



The Ambulance Paramedics and Emergency Dispatchers of BC are honoured to deliver care and services on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the 198 First Nations and 38 chartered Métis communities across British Columbia.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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April 2023 President Newsletter Update

After a few months, since we reached the new collective agreement, I am even prouder than ever that you allowed me to lead an amazing team that brought this monumental collective agreement to us that is pivotal for the future of this union and profession. When I started this journey almost four years ago as President, you heard me speak of my vision and commitment to you all; I outlined my key goals and priorities, in addition to raising our public image and awareness, advocating for more resources, service delivery, scope, political engagement and most importantly delivering a collective agreement that makes a difference for our members, their families and the patients we serve, now and in the future. I always believed that with support and opportunity, we could achieve success. I renew my commitment to our members and the profession- we have much work to do, and as mentioned last month, with your support this fall at convention, I would be honoured to work together with you all as President for a third term.

Sadly as I write this newsletter, the APBC Ceremonial Unit is returning from Edmonton, where they represented us at the Line of Duty Services for Cst. Brett Ryan and Cst. Travis Jordan- the two Edmonton Police Services Officers who were killed. As this LODD service was unfolding, we heard of the killing in the line of duty of Sergeant Maureen Breau of Sûreté du Québec, and the injury of her fellow officer. This is nine police officers killed in the line of duty in six months. Words cannot express our condolences and how these senseless attacks impact us all. These events highlight the daily risks we face in our service and how we must ensure safety is paramount in the work we all do while serving the public. Violence and attacks against first responders, public safety, healthcare, and persons in uniform have escalated, and we need to continue our advocacy and diligence every day.

Now that we have had the opportunity to reflect and start moving towards implementation of the new collective agreement, it is becoming evident we need to ensure this government, PHSA,

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psychological and wellness injuries, response issues, resource shortfalls, payroll, scheduling, HR, and shared service catastrophes.

Why is no one accountable for the daily payroll and WFM mistakes? We do not need any more surveys or reviews- we need to see meaningful change that ensures we receive correct, timely pay for our work and stop blaming the members for BCEHS and PHSA's system and organizational failures.

At this point, I regret to report that we have very little information or confirmation of timelines for wages and retro pay. We are deeply concerned that the deadlines seem to be dragging. We are disappointed that no communication or definitive timelines have been communicated on wages or other collective agreement implementations or components. We are hopeful to have more specifics in the coming weeks that we can share.

Every day I take the opportunity to keep the pressure on BCEHS and this Government to ensure every person gets timely and appropriate care and paramedic services in their time of need. Sadly, this still needs to happen, and we see it daily in many areas of this province. As we move forward with this new collective agreement and set dates for implementing all the various changes, I want to clarify that we are not done. We must ensure we advocate and keep paramedic services paramount and at the forefront of community conversations and solutions.

These past months I have been continuing to be meeting with provincial and municipal leaders all over the province, from Remote to Metro areas, to assist them in advocating for resources, including Community Paramedics, primary response and specialty support and response teams, in their communities. In April, I will be meeting with Premier Eby, and I am excited at the opportunity to continue to keep paramedic services at the forefront of solution-based conversations and advocate even more as we move to the next chapter with his support.

I appreciate your kindness and what you do every day for us all; I am so proud to be at your side on the front lines.

In Solidarity,

Troy Clifford
President
Ambulance Paramedics of BC

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SPOTLIGHT

EARTH MONTH

APRIL 2023



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April is considered Earth Month across the globe and is a time when many of our members are considering how to lessen our environmental impacts at work and home and better address the climate emergency. One thing we can do to reduce our carbon footprint is to reduce the amount we idle our work vehicles. April is also an ideal month to consider your practice of idling as we head toward more moderate temperatures in many regions throughout the province that are more appropriate for reduced idling. The APBC Environment and Climate Change Committee (ECCC) encourages all of our members to consider improving their idling habits this Earth Month and beyond.

Also, this month, the joint APBC\BCEHS Decarbonization committee will run an idling reduction campaign. Many of our members will wear an earth pin as part of this campaign. As the associated memo mentions, "Wearing an Earth Pin acknowledges the health impacts of our current climate emergency, the importance of taking action, and demonstrates your willingness to adopt more sustainable practices both at work and elsewhere." While it may seem counterproductive to have an earth pin (with its own environmental and carbon cost) produced for sustainability, the APBC ECCC has estimated that these pins have a carbon footprint comparable to that of a vehicle idling for 11 seconds. Considering this, it's easy to see how promoting sustainable driving habits through wearing this pin can definitely have a net benefit in reducing carbon emissions at BCEHS. The ECCC is also pleased that with the offering of the earth pin and subsequent changes in the BCEHS uniform standards, our members are granted the same opportunity to promote this social cause as has been the case for other social reasons. This affirms and further legitimizes the climate action efforts at BCEHS and the APBC.

