
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Health
BC Ambulance Service

PARAMEDIC RAISES \$8,000 FOR COPS FOR CANCER

PRINCE GEORGE – The British Columbia Ambulance Service (BCAS) is proud to announce that Terry Mitchell, a BCAS paramedic from the Queen Charlotte Islands, successfully raised nearly \$8,000 for Cops for Cancer. Mitchell was the first paramedic to ever ride with Cops for Cancer on the Tour de North, and his BCAS colleagues in northern B.C. supported his place in the team through fundraising and sponsorship.

“We are very proud of the fundraising efforts of Terry Mitchell and the support that the BC Ambulance Service provides each year as other paramedics volunteer time to travel with the tour,” said Health Minister George Abbott. “The demonstration of partnerships to battle cancer and support healthy living is typical of many British Columbians.”

Mitchell’s fundraising initiatives involved challenging other BCAS stations across the province to compete against each other to raise money, with the winning station receiving a cooler filled with seafood from the Queen Charlotte Islands. The seafood was itself a donation from Mitchell’s friends and BCAS colleagues in Port Clements, where Mitchell is the BCAS Unit Chief. BCAS paramedics fund-raised and donated so much in support of Mitchell that all participating stations received seafood to thank them for their support and contributions. The Northern Regional Administration Office held a yard sale in late August, raising \$890.17. In addition, BCAS superintendent Mike Michalko and BCAS emergency co-ordinator Craig Parnell had their heads shaved, raising \$775.

“We are immensely proud of Terry’s accomplishments in the Northern Cops for Cancer tour,” said Chris Nickerson, the BC Ambulance Service’s executive director for the northern region. “His strength and dedication to this cause motivated many of our staff to participate in fund-raising for the event.”

Mitchell is the unit chief at Port Clements Ambulance Station on the Queen Charlotte Islands and took part with 20 RCMP officers to ride 861 km from Prince George to Prince Rupert. Mitchell lost his mother to cancer two years ago and wanted to do something to make a difference to the lives of kids with cancer.

“The Tour de North has been a truly fulfilling event in my life,” said Mitchell. “It was a pleasure and an honour to represent the BC Ambulance Service in the 2007 Cops for Cancer Tour de North.”

BCAS has been involved with the Cops for Cancer initiative for eight years. BCAS paramedics volunteer their time to travel with the tours, providing on hand support to ensure the health and safety of the riders and attend to the bumps, cuts, and other mishaps that occur.

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The Tour de North has taken place for six years, raises funds and awareness for pediatric cancer research and programs that support kids with cancer, such as Camp Goodtimes.

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