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## NEWS RELEASE

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BC Ambulance Service

### **PARAMEDICS GOING FOR GOLD IN AUSTRALIA**

VICTORIA – British Columbia’s paramedics are some of the best in the world and, on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> a team of Advanced Life Support Paramedics will be in Australia to test and demonstrate their knowledge.

“They will be competing in the inaugural Asia Pacific International Conference/Competition, Out of Hospital Care – Challenge Your Boundaries and knowing the high level of skill, knowledge, and experience the team has, they will perform very well and make all of us with the BC Ambulance Service very proud,” said Sue Conroy, chief operating officer of the BC Ambulance Service.

Sponsored in part by BC Ambulance Service and the Ambulance Paramedics of BC, Team Canada 2007 is a group of four lower mainland paramedics with more than 100 years of combined experience. Each member brings a unique skill set to the team. Andy Fletcher, an Advance Life Support (ALS) paramedic and district supervisor in Vancouver, is an expert on clinical skills, Rene Bernklau, a unit chief in Vancouver, specializes in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear emergencies, and John Richmond, an ALS paramedic in Richmond has significant air-ambulance experience. Clarke McGuire, team manager and also an ALS paramedic in Richmond, will function as a spare having worked as a paramedic for 33 years.

This level of competition is not new to the group. In 2005, the team placed first at the Rallye Rejviz International Medical Competition in the Czech Republic. There they competed against 32 teams, 28 of which included a doctor.

“We are looking forward to this challenge and are eager to meet our colleagues from Australia and the Asia Pacific regions to share ideas and best practice experiences,” said McGuire. “It is a tremendous honour for us to compete with these countries.”

This world class event will use high end simulations to demonstrate the best of paramedic practice. The teams must deal with common medical emergencies such as heart attacks and strokes and will be judged on speed, diagnoses and technique. The teams will also face less common emergencies. At a similar competition held last year in Baltimore, Maryland, teams had to deal with a simulated crash of an air ambulance helicopter. Paramedics had to respond to a patient who was receiving medication intravenously, the pilot and team of flight paramedics.

For more information on Team Canada 2007, visit [www.teamcanada2007.com](http://www.teamcanada2007.com).

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