



JOBS AWAIT YOUNG LIFEGUARDS

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KELOWNA, BC – The demand for lifeguards means that nearly every student in the new Pre-Lifeguard Academy at Rutland Senior Secondary could have a job waiting for them when they finish their certifications.

"We make sure that each student can graduate with dignity, pride, and options," said Hugh Alexander, Principal at Rutland Senior Secondary. "The Pre-Lifeguard Academy gives learners opportunities to excel personally and professionally, even before they transition to other careers in which this might build interest."

The Pre-Lifeguard Academy trains at the Kelowna Family YMCA, making use of the community resource near the school. The facility could hire all 18 of the current program graduates.

"It's great having these students in our building doing this program because we get to know them and they get to know our facility so that if they're successful we can hire them and add to our programming," said Torrie Zimmerman, Aquatic Manager for the Kelowna Family YMCA. "This program is a lot more than just lifeguarding; they learn skills like confidence and leadership that will help them in their adult lives."

The Lifeguard Academy is a new program this year at Rutland Senior Secondary, although it is open to all Grade 11 and 12 students in Central Okanagan Public Schools. Among the certifications it offers are Standard First Aid, Bronze Medallion, and National Lifeguard Pool.

For comments, please contact:

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