

north shore news

Training group takes heart in CPR story

BY SANDRA CLARKE, NORTH SHORE NEWS JUNE 8, 2011

Dear Editor:

I was thrilled to learn of the citizen CPR rescue of young Levi when he collapsed during his five-kilometer run last month in North Vancouver (North Vancouverites to the Rescue, North Shore News, May 25). It demonstrates how critical citizen CPR is to saving lives.

More and more B.C. citizens are learning CPR each year thanks to a school-based program in more than 80 per cent of public secondary schools throughout the province. This popular program exists due to a partnership between the Advanced Coronary Treatment Foundation (a charitable organization dedicated to helping schools across Canada establish in-house CPR programs free for students), the B.C. Ambulance Service and the Ambulance Paramedics of B.C.

Mannequins are donated to schools through the initiative and teachers are trained as CPR instructors for their students. One hundred and fifty thousand B.C. youth have been trained to date and many lives are being saved.

The governments of Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta have already inserted the CPR program into the provincial curriculum, and we are urging the B.C. government to do the same. This will ensure all students receive this lifesaving training as a part of their secondary school experience now and in the future.

Youth will take their lifesaving skills to their present and future families, and the number of CPR-trained citizens will dramatically increase across the province each year.

Sandra Clarke, Executive Director

Advanced Coronary Treatment Foundation

Ottawa

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