



**Ambulance Paramedics  
& Emergency Dispatchers**  
of British Columbia - CUPE 873

# Ambulance Paramedics

**Community Solutions  
In Rural Communities**



## BC Paramedics & Dispatchers

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**A key part of BC's healthcare and public safety system and a valuable resource to your community.**

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- ➔ **The Problem:** Rural communities face staffing retention issues. As demand increases, resources are in decline.
- ➔ **The Challenges:** Restrained budgets and more healthcare regionalization leave rural communities under serviced and left behind.
- ➔ **The Solution:** A new staffing and scheduling model and expanded roles for Paramedics create jobs and provide essential services.

### Did you know?

The entry to practice levels of paramedicine are changing. By 2025 the entry to practice vision is that all paramedics will be at a degree level.

Paramedicine has advanced to a point that is requiring increased education and responsibility. The baccalaureate entry to practice is a step towards further integration into the health care system.

Ask us for more details.



# Today's Challenges for Rural Communities

Many small to medium sized British Columbia communities are facing serious Paramedic recruitment and retention problems. The current on-call staffing model means there is a lack of family-supporting paramedic jobs in rural areas. Also, the withdrawal of locally funded paramedic training has resulted in a steep decline of applicants in these communities. Today, we face critical staffing shortages in rural communities across the province.

This staffing shortage leaves many communities facing long periods of time with reduced or no ambulance service at all. With an aging population and increase in demand, it is even more important that all British Columbians have an active and reliable ambulance service in their community.

Along with staffing shortages, the regionalization of more and more healthcare services means patients face longer and longer travel times to receive the care they need.

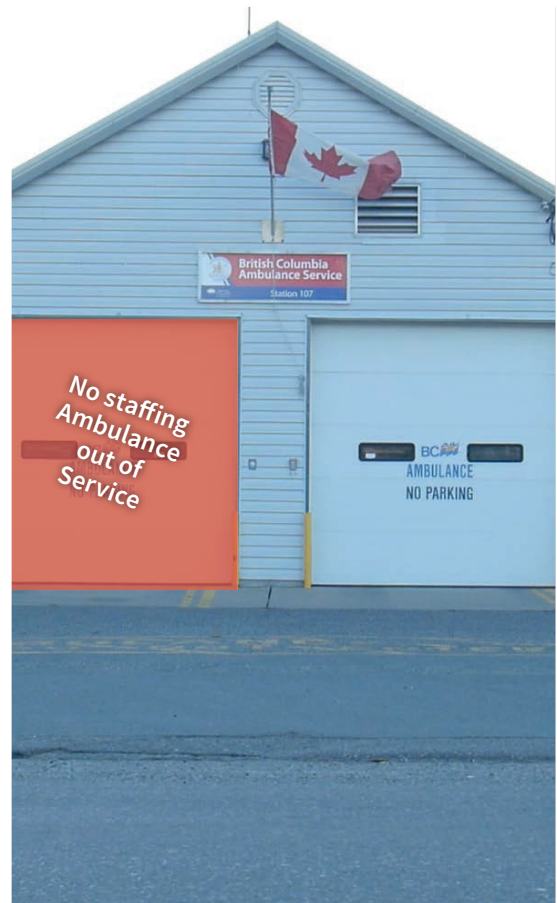
The BC Emergency Health Services must respond to these challenges by adapting to local needs and implementing a new scheduling model that will attract paramedics to rural communities.

## Roadblocks to Finding Solutions

Healthcare costs continue to grow and the need to find efficiencies within existing budgets is becoming more and more important. In order to maximize efficiencies, new healthcare delivery models need to be considered on a community-by-community basis.

Implementation of a new ambulance delivery model will require consultation and collaboration between government, BCEHS, paramedics, dispatchers and municipalities. Although the pandemic has created new challenges for our communities and healthcare system, it is imperative that a new service delivery model be made a priority – it cannot safely be delayed any longer.

No two communities have the same ambulance and healthcare problems, so solutions must be found which fit each specific area's need. BC Paramedics are a key part of BC's healthcare team and can be part of those solutions. Recent deployment advancements and expansion of rural Community Paramedics are examples of how the BCEHS, the Ministry of Health and the Paramedics union can work collaboratively to find unique solutions.





## Paramedics – The right resource for patients, in the right amount of time



BC Paramedics are multifaceted medical experts in the pre-hospital setting. Their extensive education positions them well to tackle health care gaps in your community.

APBC supports an evidenced based approach to delivering paramedic services. It is time that an entirely new deployment model is developed for rural paramedic services. We must attract the highly educated and experienced paramedics into rural communities, to ensure the highest level of care for patients. Rural communities must be able to recruit and retain qualified paramedics. That means reliable, good paying positions must be implemented in rural communities.

### **Community Based Care – Community Paramedicine**

Rural communities have benefited from the expansion of Community Paramedics (CP) into this setting. The success of this program in over 90 BC communities so far has meant better patient care and more stable job opportunities for 100 community paramedics.

## Getting Involved In The Solution

Municipal representatives have a critical role in the decisions being made about healthcare services in your community. You know the needs of your community better than anyone else. We welcome the opportunity to discuss your communities specific healthcare needs, gaps and paramedic services. Contact us by email: [info@apbc.ca](mailto:info@apbc.ca). We ask that you write both the Health Minister and Health Critic to advocate for enhanced paramedic services and healthcare in your community.

We ask that you highlight:

- ➔ Your support for a better rural and remote paramedic staffing model.
- ➔ Your support for enhanced service delivery
- ➔ Share this with other community leaders.

**Want To Know More?** If you'd like to learn more about these programs, please visit [www.apbc.ca](http://www.apbc.ca)