The need for climate action has never been greater. July through October marked BC's third climate-related disaster in 16 months in the form of severe drought. Over ten regions of our province were placed under the highest drought rating, one community declared an emergency due to insufficient water levels, hundreds of thousands of salmon died in BC river beds, and over 200 wildfires burned in late October, resulting in hazardous air quality due to wildfire smoke in many regions of the province. Events like this have driven many members to request an earth pin and be recognized as climate advocates. Many of these people are concerned for their communities and families well-being. While cynicism around the climate crisis is understandable (it's a

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proponent of climate action at BCEHS, please respect those who are.

It may seem like a drop in the bucket to some, but this Earth Day, the ECCC applauds our members for standing up for less idling at BCEHS. We urge all of you to try to find a way to idle less this Earth Month. Have a conversation with your partner about it. Try a warmer jacket if it's cold. Don't leave your vehicle idling on the scene if it's safe to do so. Thank another member for making the effort to idle less. And stay tuned for Decarbonization Committee communications on further tips on reducing the amount you idle throughout April.

Our efforts to reduce carbon emissions at BCEHS are not in vain. The most recent report from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reiterates that the Climate Emergency is dire. However, there is still a pathway to ward off catastrophic, runaway climate change. Perhaps more important than the carbon reduction effect of reduced idling is the result of creating a culture within our workforce willing to tackle climate change. This is how significant change begins.

In Solidarity,

David Hollingworth
Chair
Ambulance Paramedics of BC
Environment and Climate Change Committee

The logo features the text "APBC IN THE PUBLIC" in a bold, orange-outlined, sans-serif font, centered within a solid black rectangular background. The text is arranged in two lines: "APBC" on the top line and "IN THE PUBLIC" on the bottom line.

Pringle, for making the 2023 Wounded Warriors Run BC, another success!



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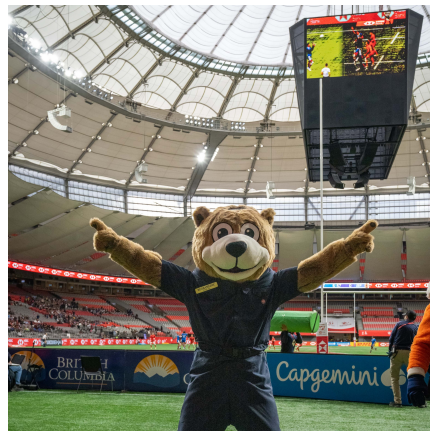
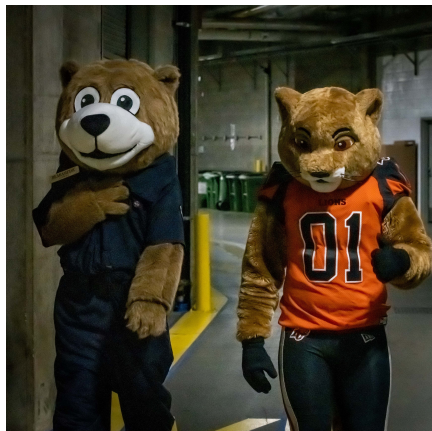
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RESOURCES


Wayfound
BOS
 Before Operational Stress

Through funding provided by the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Before Operational Stress program is now available for Public Safety Personell at no cost. Individual participants are invited to sign up (not mandatory) in BOS program research surveys.*

BOS is an evidence informed program that builds mental health resiliency, skills, and knowledge about managing the stress related to traumatic experiences expected as part of many frontline public safety jobs.

Individual Registration Code: CUPE873



Scan the code to register today!

www.wayfound.ca

CIPSRT | ICRTSP

*The research study is being conducted by researchers at the Canadian Institute of Public Research and Treatment (CIPSRT). Participation in this research study is voluntary and is not a requirement for participation in the BOS program.

Please see the above program with special code for APBC members!

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Did you know that you don't have to wait until mid-March 2023 to start panicking about CME credits? There are multiple courses available now on the [PHSA Learning Hub!](#)



Paramedic Liability Insurance through our partner at EQUA! Use the code "APBC" when you go to the checkout. We are seeing more and more litigation in our field and cannot recommend insurance more to our members. Please research your options by clicking the link in the picture.

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Paramedic Association of Canada
Association des paramédics du Canada

Did you know that APBC also represents us as the BC Chapter of the Paramedic Association of Canada (PAC)? Click on the picture for more information.

The Code 3 Newsletter is now completely digital!

To do our part for the environment and be more cognizant of the time and cost of mailing out dozens and dozens of copies throughout the province, we will no longer be sending paper copies out to individual stations.

Please distribute the newsletter throughout your station and region as you see fit!

SUBMISSIONS

We are always looking for insights, ideas, and stories.
If you have anything you'd like to feature, please
contact me at newsletter@apbc.ca



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