

For Immediate Release
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BC Ambulance Service

BC PARAMEDICS WIN GOLD MEDAL AT NATIONAL COMPETITION

VICTORIA - A team of British Columbia's Advanced Care Paramedics (ACP) have returned home from Ontario after winning the Gold Medal at the Canadian National Paramedic Competition.

“The province and the BC Ambulance Service are proud of ‘Team BC 2008’s’ achievement,” said George Abbott, Minister of Health. “The success of these Advanced Care Paramedics again demonstrates the high standard of care that is provided to the province by the BC Ambulance Service.”

The ACP ‘Team BC 2008’ joined 29 other paramedic teams from across Canada to compete in the one-day competition event which saw ACP, PCP and Paramedic students competing in a range of both academic and scenario based evaluations. This year teams were judged in a variety of simulations including an Ebola out-break, a taser incident and a Multi Casualty Incident involving a capsized boat.

“The performance given by both of ‘Team BC 2008’s’ PCP and ACP teams makes all of us with BCAS very proud”, said the Lower Mainland’s Executive Director Michael Sanderson. “The Gold Medal achievement by our ACP team is an excellent reflection of the commitment made by the team and the skills and knowledge of BCAS paramedics”.

The ACP ‘Team BC 2008’ is the first all female BCAS team to compete at a national competition. As such, the team served both as ambassadors for the BCAS and as ambassadors for future female paramedic teams.

Although ACP ‘Team BC 2008’ team members, Kathy Pascuzzo, Jade Munro and Kathryn Harms, are new to emergency medical service competitions they all have plenty of front-line paramedic experience through their work with the BCAS. Pascuzzo has been with the BCAS since 1987 and currently works with team-mate Munro at Vancouver General Hospital ambulance station. Harms is currently a paramedic in New Westminster and has been with the BCAS since 1993.

The team also benefited from the experience of Team Manager Clarke McGuire, Coaches Rene Bernklau and Andy Fletcher, as well as the Regional Training Officer, Brian Petersen.

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