to York Region high schools," said Michael Chan, M.P.P., Markham-Unionville. "Our government is proud to have provided support, ensuring our youth acquire valuable knowledge and the skills that will save lives and strengthen our community."

This program will see approximately 14,000 high school students from 48 high schools in the York Region District School Board and the York Catholic District School Board empowered to save lives each year. Two hundred and fifty teachers will be trained as CPR

and defibrillator instructors for their students and more than 1,700 durable mannequins and 244 defibrillator training units are being donated to schools.

"I am a long-time advocate of citizen CPR and defibrillation training," says Dr. Dave Williams. "From my university student days as a CPR Instructor, to leading the implementation of an AED program at NASA and taking the first defibrillator into space as an astronaut, I am very proud as President and CEO of Southlake Regional Health Centre to play a key role in supporting this exciting program for our schools and youth."

The ACT Foundation is the national charitable organization that is establishing CPR and defibrillator training programs in all Canadian high schools. ACT's health partners, AstraZeneca Canada, Pfizer Canada and Sanofi are committed to bringing the program to the York Region and to all high schools across Canada.

The ACT High School CPR and Defibrillator Training Program is built on ACT's award-winning community-based model of partnerships and support. ACT raises funds for training mannequins and defibrillator training units for all high schools and guides schools in program

set-up.

ACT's provincial partners are The Ontario Trillium Foundation and Hydro One. York Region community partners are TransCanada Corporation, IBM Canada Ltd., Molise Kleinburg Estates, Nashville Developments Inc. (TACC Developments, Arista Homes, Fieldgate Homes, Paradise Homes), the Regional Municipality of York, and York EMS.

"We take the health, safety and well-being of our students very seriously, so we are thrilled to bring this program into all of our secondary schools," said Ken Thurston, Director of Education, York Region District School Board. "Thank you to the ACT Foundation and partners for helping to make this possible."

"The services, knowledge and emergency response training the ACT Foundation brings to our schools truly benefit our students and staff," said Susan LaRosa, Director of Education, York Catholic District School Board. "We value the partnership we have with ACT, and their dedication to ensuring safe and healthy school environments."

Eight in 10 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur at home. Early CPR, combined with early defibrillation can increase survival rates for cardiac

arrest victims by up to 75 per cent, according to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

"We are thrilled with the support of ACT's partners. Without them, this lifesaving program would not be possible," said ACT Foundation Executive Director Sandra Clarke.

To date, the ACT Foundation has set up the High School CPR Program in more than 1,600 schools nation-wide, empowering more than 1.8 million youth to save lives.

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Honourable Michael Chan, Southlake Regional Health Centre CEO and former astronaut Dr. Dave Williams, and ACT's partners in York Region join York Region teachers as they train to become CPR and Automated External Defibrillator instructors for their students as part of the ACT High School CPR and Defibrillator Training Program during a workshop at Bill Crothers Secondary School in Markham on June 26. Pictured are representatives of ACT's partners, including TransCanada Corporation, IBM Canada Ltd., the Regional Municipality of York, AstraZeneca Canada, Pfizer Canada and Sanofi.

photo submitted