
FOR THE RECORD

Oct. 24, 2006

Ministry of Health

BC AMBULANCE SERVICE

- The budget for the BC Ambulance Service has risen more than 50 per cent in the past five years, reaching \$267 million this year (2006/07), compared to the 2001/02 budget for emergency health services of \$176 million.
- Much of the budget increase has gone to increasing the number of paramedics and dispatchers, which have grown from 1,625 FTEs to 2,263 FTEs - an increase of 639 FTEs, or 39 per cent, between 2001 and today.
- In the last four years, demand for ambulance service has increased by 38 per cent. The BC Ambulance Service responded to about 384,000 ambulance calls in 2002/03. Last year in 2005/06, BC Ambulance responded to more than 530,000 calls.
- The number of ambulances has also increased. In 2001/02, there were 463 ambulances in B.C. Today there are 503 ambulances on the streets across the province.
- In February 2005, 48 ambulance stations across B.C. were upgraded to rural from a remote designation, meaning they have 24/7 standby coverage at the station. Previously the stations did not have staff on site 24/7. Ten ambulance stations were upgraded in September 2005 from rural to urban. These service upgrades are based on the changing needs of the community, including increased call volumes.
- Response times have improved by an average of 15 per cent in rural communities throughout the province through the addition of the 24/7 standby model in 2005. In urban centres, response times have remained stable since fiscal 2002/03.
- Of calls for assistance received related to motor vehicle accidents, the BC Ambulance Service transports patients to hospital in only 30 per cent of cases and the resources spent to attend to the scene are not recovered. The BC Ambulance Service responds to over 52,700 motor vehicle accidents every year.

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Contact: Susan Dolinski
Client Relations
250-953-3165