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For Immediate Release

VANCOUVER, BC -

The Ambulance Paramedics of BC (APBC) will be in Vancouver this week at the annual Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), connecting with community leaders to show how they can help with public safety and emergency response in communities throughout British Columbia.

APBC's emergency medical call-takers and dispatchers, working in one of three locations across BC, are working around the clock to answer 911 calls, giving life-saving information as well as coordinating requests for help. "It's a tough job listening to people call 911 for help, then walking them through how to do CPR on a loved one, or a hundred other things," says Jason Jackson, APBC President. "Our medical call-takers and dispatchers hear people suffering through some of their darkest days, and it can take a toll."

At the same time, frontline Paramedics, working in ambulances, SUVs and in helicopters are increasingly being called on to help with the healthcare system and assist communities in their time of need.

"Our members have been saving people for decades, and you only need to look at the ongoing toxic drug crisis, Covid-19 or environmental emergencies like the heat dome or the atmospheric river. Now we're seeing hospital closures across the province, and it's our Paramedics that are stepping up to help these communities. I'm worried what would happen if our members weren't there during a hospital shut down," says Jackson.

With a major investment into BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) by the BC Government, there's been renewed hope in the delivery of paramedic services across BC, with more full-time positions in more communities now than ever. "Our main issue continues to be staffing. We have many full-time positions open, and we need to attract more qualified people. We can finally offer them full-time employment with benefits and a proper living wage. We need the government to attract more qualified staff, so that we can finally end these ongoing staffing issues. We've fixed so many things, but still have work to do."

If you would like more information on how the Ambulance Paramedics of BC can help your community, please visit us at www.apbc.ca, or email us at info@apbc.ca.

The Ambulance Paramedics of BC
CUPE Local 873