

For Immediate Release
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BC Ambulance Service

PARAMEDICS PARTICIPATE IN ABBOTSFORD AIRSHOW

ABBOTSFORD – BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) Critical Care and Infant Transport paramedics will be at the Abbotsford Air Show this weekend to offer the public the first hand opportunity to learn about what BC's paramedics do for critical care patients in the air.

Critical Care Transfer (CCT) and Infant Transport Team (ITT) paramedics are trained to provide life saving specialist paramedic care in the air in any one of nine dedicated BCAS aircraft. Transferring critical patients by plane or responding to the scene by helicopter can save precious time and deliver patients to specialist treatment centres faster, improving patient outcomes, recovery and hospital stay times.

BCAS deploys its aircraft from three flight centres located in Vancouver, Kelowna and Prince George. BCAS also uses approximately 40 charter carriers throughout BC for patient transfers on an as-needed basis. These aircraft have been modified and provided with the equipment to allow crews to maintain the same intensive care environment that a sending hospital may have provided prior to transport. They are another of BCAS' effective tools in the provision of care targeted at BC's most critical and vulnerable patients. Over 8,500 patients were transported by air ambulance in 2007/08.

Paramedics on hand at the Abbotsford Air Show have over 20 years of experience with the BCAS and will be available to talk to the public about life as a paramedic and career opportunities with the ambulance service. BCAS encourages the public to visit the Air Ambulance display, tour the aircraft and learn more about the ambulance service from its experienced CCT and ITT paramedics at the Abbotsford Air Show August 8 through 10.

For more information please contact:

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