



## FACTSHEET

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Oct. 30, 2006

BC Ambulance Service

### **PARAMEDIC TRAINING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

- A Provincial Medical Leadership Council made up of paramedics and physicians provides provincial oversight in the development of clinical protocols and ongoing education and training.
- The training provided by the BCAS covers many subject areas such as occupational safety and health, orientation driving, dispatch, pediatric education for pre-hospital transfers and CPR.
- The BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) is projected to spend \$9.8 million in 2006/07 on continuing education and training for paramedics and dispatchers compared to \$6.2 million in 2003/04. This represents a 58 per cent increase from 2003/04.
- The BCAS also contributes \$1.1 million annually to the Justice Institute of BC (JIBC) Paramedic Academy to subsidize student tuition for Primary Care (PCP) and Advanced Care Paramedics (ACP). The JIBC delivers training to all paramedics in BC.

### **Occupational Safety and Health**

- PCP, ACP, Critical Care and Infant Transport Team paramedics receive occupational safety and health training through the license certification programs taught at the JIBC Paramedic Academy. The BCAS works closely with the JIBC to develop and update paramedic training courses.
- Two mandatory paramedic occupational health and safety courses include training on common and environmental hazards, exposure control and risk management involving confined spaces, industrial sites, diseases and injuries.
- The BCAS budget for the Occupational Safety and Health branch in 2006/07 is almost \$1.08 million. This funds program development, supplies and several dedicated staff positions including: four Regional Safety Advisor positions (based in Victoria, Vancouver, Kamloops and Prince George).
- The BCAS Occupational Safety and Health branch inspects workplaces for safety and health hazards, investigates workplace accidents, hazards, concerns, develops safe work procedures, ensures ambulances and stations are safe workplaces, provides safety training, information and advice, and promotes worker-employer cooperation on safety issues with established committees in each district.

### **Profile of the British Columbia Ambulance Service (BCAS)**

- The BCAS is the largest provider of emergency health care in Canada and one of the largest in North America.
- The BCAS serves an area of almost one million square kilometres and responds to more than 530,000 ambulance calls each year.
- The BCAS employs more than 3,200 trained emergency medical personnel including primary care paramedics, advanced life support paramedics and infant transport specialists.
- The BCAS works closely with other public safety agencies in B.C. to deliver emergency health care. First Responder partners such as Fire Departments, Police, Coast Guard and Search and Rescue agencies are integral in the delivery of our service to the people of B.C.

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