

# The Pulse

Paramedics: Trusted – Professional

Saskatchewan College of Paramedics • Newsletter #4, February 2011

## More than 50% of practitioners see registry numbers change

SCoP has changed registry numbers so that they do a better job of identifying practitioners' level of training and scope of practice. The first two digits of members' registry numbers have been changed to reflect approved training levels.

The new numbers are included on practitioners' licenses and certificates. As well, both of these materials include a sub-title indicating the member's training level.

Sheri Hupp, Executive Director for SCoP, said the changes were made to address inconsistencies and lack of clarity in the former numbering system.

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Courtesy Moose Jaw and District EMS

## Coordinators playing a key role in development of profession

A small group of individuals are playing an important role in the growth and development of the paramedic profession across the province.

In fact, in 2010 there were approximately 160 coordinators working on organizing, delivering and managing the continuing medical education programs for SCoP members in Saskatchewan.

"It really is a significant role. These people coordinate the continuous medical education (CME) that goes on in their agencies," said Cheryl Solonenko, Investigation and Research Coordinator, SCoP.

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## Come out and support your professional organization!

Come and join us for our Annual General Meeting (AGM). SCoP's AGM takes place April 8, 2011, at the Heritage Inn (1590 Main Street) in Moose Jaw. We encourage all members to come out for the meeting and take part in setting the College's direction for 2011-12.

Registration forms and ballots for Council election will be coming out to you shortly. If you plan to attend, please let us know as soon as you can so we can book enough space – and lunch!

We want to thank Moose Jaw and District EMS for their contribution, which is helping with some costs associated with the AGM.

"The work the College is doing is important to the profession and its role in ensuring public trust, so we are pleased to be able to assist with this event," said Kyle Sereda, Director of Operations, Moose Jaw and District EMS.

For more information on the AGM, call SCoP.

## We need your photos!

Send us photos of paramedics at work, and we may use them in upcoming editions of the newsletter or on the website (be sure you check that all involved in the picture have agreed to it being published by the College). If you have questions, call us at (306) 585-0145 or 1-877-725-4202 or e-mail us at [office@collegeofparamedics.sk.ca](mailto:office@collegeofparamedics.sk.ca).



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## **Coordinators playing a key role in development of profession**



**Roger Lepage provides a legal presentation to coordinator trainees**

Coordinators are responsible for planning a full year of CME sessions for their agency, organizing these sessions and booking instructors, monitoring attendance, and recording all skills assessments. These individuals typically have a file on each member in the agency that identifies the member's level, the training that he/she has

completed and any additional training that might be required.

In some agencies, the coordinator role is a full-time position; while in other agencies, coordinators perform this role in addition to their regular duties.

Solonenko said continuous medical education is critical to ensuring paramedics can provide the best possible care for their patients. As a result, the coordinator role is critical to the profession.

“We really do appreciate the individuals who have taken on this role. I think most of them do it really because they love the industry, they are committed to the educational piece and they just want to contribute,” she said.

Solonenko encourages all interested in assisting with CME to register for the next training session.

“It’s an awesome learning experience. It provides an opportunity to engage in the educational needs of the profession and really gives participants a much better understanding of how the College works,” she said.

The next “new applicant” coordinator training session runs on March 5, at the SCoP offices in Regina. SCoP will also offer a “refresher” training session for existing coordinators in the fall. To register for a coordinator training session, please contact SCoP.



**Coordinator training session held in Saskatoon, January 2010**

Photos by Dan Lewis

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## Practitioners see registry numbers change

“Under the old system, we had things like EMT-Ps and ACPs at the same level, even though ACPs have a bit more training. Now the numbers are reflective of the level of member training,” said Hupp.

The changes were approved by the College following consultations with members at SCoP’s 2009 Annual General Meeting, the 2010 renewal period, and at the 2010 Annual General Meeting.

According to Hupp, through the process of revising the numbering system, SCoP has discovered that it is missing training certificates from a number of members. This means that some members are licensed at a level below that in which they have been trained to practice.

“People are actually paying a great deal of attention to it now, because now it really has some meaning to them – so it’s really encouraging people to take a good look at what their registry number is and whether it actually reflects what they’ve done,” she said.



Courtesy MD Ambulance, Saskatoon

Hupp urges members who feel their training has not been reflected in their registry number to send copies of their training certificates to SCoP. She said SCoP will revise registry numbers if members are able to provide evidence of upgraded or bridge training they have taken.

Revised two-digit registry numbers:

- 40 = Historical EMR
- 45 = EMR with NOCP competencies (80 hours)
- 10 = EMT
- 15 = EMT/PCP
- 20 = EMT-A
- 25 = EMT-A/ICP
- 30 = EMT-P
- 35 = EMT-P/ACP

## Help build a strong Council

SCoP's Council has two positions that will soon become vacant. Bob Fenner (Member at Large) has served his two terms on the board and will be leaving Council in April, and the Member at Large – Fire position is currently vacant. Lindsay Holm has been acclaimed for the Member at Large – Fire position. As well, Mike Hengstler has been acclaimed in the elected position on SCoP's Nominating Committee.

