

NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Health
BC Ambulance Service
BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre

ELITE PARAMEDIC TEAM CELEBRATES MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY

VANCOUVER – The BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Infant Transport Team (ITT), a highly specialized unit that provides emergency transport and medical care for neo-natal, pediatric and high-risk obstetric patients from across British Columbia.

“The Infant Transport Team plays a critical role in British Columbia’s health-care system, particularly for young patients in rural and remote areas of the province,” said Health Minister George Abbott. “This team, lead by paramedics, is the only one of its kind in the world.”

To officially acknowledge the 30th anniversary of the program, BCAS, on behalf of the Emergency Health Service Commission, BC Children’s Hospital and BC Women’s Hospital & Health Centre are solidifying their long-standing partnership by signing a service agreement. Other jurisdictions provide similar services for transporting infants and children but have not progressed to a formal partnership agreement.

“This partnership would not be possible without the dedication of paramedics, who have worked in this capacity for over 30 years to deliver the highest level of pre-hospital care to British Columbia’s youngest patients,” said BCAS CEO Fred Platteel. “The ITT and today’s service agreement exemplify our vision of becoming a world leader in emergency medical services.”

“This specialized team makes a huge difference in the lives of our patients and their families at BC Children’s and BC Women’s,” said Sharon Toohey, president of BC Children’s Hospital. “Truly these men and women function in life and death situations for some of the province’s most vulnerable patients.”

“Their expert ability to access even the remotest areas of the province to bring us high-risk maternity patients, struggling newborns, very sick or injured children for care can be the difference between a good outcome versus a tragedy,” added Liz Whynot, president of BC Women’s Hospital & Health Centre.

The BCAS, BC Children’s and BC Women’s are hosting a day-long conference for paramedics, health professionals and dignitaries to celebrate the success of the program to date and provide an educational opportunity for medical professionals.

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1 backgrounder(s) attached.

Media contact: Chris Harbord
BC Ambulance Service
250 953-3651

Public Affairs & Communications
BC Children's Hospital and
BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre
604 875-2301

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