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April 28, 2020

Ms. Susan Wannamaker  
EVP, Clinical Service Delivery  
PHSA Corporate Office  
200 – 1333 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V6H 4C1

Dear Ms. Wannamaker;

**Re: Additional APBC Resources – April 20, 2020 Announcement**

I am following up on my email of April 21, 2020 with respect to the April 20<sup>th</sup> announcement of a new framework for health care in rural, remote and Indigenous communities. To improve residents' access to critical and culturally appropriate health care during the COVID-19 pandemic and moving forward, for ambulance resources in the Province long term.

We were pleased to hear you intend to collaborate with the Ambulance Paramedics of BC on this endeavor and its rollout. I appreciate you have lots going on, however I want you to know our team is ready to assist and work with you to ensure optimization and best results are achieved, both in preparation and with implementation.

We appreciate this has come together quickly; however, we would propose a meeting as soon as possible to be brought up to speed on the planning and further background, particularly to address any of the preliminary planning and process issues. As you can imagine, since the announcement our membership and the public have many questions and we would like to be able to communicate and message consistently with the Government, PHSA and BCEHS.

We are particularly interested in both details and working with you on the improved land and air transportation modes for people who need to leave their home community for treatment in larger urban centres. Including 5 more air resources - 3 planes, 2 helicopters, 55 new ambulances and associated CUPE Local 873 staffing.

We understand:

- The 55 new BCEHS ambulances will be initially focused in rural and remote BC, primarily in Northern, Interior and Island areas and includes 5-6 ambulances in the North. Any additional ambulances will be allocated into Urban/Metro areas.
- Although initially COVID-19 focused, these resources will be long term and permanent.
- The statement added the framework is flexible, so local leaders can tailor it to their communities' needs. At this point the Employer was unable to provide any specifics on timelines, specific location, staffing configurations, shift patterns. We were assured they were working on this planning and operationalization.

We are pleased that the Government and Health Authorities, through this collaborative initiative, have recognized the valuable work our Paramedics do. From treating and transporting patients around this province every day to ensuring we can better support other healthcare professionals in their roles and environments.

We are excited to work with you on this. Once again, I am reinforcing and extending our support and commitment to working collaboratively on the implementation and planning as these resources are fulfilled.

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I look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,



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

Cc: Provincial Executive Board, Local 873  
Darlene MacKinnon, Chief Operating Officer, BCEHS  
Paul Vallely, Provincial Executive Director, Patient Care Delivery, BCEHS  
Kevin Payne, Labour Relations Consultant, BCEHS  
Jaci Edgeworth, VP People Services, PHSA  
Mark Armitage, Assistant Deputy Minister of Health  
John Strohmaier, CUPE National Representative

TC/sd/MoveUp

