
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Health
BC Ambulance Service

PARAMEDIC RECRUITMENT DRIVE A SUCCESS

ROBSON VALLEY – A targeted recruitment effort by the BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) attracted seven additional paramedics to the Robson Valley, Health Minister George Abbott and Shirley Bond, MLA for Prince George-Mount Robson, announced today.

“The BC Ambulance Service’s strategic approach to hiring in the Robson Valley has been very successful,” said Abbott. “The new paramedics help ensure that local residents continue to receive timely, high quality pre-hospital medical care.”

Each targeted recruitment drive is tailored to the individual communities. Regional human resources staff work in partnership with the district superintendent and local paramedic unit chief to co-ordinate advertising, interviews and assist applicants with completing the necessary prerequisites.

“Seven more paramedics for the Robson Valley is great news for residents as we continue to improve health care,” said Bond. “A pro-active approach by the BC Ambulance Service targeting people who want to stay in their community is helping to recruit paramedics in rural and remote communities.”

Between Jan. 1 and June 25, 2007, the BCAS hired six new paramedics in Valemount and one in McBride. That takes the total new recruits in the North up to 33 for the first six months of the year, compared to a total of 46 new recruits for the whole year in 2006.

In the coming months, recruitment drives are also being scheduled for Dease Lake, Atlin, Chetwynd, Hudson’s Hope, Tumbler Ridge, Burns Lake, Southside, Granisle, Wells, Bear Lake and Fraser Lake.

The BCAS provides Emergency Medical Responder training to new hires in targeted rural and remote communities as part of their recruitment campaign. Paramedics who work in rural and remote communities are hired on a part-time basis and gain valuable knowledge and skills that benefit the community. Paramedic work is flexible, therefore, individuals can work for another employer as well as BCAS.

For more information about becoming a paramedic, please visit the BCAS website at www.health.gov.bc.ca/bcas/careers/start/.

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