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For Immediate Release

Re: Ambulance Paramedics of BC – CUPE 873 Violence Prevention Campaign

This week the *Ambulance Paramedics of BC – CUPE 873* will launch their Violence Prevention Campaign, titled **VIOLENCE- NOT IN MY JOB DESCRIPTION.**

For years, paramedics have faced physical, verbal and sexual violence in the field during the course of their duties. And for many years, their members have felt that this violence was “just part of the job.” Today, this campaign will bring awareness to these acts of violence, how paramedics face danger everyday across this province as they attend to patients, and how reporting these acts will bring productive change.

“Our members have countless stories of assault, threats, unwanted touching and other deliberate acts of abuse they have suffered in the course of their careers, and we want to bring awareness to the incidents that all First Responders face.” says Corey Froese, Provincial Safety Director for the Ambulance Paramedics of BC (APBC).

Violence is on the rise against First Responders across North America, a sign of not only the types of calls that they go to, but a lack of appropriate, real-world training provided by employers. There is also the issue of successfully arresting, charging and convicting assailants. While new laws are in the works, Paramedics and First Responders across the country need help now.

“We understand it’s hard for Police to charge these people, let alone get convictions and make productive change, but we need to start with enhanced training for our members to read the signs before an assault can take place. We need to get better data for our members and make sure that every event is recorded and reported through our health and safety system so that we can finally show what our members already know- that we deal with violence on the job every single day,” says Froese.

The APBC Violence Prevention Campaign will run through January and February and focus on acknowledging and support members and supervisors to come forward and report all acts of violence, no matter the severity.

For questions, media requests or just more information on this campaign, please follow our social media pages, or email us at media@apbc.ca.