



St. John Ambulance making progress within lifesaving AED program

First aid charity St. John Ambulance BC & Yukon is continuing to grow their impact in the space of empowering public safety with their Start Me Up BC program. The program, which launched in early 2021, aims to install 1000 publicly accessible automated external defibrillator (AED) stands across the province to help people like you save lives from sudden cardiac arrest.

Since launching, St. John Ambulance has placed 14 stands in high-traffic public areas and has recently received promising support from the Vancouver city council. Areas of the stands include transit stations, parks, workplaces, community centres, and more. Each stand comes with an AED, a first aid kit, and a naloxone kit.

“Sudden cardiac arrest effects up to 6,000 British Columbians each year and 80 per cent of the time, it occurs in public. This means that survival greatly lies on everyday citizens responding with CPR and an AED while waiting for an ambulance,” said Ken Leggatt, COO for St. John Ambulance BC & Yukon. “And as we’ve all seen, the opioid crisis has continued to show devastating impacts, with over 2,200 lives lost last year. We knew we had to incorporate naloxone to allow bystanders to make a difference.”

For developers in B.C., on-site and post-build safety is and should always be a main priority. Whether it’s outside a condo building, a workplace, or outside a place of business, a sudden cardiac arrest or other first aid emergencies can occur at any moment and requires response within mere minutes.

“When it comes to the province’s commercial real estate industry, it’s evolving every day and reaching incredible new heights. Throughout this progress of growth, it’s crucial that owners, contractors, workers, managers, and the surrounding public has access to tools like AEDs, first aid kits, and naloxone to keep them safe. Start Me Up BC helps accomplish that need all in one stand,” said Ty Speer, CEO of St. John Ambulance BC & Yukon.

To learn more about Start Me Up BC or to help place a stand, visit startmeupbc.ca or contact leanne.strachan@sja.ca. To ensure you’re ready to respond to public emergencies, register for CPR and AED training at sja.ca/first-aid-training.