

For Immediate Release  
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BC Ambulance Service

### **PARAMEDIC TEAMS TEST EMERGENCY MEDICAL SKILLS AT GAMES**

VICTORIA - The specialized life-saving skills of BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) paramedics will be showcased November 7-9, 2008 at the BCAS Paramedic Games and Education Symposium being held in Delta. Fifteen paramedic teams from across the province will be going head-to-head for both the provincial championship and the chance to attend the Paramedic Games National Championships in March 2009.

“This annual event provides an opportunity for paramedics to learn from each other by sharing best practices in patient care, demonstrating emergency medical skills and engaging in some friendly competition,” said Health Services Minister George Abbott.

“It is a pleasure for Delta to host this year’s Paramedics Games and Education Symposium,” said Delta South MLA Val Roddick. “It gives the community of Delta the excellent opportunity to recognize the outstanding contribution of our wonderful paramedics.”

The BCAS Paramedic Games are open to both Primary Care Paramedic and Advanced Care Paramedic teams. The competition involves nine unique and challenging scenarios which replicate typical medical, trauma and psychiatric emergency calls. The specific scenarios are based on real ambulance calls and are a fiercely-guarded secret until competition day. Paramedics will be required to recall skills and apply knowledge learned during initial training, continuing education and experience.

“While the scenarios are typical of calls that paramedics respond to everyday, the BC Ambulance Service is committed to ongoing medical education and training so we can continue to improve the care we provide to patients,” said BCAS Chief Operating Officer Sue Conroy. “The Games provide paramedics with an excellent opportunity to practise their skills under the increased pressure of the competition.”

Paramedics will be judged against a broad range of criteria including their skills related to driving, scene and patient assessment, leadership, treatment and transport. Communication plays a key role in these scenarios because paramedics must interact with a number of people on scene including the BCAS dispatcher, their partner, other first responders, the patient, family members and bystanders. Most scenarios are allotted just 20 to 25 minutes - the pressure is on for the teams to showcase their clinical skills and judgement.

The Education Symposium features a number of speakers that will discuss a variety of topics relevant to paramedics including compassion fatigue, defining high quality patient care, crisis intervention and crime scene preservation. The keynote speaker, Dr. Ron Stewart, Officer of the Order of Canada and former Health Minister in Nova Scotia, will speak about ‘EMS Roles, Past and Present.’

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