Four candidates have announced their intention to run for the Member at Large position – they are Karen Bullock, Amy McInnes, Lori Midgett and Connie Wilson. We have provided short biographies of each.



### **Karen Bullock**

Karen Bullock graduated in 1996 as an EMT and then in 2006 as an ICP. She is currently employed by Maidstone Ambulance, Prairie North Regional Health Authority, and has been for the past 14 years. She provides service in largely rural communities. She is a member of her employer’s OH&S committee and the regional EMS committee. She has been an RM councilor, a 4-H general project leader and a Provincial Emergency Services Practice Committee (PESP) member (alternate). She has been the EMS coordinator for Maidstone Ambulance since 2001. She would like to bring a rural voice to Council, and would like to become more involved in the organization.



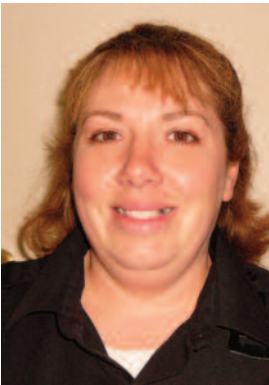
## **Amy McInnes**

Amy McInnes has been an EMT/PCP with the Heartland Health region for the past five months, and with the Sunrise Health Region for the previous six years. She graduated from SIAST as an EMT/PCP in 2003. Amy is a St. John's Ambulance instructor, and an instructor with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Saskatchewan. She is also a Red Cross, PART, TLR and SMART instructor. She has been a member of the OH&S committee for EMS/Ituna Pioneer Health Care Centre in the Sunrise Health Region. She's also been a member of the Town of Ituna's 911/Emergency Preparedness and Recreation committees, a PAD coordinator and an ERIK coordinator for the Sunrise Health Region. She is running because she believes she can bring perspectives of rural, female and EMT/PCP members to Council.



## **Lori Midgett**

Lori Midgett graduated as an EMR in 1999, and as an EMT in 2000. She has been employed with the Keewatin Yatthe Regional Health Authority for the past 12 years. In 2006, she graduated from SIAST's ICP program. She is a CISO leader and has taken "train the trainer" training. She has been a member of the community policing board since 2007, and is currently a member of the Infection Control Committee and the Accreditation Committee. Lori is running for Council because she hopes to be a voice from the north and is interested in better understanding the processes used by SCoP. She said she will do as much as she can to advance the work of Council.



## **Connie Wilson**

Connie Wilson graduated from SIAST as an EMT in 1995. She worked for Hansen's Ambulance from 1996 to 2000, and has been an EMT-A for Tisdale Ambulance Care since 2000. She completed SIAST's ICP Bridge program in 2005. Connie is an instructor with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Saskatchewan, a St. John's Ambulance instructor, a Canadian Coast Guard Pleasure Craft Operation instructor, a car seat technician through SGI's car seat program, and an instructor with the Red Cross. She currently sits on SCoP's Registration Committee and is leading the development of an EMR exam. She is also a member of the Tisdale Ambulance OH&S committee, the PARTY (Prevent Alcohol and Risk-related Trauma in Youths) committee, a SCoP educational coordinator for Tisdale Ambulance, as well as the education coordinator for the First Responder groups in the area. Connie is running for a seat on Council because she'd like to bring both the rural and EMS perspectives to the board.



## **Mike Hengstler – acclaimed Nominations Committee**

Mike Hengstler is acclaimed for a seat on SCoP's Nominations Committee. Mike has worked in the EMS field for 10 years and has practiced at all provider levels within the EMS industry. He graduated as an EMT in January 1999, became an EMT-A in January 2002 and then finally an Advanced Care Paramedic in January 2005. He has worked for both Kamsack EMS and Shamrock Ambulance, and is currently employed with both SIAST Wascana and Moose Jaw and District EMS. Mike is currently a member of SCoP's Nominations Committee. He is an ACLS, ITLS, and a CPR/AED instructor. He is interested in sitting on the Nominations Committee because he says EMS is his passion and he believes being involved in SCoP enables him to stay current in the "ever-changing" EMS field.



## **Lindsay Holm – acclaimed Member at Large – Fire**

Lindsay Holm has been acclaimed for a seat on Council as Member at Large – Fire. Lindsay is an EMT firefighter with more than 19 years in the field. He graduated from SIAST in 1992, and then worked for Lloydminster Ambulance, the Bi-Provincial Upgrader, and the Allan Potash Mine. He has been employed with the North Battleford Fire and Emergency Services since 2000. He is a certified Level I Fire Services instructor, president of local 1756 International Association of Firefighters, and is a member of the North Battleford Safety Committee. He is running for a seat on Council because he believes he can speak as both a firefighter and an EMT in order to represent all SCoP members.

# SCoP fees see minor changes for 2012

The only SCoP fee to see an increase in 2012 will be the annual practicing license fee, which will rise by \$10 in 2012.

