



## **Creating a generation of CPR responders**

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Re: Life-saving knowledge, Dec. 4.

Although I was happy columnist Kate Heartfield highlighted the need for increased citizen cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in the community, I want to point out that all Ottawa high school students learn CPR in the classrooms in their first year.

Contrary to her column, we have CPR training of youths in our schools -- we are working hard to broaden the scope of this life-saving instruction to every high school in Canada.



I am delighted to say that Ottawa is a Canadian model regarding school CPR. All Grade 9 students learn CPR every year from their physical education and health teachers.

More than 100,000 Ottawa youths have been trained in CPR, and 10,000 youths are trained each year in 47 high schools in all four school boards. In 1994, the ACT Foundation initiated the program in Ottawa high schools. Teachers are trained as CPR instructors for their students, and mannequins and curriculum materials are donated to schools by generous community, provincial and national partners.

Just last week, the Ottawa-based Advanced Coronary Treatment (ACT) Foundation made an exciting announcement: more than one million Ontario high school students have been trained in the ACT high school CPR program.

Across the country 1.4 million have been trained and this number is growing.

Based on the success of the Ottawa model, the CPR program has been made an official part of the provincial curriculum in Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta.

We are creating a generation of young responders and they are saving lives.

To view a video of teens telling their heroic stories, visit the website [www.youtube.com/theactfoundation](http://www.youtube.com/theactfoundation).

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