

September 12, 2012

71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of the Heart and Stroke Foundation, we are seeking to make a deputation before council regarding how to make your municipality more cardiac safe.

Every year, 7,000 cardiac arrests occur in Ontario, with the majority occurring in public places or homes. However, an individual's chance of survival can increase to 75% when early CPR is used in combination with an AED. Recent data indicates that Ontario has a survival rate, for out-of-hospital cardiac arrests, of only 5-6%. By comparison, the 'gold-standard' in cardiac safety in North America is Seattle and King County with a survival rate of 16.3%. When a person is in cardiac arrest, seconds count. With each passing minute, the probability of survival declines by 7-10%.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation has developed three key policy recommendations for municipalities that can significantly increase the out of hospital survival rates for sudden cardiac arrest:

1. Commit to implementing a broad public education campaign raising awareness around issues such as the ease of CPR training and use of an AED.
2. Work with the Heart and Stroke Foundation through the Ontario Defibrillator Access Initiative (ODAI) to ensure AEDs are placed in all sport and recreation facilities and schools.
3. Ensure that in all cases of cardiac arrest, that the mandatory CPR instructions given by emergency medical dispatchers are done so without an option for bystanders to opt out.

The use of CPR and an AED can dramatically increase the odds of survival of an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, however, too few Ontarians know this life saving skill.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation looks forward to present before Council on recommendations for increasing out of hospital cardiac arrest survival rates and strengthening our resuscitation partnership to make Ontario communities the most cardiac safe in Canada.

We will be in touch with your Clerk to schedule a time for deputation in the coming days.

Sincerely,



Mark Holland
Director, Health Promotion and Public Affairs, Ontario
Heart and Stroke Foundation