

## **“Shocking” Studies for Hazelton Highschool**

Teachers and students in Hazelton will soon be better equipped to save a life.

Six Hazelton Secondary Teachers are learning how to teach students CPR and how to use a defibrillator thanks to the Advanced Coronary Treatment Foundation.

ACT says studies have shown a high prevalence of an uncommon heart disorder among the First Nations population of the region. Long QT syndrome is an inherited disorder that can cause abnormal heart rhythms and sudden cardiac arrest in some cases.

“We know that Northern BC may be an area with the highest prevalence of long QT syndrome known. This syndrome places young, otherwise healthy individuals at risk for sudden cardiac arrest. Therefore this community needs to be prepared to respond to these events. Since young people are at high risk, this initiative to educate and empower the high school students and staff is an essential step,” says Dr. Shubhayan Sanatani, Director, Cardiac Pacing and Electrophysiology, British Columbia’s Children’s Hospital.

As part of the program, Hazelton Secondary will also receive a defibrillator and training units for the equipment.

ACT is receiving funding from AstraZeneca Canada, Pfizer Canada and sanofi-aventis for the District 82 portion of the program.

Schools in Thornhill, Terrace, and Kitimat received CPR training last month.

