

Ambulance Paramedics Community Solutions



In Rural Communities

UBCM 2018

The Problem

Rural communities face healthcare shortfalls for an aging population. As demand increases, resources are in decline.

The Roadblocks

Restrained budgets and more healthcare regionalization leave rural communities under serviced and left behind.

The Solution

A new staffing model and expanded roles for Paramedics create jobs and provide essential services.

Today's Challenges for Rural Communities

Many small to medium sized British Columbia communities are facing serious Paramedic recruitment and retention problems. The current on-call staffing model means there is a lack of family supporting paramedic jobs in rural areas. Also, the withdrawal of locally funded paramedic training has resulted in a steep decline of applicants in these communities. Today, we face critical staffing shortages in rural communities across the province.

This staffing shortage leaves many communities facing long periods of time with reduced or no ambulance service at all. With an aging population, it is even more important that all British Columbians have an active and reliable ambulance service in their community.



Along with staffing shortages, the regionalization of more and more healthcare services means patients face longer and longer travel times to receive the care they need.

The BC Emergency Health Services must respond to these challenges by adapting to local needs and ensuring a reliable service to connect patients to the care they require.

Roadblocks to Finding Solutions

Healthcare costs continue to grow and the need to find efficiencies within existing budgets is becoming more and more important. In order to maximize efficiencies, new healthcare delivery models need to be considered on a community-by-community basis.

Implementation of a new ambulance delivery model will require consultation and collaboration between government, BCEHS, paramedics, dispatchers and municipalities. With collective bargaining on the horizon, the time is now to advocate for your communities needs.



Did You Know?

Recent changes were made to the way medical 911 calls are assigned priority levels. Clinical Response Model (CRM) is an internationally used and evidenced based approach to classifying medical 911 call urgency levels.

Since implementation, CRM has resulted in significantly faster response times to the most urgent calls, while response times to other calls slightly improved or stayed the same.

Ask us for more details.



BC Paramedics & Dispatchers

A key part of BC's healthcare system and a valuable resource to your community.

No two communities have the same ambulance and healthcare problems, so solutions must be found which fit each specific area's need. BC Paramedics are a key part of BC's healthcare team and can be part of those solutions. Recent deployment advancements and expansion of rural Community Paramedics are examples of how the BCEHS, the Ministry of Health and the Paramedics union can work collaboratively to find unique solutions.

Paramedics - The right resource for patients, in the right amount of time

BC Paramedics are multifaceted medical experts in the pre-hospital setting. Their extensive education positions them well to tackle health care gaps in your community.

APBC supports an evidenced based approach to delivering paramedic services. It is time that an entirely new deployment model is developed for rural paramedic services. We must attract the highly educated and experienced paramedics into rural communities, to ensure the highest level of care for patients.

Rural communities must be able to compete with industry and other provinces to recruit and retain qualified paramedics. That means reliable, good paying positions must be implemented.

Community Based Care - Community Paramedicine

Rural communities could benefit from the further expansion of Community Paramedics (CP) into this setting. The success of this program in over 75 BC communities so far has meant better patient care and more stable job opportunities for paramedics.

Getting Involved In The Solution

Municipal representatives have a critical role in the decisions being made about healthcare services in your community. You know the needs of your community better than anyone else.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss your communities specific healthcare needs, gaps and paramedic services. Find us at booth #2.

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

We ask that you highlight:

- Your unique community issues
- Your support for a better rural paramedic staffing model
- Your support for new programs like Community Paramedicine
- Share this with other community leaders



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www.apbc.ca