The process of increasing fees is managed by the membership. In fact, the membership authorizes the entire fee structure when it votes on, and approves, SCoP's *Administrative Bylaws* at its Annual General Meeting.

The annual practicing license fee is determined using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for September, and is rounded up to the nearest \$5. In September 2010, the CPI was 1.9%, which when applied to the 2011 fee of \$425 raised it to \$435 for 2012. Council confirmed the fee increase during its October 29, 2010 meeting. The annual licensing fee is based on the *Administrative Bylaws* and College Policy 2.5. All other SCoP licensing-associated fees will remain the same for 2012.

Type of Fee	2012 Fees
Annual Practicing License Fee for 2012	\$435
Annual Non-Practicing License Fee for 2012	\$50
Initial Processing Fee	\$50
Restricted License Fee	\$100
Reinstatement Fee	\$275
Late Fee (applicable to 2012 license renewals)	December 2 – \$50 December 5 – \$75 December 12 – \$100 December 19 – \$125 December 26 – \$150 January 2 – \$175 January 9 – \$200 January 16 – \$225 January 23 – \$250 January 30 – \$275
Replacement Certificate of Licensure (Note: member cards will not be replaced)	\$20
Status Change Fee	\$50

# Agency education audits see positive results

Ten agencies from across the province took part in SCoP's audit of Continuing Medical Education (CME) in 2010. It was the first year SCoP had undertaken CME agency audits. SCoP officials say the process was very successful.

"We found that all the agencies involved were very helpful. In fact, many agencies had already done a self-assessment and had made changes to improve their CME programs before we arrived," said Cheryl Solonenko, Investigation and Research Coordinator, SCoP.

Solonenko said the audit process is not intended to be in any way punitive, but is rather intended to help identify

how agencies can strengthen and expand the skills of their members.



"Education is such an important part of this profession. We want to ensure our members are getting the ongoing education they need to deliver quality services in the interest of public safety," she said.

Solonenko said the audits take into account the different processes used by individual agencies and ensure that recommendations made fit the organization.

"We're looking for certain principles to be met, but how organizations do this will change from one to another. There is room for lots of creativity in this process," she said.

SCoP intends to conduct 12 audits per year; six will take place in the spring and six in the fall. Agencies audited will be advised 30 days in advance. Each will be given a report at the end of the audit, which will include audit findings and recommendations.

## SCoP continues to evolve as responsible professional body

SCoP has recently changed some of its bylaws to strengthen its role in the protection of the public, and to further enhance the credibility of practitioners. The four amended regulatory bylaws came into effect in November 2010.



As a result of these amendments, new SCoP members, when registering with the College, will need to submit “evidence of good character.” This evidence could include a criminal record check, assurance that the individual does not have any outstanding criminal charges, and assurance that the individual has not been investigated by any other professional body for misconduct.

As well, current members, who have been convicted of a criminal offense, are now required to disclose this conviction to the College. Members are advised of this requirement on their license renewal form. The

College’s Registration Committee will review all cases in which a member has disclosed a criminal record, and will make decisions about whether any action would need to be taken.

“We need to ensure that our patients are receiving care from skilled, credible practitioners. We also need to ensure that members of the public can trust, respect and depend on our practitioners. It means better care for our patients and a stronger reputation for our members,” said Brent Stewart, President of SCoP.

In addition, through the amended regulations, the College will add a public representative to the Professional Conduct Committee.

“Many organizations use the services of a public representative. It allows organizations to get an outside perspective on issues. As well, our mandate is to serve the public, so having a public perspective on issues is really important,” said Stewart.

To further enhance the work done by the College, the Discipline Committee will be expanded from five to 10 members. While discipline hearings require only a three-member panel, the 10-member “pool” will enable the College to reduce members’ work load, and to ensure hearings are done on a timely basis.

The College is currently looking for Discipline Committee members. Stewart encourages all practitioners interested in participating on a SCoP committee to print nomination forms off the SCoP website, fill them out and get them into the SCoP office. He said committee member terms come due regularly, so the College is often looking for new members.

“It’s a great way to learn more about the profession, get to know colleagues from across the province, and play an important role in the development of this field in the province,” he said.

The amended bylaws were approved by the membership at SCoP’s Annual General Meeting in May, and were given final approval by Saskatchewan’s Minister of Health on November 12, 2010.

## Call volume numbers help to tailor CME needs



Courtesy Saskatoon Fire and Protective Services

Again this year, SCoP members are being asked to estimate the number of calls they attended in the previous year.

The information gathered will play an important role in helping SCoP tailor CME needs for agencies and regions. Members were asked to provide the estimate when they completed their 2011 Registration Renewal Form.

“We want to ensure practitioners are getting the ongoing training they need to comfortably perform their duties. In an area where practitioners might have had a lower number of calls, we might want to ensure they receive some refresher training in those areas,” said Cheryl Solonenko, Investigation and Research Coordinator, SCoP.

The information will also help local coordinators in planning the CME needs of the agency throughout the year.

“Our mandate is to protect the public; we want to ensure our members are accessing the training they need to provide a high level of quality service to their patients,” said Solonenko.