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April 20, 2020

Dear Members:

Additional APBC Resources - Announcement

We are optimistic and excited with today's PHSA and the Provincial government 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.

The government is also offering access to "faster and culturally appropriate COVID-19 testing methods," as well as self-isolation accommodations nearer to hospitals away from home. Access to virtual health care will also be improved.

The announcement includes better modes of land and air transportation for people who need to leave their home community for treatment in larger urban centres, including 5 more air resources 3 planes, 2 helicopters and 55 new ambulances.

We received a heads up at 1230 today that this announcement was happening at 1245 by the Premier. We were able to confirm the following from senior BCEHS and PHSA leadership:

- 55 new BCEHS Ambulances focused initially in rural and remote BC, primarily in North, Interior and Island areas and includes 5-6 ambulances in the North. Any additional ambulances will be allocated into Urban/Metro areas.
- 5 additional air resources including 3 fixed wing and 2 rotary
- We received a confirmation all positions will be CUPE 873.

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 to treat and transport patients around this province every day and will go a long way to ensuring we can better support other healthcare professionals in their roles and positions.

We understand you all have questions and want more information we commit we will keep you updated as soon as we have further information.

On behalf of the executive.

Sincerely,

Troy Clifford
President
Ambulance Paramedics of BC
CUPE Local 873

TC/km/MoveUp

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