



Elk Valley students learn to save lives

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School District No. 5 Southeast Kootenay teachers were June 22 trained as instructors to empower students with CPR and defibrillator skills, as well as heart health knowledge, through the award-winning ACT High School CPR and Defibrillator Training Program.

This training will result in 120 students from the three participating schools; Elkford, Fernie, and Sparwood secondary schools, graduating with the skills and the knowledge to save lives.

The Advanced Coronary Treatment (ACT) Foundation is the charitable organization that is establishing free CPR and defibrillator training programs in high schools throughout BC and across Canada. ACT is working in partnership with British Columbia Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) paramedics and staff, RBC, AstraZeneca Canada, Pfizer Canada, and Sanofi Canada to bring this program to Southeast Kootenay secondary schools in the Elk Valley.

Thanks to the support of our partners, the secondary schools are receiving training mannequins, Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training units, curriculum materials and program set-up.

“At RBC, we believe the health and wellness of local communities is of vital importance,” said Pam Shaw, RBC Royal Bank Regional Vice President, BC Interior. “We are proud to be long-time supporters of The ACT Foundation and thrilled to be one of the community partners bringing CPR and AED training to School District No. 5 Southeast Kootenay Elk Valley secondary schools.”

“Seeing the expansion of ACT to more schools across Canada is a source of great pride for Sanofi Canada, a founding partner in the program,” says Niven Al-Khoury, President and CEO of Sanofi Canada. “ACT’s CPR and AED Program is unique to Canada and renders a critical service to our healthcare system and services.”

To date, the ACT High School CPR Program has been established in 228 public standard secondary schools throughout British Columbia and more than 370,000 students have already been empowered to save lives with CPR.

“Each and every year the ACT Foundation’s CPR and AED program will enable approximately 44,000 students to gain the information, skills and confidence to save lives. These skills will assist them to help others throughout the rest of their lifetime. An investment worth our efforts,” said Dr. William Dick, Interim Vice President, Medical Programs of BCEHS.

With eight in 10 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occurring at home or in public places, empowering youth with CPR training as part of their high school education will help increase citizen CPR response rates over the long term. Moreover, early CPR, combined with early defibrillation can increase survival rates for cardiac arrest victims by up to 75%, according to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

“We are thrilled with the support from our partners,” says Sandra Clarke, the ACT Foundation’s Executive Director. “With it, we can implement the CPR and AED program in the communities of Elk Valley. These are lifesaving skills that students will be able to bring to their current and future families and communities.”

To date, the ACT Foundation has set up the ACT High School CPR Program in more than 1,700 secondary schools nation-wide, empowering more than 3.2 million youth to save lives.



Read more: <http://www.e-know.ca/regions/elk-valley/elk-valley-students-learn-save-lives/>