

One million Ontario students trained in CPR -major milestone

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The Advanced Coronary Treatment (ACT) Foundation is thrilled to announce that more than one million Ontario high school students have now been trained in the lifesaving ACT High School CPR Program – an unprecedented milestone.

"I'm proud of the Government of Ontario's partnership with the ACT Foundation and the work we are doing together which has led to this major milestone," says Kathleen Wynne, Ontario Minister of Education. "This training is a valuable learning opportunity for our students and an incredible asset to our communities."

"We want to thank the Government of Ontario and The Ontario Trillium Foundation for their long-standing support of this important program," says Sandra Clarke, executive director of the ACT Foundation. "It is because of the support from our committed partners at the community, provincial and national level that we have achieved this incredible success."

Since the Ottawa program pilot in 1994, ACT has driven a systemic change in high school curriculum: CPR training is now mandatory in Ontario, Alberta, and Manitoba, and ACT's goal is to see the CPR program a mandatory part of the high school curriculum in every province.

Nationally, ACT has trained 1.4 million youth – and this number is growing quickly. Each year across Canada 250,000 high school students in 1,350 high schools receive this lifesaving training from their teachers.

"Eight in 10 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur at home, and research indicates that citizen CPR response can improve survival rates by almost fourfold," said Dr. Justin Maloney, medical director, Ottawa Base Hospital and Medical Director for the ACT Foundation. "Empowering youth with CPR training as part of their high school education increases citizen CPR response rates and saves lives over the long term."