



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 23



CENTRAL OKANAGAN  
"Together We Learn"



## MEDIA RELEASE

September 7, 2007

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### **School District No. 23, Okanagan College, Interior Health and Province team up to offer health care program to Grade 12 students**

A new multi-agency partnership will provide Central Okanagan Grade 12 students a chance to get an early start on a career as a Home Support Resident Care Attendant (HSRCA).

The pilot project starts in January and is a partnership between School District No. 23, Okanagan College, and Interior Health with support from the B.C. government's Health Education Foundation, which is providing funding for more than 1,100 new training seats in the province for home support workers and residential care attendants.

"This is an example of how we can work together as community partners to help meet very real needs in the health care field, and provide tremendous opportunities for students who have already identified that they want to pursue a career in health," says Okanagan College President Jim Hamilton.

"We're very excited about the partnership," says School District No. 23 Superintendent Mike Roberts. "Our Board endorsed the program late last spring and was enthusiastic about the opportunities for students that it represents. It is another option that will give our students a chance to move ahead on their chosen career path faster than before."

Ten applicants will be accepted in the pilot HSRCA program and their first assignment will be to volunteer 90 hours in an assisted living or residential facility under the direction of a School District No. 23 instructor and an Okanagan College mentor. Students will attend classes at Okanagan College two days a week from January to March and again from May to July. They will be in a full-time practicum from August to October. They will also be required to complete first aid training, Food Safe Training, a medical exam and a criminal record check.

Graduates will be prepared to work with individuals at home, in assisted-living settings and in continuing care facilities. This program is just one of 13-dual-credit programs such as residential construction and carpentry offered by Okanagan College and School District No. 23.

"With the growth and aging population in our region, we are looking to the future to ensure that we have qualified graduates from the residential care program to meet the demand," notes Interior Health CEO Murray Ramsden. "This initiative is to be commended."

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For more information on the Home Support Resident Care Attendant (HSRCA) program, please contact:

School District 23: Norman Bradley at (250) 860-8888

Okanagan College: Cathy Shultz at (250) 762-5445, ext. 4534

For more information on employment opportunities as a Resident Care Aide with Interior Health, you can visit the health authority's website ([www.interiorhealth.ca](http://www.interiorhealth.ca)) or another website that identifies private employers in the region who have jobs for residential care aides ([www.residentialcarejobs.ca](http://www.residentialcarejobs.ca))