



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Timiskaming District Secondary School Students Train for Real-World Search and Rescue

(January 23, 2025 – Temiskaming Shores) – A lost hiker, two overdue canoeists, an injured ATV rider—these are just some of the realistic emergencies that could happen in the District of Timiskaming. To prepare for such situations, a new program at Timiskaming District Secondary School (TDSS) is equipping students with the skills and knowledge needed for real-world Search and Rescue (SAR) operations.

Through the course, anchored in the Grade 11 and 12 Secondary Geography curriculum, students learn engage in a combination of classroom learning and hands-on training. In the classroom, students learn about spatial technologies, emergency management systems, and even earn their Transport Canada Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) certification. Taught by Alex Shillinglaw and Thomas McLean, the course immerses students in SAR operations, where they apply their classroom knowledge to realistic emergency situations.

Through this course, students have the opportunity to learn from community partners and work with cutting-edge technology.

Although the program is still in its early stages, it has already set the foundation for creating a mission-ready SAR team. This program helps to build capacity in the region by supporting students to pursue Graduates of the program will be able to return to the Timiskaming District after post-secondary education and further hone their skills in real SAR operations, working alongside emergency professionals in the region.

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