



OCT 08 2021

1204364

Via email: [pkusack@langleycity.ca](mailto:pkusack@langleycity.ca)

Paula Kusack  
Deputy Corporate Officer  
City of Langley  
20399 Douglas Cres  
Langley BC V3A 4B3

Dear Paula Kusack:

Thank you for your email of July 29, 2021, regarding the City of Langley resolution supporting improvements to the pre-hospital care system. I apologize for the delayed response.

The Ministry of Health and BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) are committed to improving the pre-hospital care system in coordination with fire departments and first responders. The Ministry of Health and BCEHS accepted the recommendations of the Office of the Auditor General report *Access to Emergency Health Services* and has been working to implement them in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of this work, I wish to inform you that a Pre-Hospital Care Collaborative Committee was formed to manage the pre-hospital care and ensure appropriate response of paramedics and fire first responders. This Committee, which includes member representation from the Ministry of Health, the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, Provincial Health Services Authority, BCEHS, Fire Chiefs Association of BC, Office of the Fire Commissioner, urban and rural fire chiefs, urban and rural representatives from the Local Government Management Association, First Nations Emergency Support Services, First Nations Health Authority and Patient Voices Network, has successfully collaborated to ensure a coordinated COVID-19 response and monitored impacts to the public and first responders.

This work has helped to build relationships and dialogue in a way that will have a lasting positive impact on making improvements to pre-hospital care that best serves people in British Columbia living in both urban and rural areas of the province.

Since Spring 2021, we have continued to make further progress on this important work with our first responder partners, with a renewed focus on improving clinical governance, data sharing, and ensuring appropriate level of response.

...2

As you are aware, on July 14, 2021, the Province announced new measures to further strengthen BC's ambulance service. These measures initiate significant action to ensure ambulance services are faster, more responsive, and able to rapidly meet changing demands and needs, and will also mean increased support for paramedics and dispatchers.

Immediate actions to reinforce ambulance operations include funding for new full-time paramedics and dispatchers, new ambulances, and more 24/7 ambulance stations in rural communities. Newly appointed leadership, including a BCEHS board of directors to focus solely on ambulance services and a new chief ambulance officer, will enable a direct and focused approach to ensuring better service for patients and families and better supports for workers who deliver the service.

In addition, I have directed the Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board to provide recommendations on expanding first responders scope of practice which are expected in September 2021.

Please be assured we are committed to improve the coordination of pre-hospital care that best serves the people in British Columbia living in all areas of the province and supports the interests and available resources of local and regional governments.

Thank you again for writing, I appreciate the opportunity to respond. Should you have any further questions, please contact Derek Rains, Executive Director, Provincial Services by email at [Derek.Rains@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Derek.Rains@gov.bc.ca) , or by phone at (250) 952-3008.

Sincerely,



Adrian Dix  
Minister

pc: Honourable John Horgan, Premier  
Derek Rains, Executive Director, Provincial Services