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September 10, 2020

To: BC Mayors and Councillors

Re: Emergency Paramedics and Dispatchers: Who we are and what we do!

Dear Mayor & City Councillors;

In BC, over 4500 Paramedics and 270 Medical Dispatchers work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to keep our communities healthy and safe. As leaders in emergency prehospital care, allies in healthcare and professionals in our communities, Paramedics and Medical Dispatchers are a quintessential resource for municipalities in BC.

The field of Paramedicine has evolved from a traditional response of unscheduled emergencies to a robust and multi-disciplined practice encompassing public safety, emergency first response, scheduled and acute transport, and community-based health innovation. As experts in emergency management, Paramedics are uniquely qualified to assist in emergency prevention culminating in a dynamic and versatile skillset that transcends conventional public sectors. Engaged as a mutual stakeholder in both public safety and healthcare, Paramedics are able to provide relief to healthcare systems and infrastructures operating at or above capacity within BC communities as specialists in emergency response and preventative healthcare.

As the world evolves and adapts to the universal consequences and reality of Covid-19, our leaders continue to manage an ongoing opioid epidemic amidst a global pandemic with the constant threat of seasonal natural disasters (such as wildfires and flooding). A unique set of circumstances requires a unique response and BC Paramedics and Medical Dispatchers are always ready to respond.



What can Paramedics do in YOUR community?

Paramedics in BC provide a variety of services to support community health and safety. Through a multitude of specialties and license levels BC Paramedics are there for you.

- Primary Care Paramedic
- Advanced Care Paramedic
- Critical Care Paramedic
- Paramedic Specialists
- Community Paramedics
- Emergency Medical Dispatch and Call-taking

Our resources are available by land, sea or sky.

- Ambulances
- Paramedic Response Units

- Fixed-wing Aircraft
- Helicopters
- Boats

Services Paramedics can provide:

- Emergency medical first response
- Scheduled and acute transport of ill and injured patients
- Province-wide service ensuring access to healthcare in hard to reach communities
- Provision of primary health care in communities experiencing service delivery gaps
- Community based care for elderly, indigenous, at risk or vulnerable populations
- Immunization clinics, Covid-19 testing and contact tracing for Covid-19
- Emergency management including planning, preparedness and response
- Emergency Medical Dispatch and Call-taking, providing over the phone medical assistance until resources arrive at the patient's side

How can you ensure YOUR community's needs are met?

As municipal and community leaders, you have a critical role in the decisions being made about healthcare services and public safety within your community. You know the needs of your community better than anyone else. We want to work with you!

Visit www.apbc.ca and check out what resources are currently available in your community. Our comprehensive resource list includes every Ambulance Station in British Columbia along with the current resources available in each of those communities.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss your community specific Public Safety, Ambulance Service and healthcare needs, challenges, gaps and paramedic services. Please visit our virtual booth at UBCM, we will be available to live chat.

We ask that you write both the Health Minister and Health Critic to advocate for enhanced paramedic services and healthcare in your community.

Again, we encourage you to come visit us virtually if you have any questions about Paramedic Services in your community. Alternatively, feel free to contact myself at (250) 250-319-4713 or troy.clifford@apbc.ca or info@apbc.ca either leading up to, during or post UBCM.

Thank you for your time, see you virtually at UBCM!

Sincerely,



Troy Clifford
Provincial President
Ambulance Paramedics and Emergency Dispatchers of BC
CUPE Local 873

TC/sd/MoveUp

