



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release January 8, 2009

Donation of Defibrillators Keeps Staff and Students Safe

A humanitarian organization was honored today for its donation of Automated External Defibrillators to all High Schools in Edmonton. The Legion of Frontiersmen of the Commonwealth, is an organization that believes in giving-back to the community and their funding of close to \$80,000 allowed the organization Heart-Safe Emergency Medical Services to purchase Defibrillators for all eight Edmonton Catholic High Schools and all 20 Edmonton Public High Schools.

“The Frontiersmen wanted to donate Defibrillators to highly active locations throughout the city, and High Schools accomplishes this goal,” said Stan Mottershead, Commander with The Legion of Frontiersmen of the Commonwealth. “All students and staff in Edmonton Public and Catholic High Schools will benefit as this medical equipment will be available in case of an emergency,” Mottershead went on to say.

Staff at each of the High Schools have been trained by Heart-Safe. “The training consists of a half-day course which includes CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation),” said Chris Portas, Heart-Safe Paramedic Community Educator and Program Leader. “The Defibrillators will also be available to any organizations that use the schools after-hours,” said Portas.

Both Edmonton Catholic and Edmonton Public Schools applauded the donation of the Defibrillators, “The generous donation by the Frontiersmen ensures a healthy environment for our High School staff and students,” said Debbie Engel, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees with Edmonton Catholic Schools. Bev Esslinger, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees for Edmonton Public Schools echoed this sentiment, “We owe it to the young students we serve, whose bright futures still lie ahead of them, to have every effective strategy or mechanism available to save their lives and the lives of their classmates.”

An alarmed cabinet and training unit for each Defibrillator is included in the donation. The Frontiersmen are now expanding their program to donate Defibrillators to High Schools outside of Edmonton.

For more information contact:

Lori Nagy
Manager of Media and Public Relations
Edmonton Catholic Schools
(780) 441-6189 office
(780) 991-6363 cell

Jane Farrell
Communications
Edmonton Public Schools
(780) 429-8290 office
(780) 970-4356 cell