



February 6, 2024

**Attention: City of Burnaby and Board of Education**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you in my capacity as a Pediatric Cardiologist and Electrophysiologist at BC Children's Hospital in Vancouver, Canada. This letter is to support Ben Rohu in advocating for the presence of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in your schools and sport facilities. Ben is a 16 year old patient diagnosed with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. As you likely know, access to prompt CPR and AED rescue are life saving for people who suffer a sudden cardiac arrest. While we think Ben's risk is low, we support his advocacy for this public health measure. We have seen our families be successful at placing AEDs in many public places.

As there are areas within Burnaby that do not have an AED on site, we have included some information and links providing options for initiating into your school services that will support you for preparedness in the event that a staff member, parent or student should experience sudden cardiac arrest:

<https://www.alertfirstaid.com/aed-school.php>  
<http://www.canadian-training.ca/aed/aed-faq>  
<http://elevaed.com/legal/defibrillator-laws-for-canada>  
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/aed/list.html>  
<http://actfoundation.ca/>  
<http://www.sja.ca/English/Safety-Tips-and-Resources/Pages/aed/public-access-aeds-bc-pad-program-registry.aspx>

Access to an AED for early defibrillation is essential in order to give fast effective treatment improving survival chances for individuals with improved outcomes. When an AED is immediately available, the chance of quality survival from sudden cardiac arrest is substantially improved. An AED can be lifesaving and I would strongly advocate for this being present at the school, not only as a pediatric cardiologist who deals with these families, but also as a citizen who recognizes the chance to save a life.

AEDs are now in every ice rink and many high schools in Canada. Provinces such as Manitoba have legislated AEDs into every school. Many school districts in BC have now ensured AEDs at every location. A cardiac arrest is like a fire. We do not expect either to occur, but we must be prepared to protect those that attend and work at the schools in our province.

Please do not hesitate to ask for further information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Shubhayan Sanatani

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