
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Ministry of Health Services

\$345,000 in Student Awards granted to Enhance Training for Paramedics

Forty-nine recipients have been selected for the first award cycle of the Emergency Medical Assistant (EMA) Education Fund, a \$5 million dollar bursary awards program established by the Ministry of Health Services in September 2007.

Thirty-nine Primary Care Paramedic (PCP) and ten Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP) students will be receiving a total of \$345,000 in Awards through this fund, which has been designed to help defray license upgrade costs for Emergency Responders and Paramedics in B.C.

“Improved training for emergency medical responders means better pre-hospital care for patients, said Health Services Minister George Abbott. “The bursary award is one of the many recruitment and retention initiatives underway to attract paramedics to positions in rural and remote communities.”

From 109 first round applicants, 49 bursary award recipients were selected and these individuals have indicated an interest in serving as Primary Care Paramedics or Advanced Care Paramedics across British Columbia. Preference for the Primary Care Paramedic bursary awards was given to those individuals currently working in, or looking to work in, rural and remote communities.

“These bursary awards will help to address a shortage of emergency medical responders and paramedics working in rural and remote communities across the province” said Chair of the EMA Education Fund Advisory Committee and Mayor of Logan Lake Ella Brown.

The areas likely to benefit from PCP trained students include: Anahim Lake, Central/South Okanagan, Chase, Clearwater, Cranbrook, Fort St. John, Gabriola Island, Galiano Island, Golden, Hazelton, Kaslo, Lumby, Prince George, Midway, Mill Bay, New Hazelton, Smithers, Pemberton/Squamish, Pender Island, Port McNeill, Revelstoke, Salt Spring Island, Sunshine Coast, Terrace, Thompson Okanagan Region, and Victoria.

The \$5 Million Education Fund is managed by the Vancouver Foundation and students enrolled in a CMA accredited Advanced Care Paramedic Program may apply for an award of \$15,000 for tuition and other associated costs, while students enrolled in a CMA accredited Primary Care Paramedic Program may apply for an award of \$5,000 for tuition and other associated costs. Applications for the bursary awards are accepted three times a year and are administered by the Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) on behalf of the Vancouver Foundation.

Applications are now being accepted for the second bursary award cycle, the deadline for this round of applications is November 14, 2008. For more information on the Emergency Medical Assistant Education Fund and to submit an application visit - http://www.jibc.ca/studentServices/van_found_emaefundaward.htm

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