

Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada

Facts about Resuscitation Guidelines and Training in Canada

The International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR) was founded by the American Heart Association (AHA), **The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada (HSFC)**, the European Resuscitation Council, and the Resuscitation Councils of Australia and New Zealand. ILCOR leads and coordinates the regular review of international resuscitation science. **ILCOR makes recommendations** for resuscitation practice which are published in the journal *Circulation*.

HSFC is the only Canadian organization that has representation and decision-making authority on ILCOR, although many individual Canadian researchers and practitioners contribute to the ILCOR science review process which involves hundreds of researchers and clinicians worldwide.

HSFC and AHA are the North American collaborators that develop the *Guidelines for CPR and ECC for Canada and the US*. The North American Guidelines are developed based on the ILCOR recommendations, but take into consideration the aspects of North American health care system structures, practices, policies and laws that differ between North America and other parts of the world. The North American Guidelines for CPR and ECC are published in *Circulation*, can be downloaded free of charge from the AHA and HSFC websites, and can be purchased from HSFC and AHA publishing distributors.

In an effort to ensure that resuscitation training in Canada meets the current standards of care, HSFC and its counterpart national, charitable, bilingual resuscitation training agencies including the Red Cross, St John Ambulance, the Lifesaving Society and the Canadian Ski Patrol collaborate around Canadian Basic Life Support (BLS) resuscitation program content. Through a review of the most recent Guidelines, these organizations agree on the changes and minimum course criteria to implement in their courses to ensure that BLS training in Canada meets the North American Guidelines and is aligned in content and best practices.

While the training agencies agree on core content in BLS courses, they do not collaborate to design, develop or deliver courses. There is variation in the course structure, design and educational methodologies used by each of the agencies. The HSFC BLS courses not only meet but also exceed the agreed upon core course content.

There are many private and regional resuscitation training agencies in Canada who are aligned with HSFC. It is expected that independent training agencies provide resuscitation training that is current with the North American CPR and ECC Guidelines. HSFC provides ad hoc assistance upon request to interpret the Guidelines for implementation in programs. Many organizations and individuals seek such assistance from HSFC. **HSFC offers its own resuscitation training programs developed independently and/or in collaboration with AHA. Note that the HSFC BLS for Healthcare Providers course is the prerequisite for HSFC Instructor and ACLS and PALS Provider courses.**

The decision about which training agency to select as a provider of BLS training is at the discretion of the employer or individual seeking training, based on the training needs of the employer or individual seeking training.