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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC -

As BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) gets set to celebrate their 50th Anniversary on July 1st of this year, representatives from the Ambulance Paramedics of BC (APBC) will be in Victoria this week lobbying for improved Paramedic Services and Mental Health Supports for their members.

“We have a real opportunity to bridge a lot of healthcare gaps in BC, and we’re hoping to expand our Community Paramedic program into bigger, metropolitan areas,” says Jason Jackson, President of the Ambulance Paramedics of BC – CUPE 873.

“Our Community Paramedic (CP) program has been successful in many smaller communities, and it’s time to bring this model into larger cities where we are seeing people fall through the cracks of our healthcare system. We’re talking about being active in preventative care, harm reduction and helping those who don’t always want to go to the hospital. Our CP’s can deploy to high need areas where we can have the biggest impact. These units can also offer senior support and outreach work in conjunction with other pre-existing services. We can launch this quickly and make a difference almost immediately.”

Along with augmenting Paramedic Services in bigger cities, the Ambulance Paramedics of BC want to improve access to Mental Health and Wellness supports for their members.

“Our Paramedics and Dispatchers deal with unimaginable things in the course of this job, and we want to have them connected to the right supports at the right time. We’re looking to become a member of PSPnet, which is an online resource that offers frontline safety workers access to clinical counsellors in a timely fashion. This program is very successful and has a very high success rate.”

The Ambulance Paramedics of BC – CUPE 873 will be in Victoria from May 7th to 9th for their annual lobby days, meeting with MLA’s to advocate for better healthcare services for BC residents.

For more information or media inquiries, please contact them at info@apbc.ca or by calling 604-273-5722.

The Ambulance Paramedics of BC
CUPE Local 873