

For Immediate Release – May 12, 2020

BC removes Fraser Valley's only critical-care ambulance

As of today, the Fraser Valley is without its only critical-care ambulance after a decision by the provincial health authority and BC Emergency Health Services to move it to the air station at YVR. The president of the Ambulance Paramedics of BC says the removal is poor timing because the ambulance is the only COVID emergency response unit for several municipalities.

“The decision to remove the lone critical-care ambulance from the Fraser Valley will have serious consequences on patient outcomes, with the worst-case scenario being death,” said Troy Clifford, President of Ambulance Paramedics of BC. “In addition to all critical cases, this specialized ambulance and highly trained paramedics have been vital in transporting extremely unstable ventilated COVID-19 patients. We are worried for the public.”

Critical care paramedics have the most advanced training and provide care like a “mobile intensive care unit”. Their ambulances are specialized for critical care while treating and transferring high-acuity ill or injured patients, including neonatal patients and infants.

Clifford says BCEHS made the decision without consulting relevant stakeholders. He is calling on the government to reverse its decision.

BC's Critical Care Transport (CCT) program is the [second busiest](#) in North America.

-30-

Media Inquiries:

Renu Bakshi 604 787 1873 or renu@renubakshi.com

Troy Clifford 250-319-4713 or troy.clifford@apbc.ca

