



May 20, 2009

## **Advanced Care Paramedic: Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. What employment opportunities are available for an Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP)?**

Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP) is the highest level of paramedic employed with the BC Ambulance Service (BCAS). BCAS employs full-time ACPs on a regular, full-time basis and has opportunities in Victoria, Nanaimo, Vancouver, Kamloops, Kelowna, Prince George and Trail. Most of the career opportunities for ACPs are in the Vancouver, Lower Mainland area.

### **2. Are ACP career opportunities full-time?**

Yes, all new ACPs work in full-time positions and are designated as Irregularly Scheduled Employees.

### **3. What does it mean to be an Irregularly Scheduled Employee?**

Irregularly Scheduled employees fill work vacancies that can not be predicted such as short term book offs, training, Continued Education (CE), extended sick leave, WCB and other leaves that may be paid, or unpaid by the Employer.

### **4. What is the difference between the Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board (EMALB) and the BC Ambulance Service?**

BCAS is the employer of paramedics. The Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board (EMALB) is a Government body that oversees the licensing and examination of BCAS paramedics (i.e. issues licenses to BCAS paramedics). While there is a close working relationship between these two organizations, they are two separate entities.

### **5. Will I be hired if I have a criminal record?**

Criminal record search results are examined on a case by case basis, with each offence reviewed by the BCAS to assess whether it impacts the ability of an individual to perform the role of paramedic or dispatcher.

### **6. Will I be hired if I have don't have a clean Driver's Abstract?**

Driver's Abstracts are reviewed on a case by case basis to assess the impact it may have on an individual's ability to perform the role of paramedic.

### **7. I am interested in becoming an ACP paramedic. What training do I need?**

Paramedic training is offered by a number of educational institutions throughout British Columbia. The accredited institutions that offer training within the province can be found on the [EMALB website](#).



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### **8. I am interested in becoming an ACP paramedic. Is there funding available to support my training?**

Yes, in 2007 the Ministry of Health Services established the Emergency Medical Assistants Education Fund, an over \$5 million dollar bursary program to support students enrolled in EMA programs accredited by the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) and approved by the EMA Licensing Board. Further information on this bursary program is available on the [Justice Institute of BC website](#).

### **9. Is it possible for a paramedic from outside of Canada to work as a paramedic in British Columbia?**

Yes, it is possible. BCAS accepts applications from paramedics who hold a paramedic license in British Columbia and who are eligible to work in Canada. Information on employment qualifications and our application process can be found on [our website](#).

Questions regarding license qualifications can be directed to the [Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board \(EMALB\)](#).

If you are interested in working only in BC, you may be eligible for the British Columbia Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) program, which offers accelerated immigration for qualified skilled workers and experienced entrepreneurs who wish to settle in BC and become permanent residents of Canada. For more information contact:

BC PNP  
Economic Immigration Programs Branch  
Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development  
# 730 - 999 Canada Place  
Vancouver, BC V6C 3E1  
Canada  
Email: [PNPinfo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PNPinfo@gov.bc.ca)  
Phone: 604-775-2227  
Fax: 604-660-4092  
Web: [www.pnp.gov.bc.ca](http://www.pnp.gov.bc.ca)

### **10. I am currently working as an Emergency Medical Technician out of province. How do I go about obtaining my ACP license in British Columbia?**

Please contact the Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board (EMALB) to apply for an ACP license in British Columbia. Information regarding the BC licensing process can be found on the [EMALB website](#).

### **11. I am a student in an ACP program in Ontario. I will graduate in two months and would like to work in British Columbia. How do I go about applying for a BC ACP license?**

If possible, we suggest that you complete your program and write your ACP exam in Ontario. Once you have obtained your Ontario ACP license you can then apply to the Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board (EMALB) for your BC ACP license. In



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this instance the EMALB will require you to submit your paperwork and challenge the Jurisprudence Exam.

If this is not feasible, you can complete your program in Ontario and write your ACP exam in BC. In this instance the EMALB will require you to submit your paperwork and challenge a comprehensive ACP written and practical exam.

### **12. What is the orientation process for new ACPs?**

BCAS supports new ACPs joining the Service through the ACP Residency Program, an initiative that pairs each new candidate with an experienced ACP who introduces and orients them to the BCAS, guides and supports them in field practice and shares experience and knowledge through a variety of interactive learning situations. [Learn more about the ACP Residency Program.](#)

### **13. Is it possible to work as a Volunteer paramedic with BCAS?**

While BCAS does not have a volunteer program, those interested in pursuing a volunteer paramedic opportunity are encouraged to contact St. John's Ambulance Service and ask about their Medical First Responder program.

### **14. What is the union that represents BCAS paramedics?**

The Ambulance Paramedics of BC, CUPE Local 873, represents all of the paramedics, Emergency Medical Dispatchers, quality improvement coordinators and Regional Training Officers employed by BCAS.