

Teachers go to defib class

Rob Brown / Dawson Creek Mirror

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Teachers became the students last week in DC. Photograph By Rob Brown

Dawson Creek Secondary School teachers were put to the test, and soon students will be too. STAT.

Last week teachers took a refresher course in CPR and were trained and learned how to use Automated External Defibrillator units that will soon hang in the high school halls

"It is national challenge of ours, a goal to help communities establish these in each school across the country," says Sandra Clarke, executive director with the ACT Foundation.

The Advanced Coronary Treatment (ACT) Foundation is the national charitable organization dedicated to establishing free CPR as a mandatory program in every Canadian high school.

The program is built on ACT's award-winning community-based model of partnerships and support. ACT raises funds for mannequins and resources for all high schools and guides schools in program set-up.

To date, more than 2.6 million youth have been trained by their high school teachers, with an additional 310,000 being trained each year. Many lives are being saved.

The group partners with Astra Zeneca Canada, Pfizer Canada and Sanofi Canada. Clarke said the schools have been an easy sell.

"As far as education, this simply introduces more of it to the halls of Dawson Creek Secondary. We'd like when a cardiac arrest happens to have more than one person ready to use the machine. What happens is when these are now in schools, with future adults being trained how to use them."

Response times are key when dealing with CPR and cardiac arrest.

The program is being implemented in Chetwynd and Tumbler Ridge as part of a partnership with 59 Peace River South. The ACT Foundation partnered with BC Emergency Health Services to enable teachers to empower students to have potential and knowledge in this life saving technique and skills.