

For Immediate Release  
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BC Ambulance Service

VICTORIA – The BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) was proud to learn that BC’s highest honour, the Order of BC, was awarded to Dr. Peter Ransford of Victoria, founder of the BCAS.

“The high standard of emergency medical services paramedics provide today is largely based on Dr. Ransford’s recommendations, contributions, and commitment to the service,” said Health Minister George Abbott. “The BCAS and British Columbians have benefited greatly from his leadership and foresight in the emergency medical services field.”

Dr. Ransford became involved with emergency medical services as a British air force doctor in the Second World War. Dr. Ransford immigrated to Canada in late 1948 and shortly after his arrival recalls the ambulance service as scattered and disjointed, with paramedics in need of proper medical training.

“As an air force doctor I would see up to 500 patients at a time, it took a great deal of organization to manage all of these patients, that was something the ambulance service in BC was missing” said Dr. Ransford. “Today the BCAS is highly organized and provides reliable support for those individuals in need.”

As a result of Dr. Ransford’s initial work the BCAS paramedics now have advanced medical skills and training that enable them to perform basic medical support procedures and complex life saving treatments. The BCAS now also coordinates responses to calls for help across the province.

“The BCAS is fortunate to have had an individual of such a high-calibre working in our organization,” said Sue Conroy, BCAS Chief Operating Officer. “The advances the BCAS has made in the provision of pre-hospital medicine would not have been possible without his work.”

Dr. Ransford remains in contact with members of the BCAS and is interested in developments within the service. Olive Brown, BCAS Facilities and Procurement Clerk, joined the BCAS in 1974 just months after Dr. Ransford’s legislation was passed to form a provincial ambulance service. She says, “Dr. Ransford is an incredibly professional individual, who was dedicated to not only the patients served by BCAS, but also, the staff he oversaw in his years as Director of the BCAS.”

The Order of British Columbia was established by statute on April 21, 1989, to recognize those persons who have served with the greatest distinction and excelled in any field of endeavour benefitting the people of the Province or elsewhere and represents the highest form of recognition the Province can extend to its citizens. Since the Order was first introduced in 1989, 274 people have received this award.

Lieutenant Governor Steven L. Point will present the Order to Dr. Ransford and 14 other recipients at Government House in Victoria on June 26.

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