

HEALTH PROMOTION/PROTECTION–Province Helps to Keep it Pumping

Nova Scotians who use indoor sport and recreation facilities will be safer thanks to a \$60,000 grant program that will help facilities purchase automated external defibrillators (AED).

Barry Barnet, Minister of Health Promotion and Protection announced the launch of the program today, May 15. The 'Heart Smart Facility Grants' will provide 50 per cent or up to \$1500 toward the purchase of an AED for indoor sport and recreation facilities.

"As we encourage Nova Scotians of all ages to get more active we have a responsibility to ensure our facilities are as safe as possible," said Barry Barnet, Minister of Health Promotion and Protection. "This program will help create heart smart sport facilities across the province and is another step in protecting the health and safety of Nova Scotians."

An automated external defibrillator is a machine that monitors heart rhythms. If for any reason the heart stops beating the AED automatically sends an electric shock to the heart in an attempt to restart it.

Although an AED is useful to have in the case of heart related emergencies, it is only one part of the overall chain of survival. Early recognition of warning signs of heart disease is still the most effective way to prevent and survive a heart emergency.

The 'Heart Smart Facility Grants' will be administered by the Recreation Facility Association of Nova Scotia. Criteria include size of the facility, seating capacity, and training of staff to use the machine safely.

"All 130 of our sport and recreation facilities are well used by children, families and seniors," said Bill Cruickshank, Executive Director of Recreation Facility Association of Nova Scotia. "I am so pleased to be able to work with the province and our facilities to help make them even safer places to participate in sports."

Grant applications and criteria can be found at www.RFANS.com

FOR BROADCAST USE:

Indoor sport and recreation facilities have been made safer thanks to a sixty-thousand dollar grant program that will help facilities purchase automated external defibrillators.

The Heart Smart Facility grant program was announced today, (May 15) by Health Promotion and Protection Minister Barry Barnet.

The program will provide fifty per cent or up to fifteen-hundred dollars toward the purchase of the machine.

Minister Barnett says that as we encourage more people to become physically active we have a responsibility to ensure our facilities are as safe as possible.

Automated external defibrillators monitor heart rates and will send an electric shock to the heart should it stop in an attempt to restart it.

Grant applications can be found at w-w-w-dot-RFANS-dot-com.

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