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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA (November 9, 2023) –

Representatives from BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) and the Ambulance Paramedics of BC, CUPE 873 (APBC) joined Minister Adrian Dix in announcing widespread changes to ambulance staffing models in dozens of smaller communities today, marking an important transformation in how Paramedic Services are delivered in multiple areas across BC.

“This is a fundamental change in how we provide paramedic services in these communities and will address how we will respond to 911 calls, how we recruit and retain paramedics to work in smaller communities, and most importantly, allows us to provide better care to our patients. These changes were not only brought forward by the union and government but also through consultation with local paramedic staff and community members.” says Jason Jackson, the new President of the APBC.

Paramedics have long played a major role in community healthcare in British Columbia. With today’s announcement, thanks to the hard work of APBC representatives and continuing collaboration with the provincial government and BCEHS, there is a renewed commitment to providing many new resources to dozens of communities across BC. In other areas, there will be new, flexible resources and full-time Unit Chiefs added to stations that will support recruitment and retention.

“We are excited to be bringing these staffing model improvements to our paramedics and the rural and remote communities we serve,” said Leanne Heppell, BCEHS’ Chief Ambulance Officer. “We recognize that one staffing model doesn’t work for all parts of the province, and these three models will help us improve our services to better meet the needs of the community and our patients, and enable more of our paramedics to live and work in their home communities.”

For more information visit www.apbc.ca or email info@apbc.ca.

The Ambulance Paramedics of BC
CUPE Local 873