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May 19, 2024

Dear Members,

2024 Paramedic Services Week

From May 19th-25th, 2024, we celebrate the Paramedic Services Week. This year's theme is *"Help us, Help you"* and it couldn't be more timely on a national, provincial, and even community level. The idea of this theme is to connect more with the public and promote education surrounding when to call 911 (and when not to), how best to access the right healthcare providers, and how people can help us do our jobs better, whether it's through proper address signage or even providing first aid before we arrive. It's an important reminder that our public education and government relations work needs to continue, whether to continue building trust in the communities we serve, or promote positive change up to the highest levels of government.

Our call-takers, dispatchers and paramedics play a more vital role in modern healthcare than ever before. We not only cover a million square kilometers in some of the most austere conditions, but we provide expert level care 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week, by land, air or even sea. I cannot begin to tell you how proud your union leadership is of the work our members do, sometimes in incredible conditions, under significant pressure, all the while, putting others first.

While we reflect on everything that paramedics, call-takers and dispatchers do this week, we're also preparing to observe the 50th Anniversary of BCEHS. It's an opportunity to reflect on where we've come from, and realize we still have far to go. We need to acknowledge our history and pledge that this union is dedicated to being a leader of positive change in our profession, service and workplace. There have been many positive changes in our culture and environment in the last few years, and I want to thank those of you that have challenged us to do better, and especially those of you that have stepped up to be that change.

In closing, I want you to know that your union continues to work on your behalf to further our relationships with government and senior leadership with BCEHS, and advocate federally, provincially and especially in your local communities for better paramedic services. In the coming year you will see us at important community lobbying events, meeting with leaders and politicians to make sure they know the value we bring to the citizens of this province.

Thank you for all that you do, not only during this important week, but all the other weeks of the year.

On behalf of your Provincial Executive Committee and Board,

Jason Jackson
President

Ambulance Paramedics & Emergency Dispatchers of BC
CUPE Local 873

JJ/sd/MoveUp