

SCoP News

Saskatchewan College of Paramedics • Newsletter #1, February 2010

Saskatchewan College of Paramedics – one year later!



Courtesy MD Ambulance, Saskatoon

It's just a year old, but the Saskatchewan College of Paramedics is already seeing great progress!

Over the past year the College and one of its committees has developed a complaint investigation process. Another committee has created a process to ensure that the Continuing Medical Education (CME)

programs, accessed by members, link to the work they are doing.

While the College has received a great deal of support from members, there are some who have been frustrated by the focus on member regulation.

Council President Brent Stewart said because the College's mandate is to make decisions in the public interest and not in the interest of members, decisions aren't always popular. But he says there are significant benefits to having the College regulate the profession.

"It's paramedics taking responsibility for all paramedics, for what is in the interest of the public. It gives the profession itself a standard similar to other professions," said Brent Stewart.

Members lobbied for many years to gain responsibility for regulating the profession. Stewart said the decision to pass this onto SCoP shows that the province is confident in members' abilities to do this work. He said this benefits all.

"It gives us a professional standing in the eyes of other professions, the public and with government. And by giving paramedics more credibility, it gives me as an individual practitioner more credibility. It means the public can be confident in our abilities as professional medical practitioners."

Similar to the way doctors and lawyers operate, the new organization enables paramedics to play a role in controlling and directing the profession.

This means that, through the College, members determine what qualifications paramedics need to have to operate in Saskatchewan; license their own members; identify educational needs; and discipline members who act inappropriately. The new organization is responsible for Emergency Medical Responders (EMR), Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), Emergency Medical Technician - Advanced (EMT-A), and Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedics (EMT-P) working in Saskatchewan.

The provincial government transferred responsibility for the profession over to the newly formed Saskatchewan College of Paramedics (SCoP) in September 2008.

Why a newsletter?

The Saskatchewan College of Paramedics wants you to know what is happening at the college that affects you. We want to encourage you to talk about these things with your friends and co-workers, and provide us with your thoughts. We'll update you regularly on important events and information that you need to know to do your job.

We'll send this newsletter out to you three times per year. If there are stories or information you'd like us to include, let us know!

Help us name our paper!

We've created this new communications tool, but we need your help in naming it. Help us to choose a name from the list below, or send in your own suggestions. We'd love to hear your thoughts – send us an e-mail at office@collegeofparamedics.sk.ca. The winning name (and author) will be published in the May edition of the newsletter.

Here are some of our suggestions:

- a) ParaNews
- b) The Star
- c) The Paramedic Pulse
- d) The ParaPulse
- e) The Medic Monitor
- f) SCoP Journal
- g) SCoP Post
- h) SCoP Informer

We have a new website!

Our goal for the site is to provide you with the information you need. Visit www.collegeofparamedics.sk.ca and let us know what you think!



**SASKATCHEWAN
COLLEGE OF
PARAMEDICS**

Choosing leadership – your vote matters



It's important to get involved in choosing members for Council. Council sets the overall direction for the College, affecting not only your educational requirements, licensing of members, and fees, but also the future of your profession.

Dan Lewis, an EMT-P at Regina EMS, is the Chair of the College's Nominating Committee. He and his committee have been encouraging members with varied backgrounds to consider running for Council. To balance the backgrounds of current Council members, the committee would like to see more women, EMRs, EMTs and EMT-As and rural members running.



"It's an opportunity to have a say, to some degree, in where our profession goes. Within the bounds of the legislation, Council has the greatest impact on where EMS can move in our province. It's a great opportunity to ensure that EMS is regarded as highly as other health professionals. It's not just about licensure, it's about the profession developing into what it can be," he said.

There are currently two positions on Council that come open for election in 2010. They are both three-year term "Member at Large" positions. The election to fill these two positions will take place prior to the College's AGM on April 16th, 2010. **Your ballot and voting instructions are in the mail. Make sure you watch**

for them! Ballots must be received at the SCoP office by noon on April 9, 2010, in order to be counted.

There are 13 nominated candidates for the two positions. We've provided short biographies of each.

Nominees for the SCoP Council



Patricia Adair

Patricia Adair graduated in 1995 as an EMT and received her EMT (PCP) level in 2004. She is currently employed with the Sun Country Health Region, where she has worked for 19 years. She was previously employed with Maryfield Ambulance/Moose Mountain Health before they became part of Sun Country.

She provides service in rural communities. She has served on many local boards, and is an instructor for St. John's Ambulance. Pat also completed her Special Care Aide course and worked in that field for 18 years at the Sunrise Villa. During this time she was also active with EMS. She is also a volunteer with the Auditorium Committee, Fire Department and is coordinator for Maryfield EMS. She is running for Council because she would like to bring a rural perspective to Council. She said she would bring a willingness to serve to the best of her abilities in whatever capacity is needed.



Troy Anderson

Troy Anderson has been an EMT for 10 years, the last seven at the EMT-A (ICP) level. He is currently employed with the Keewatin Yatthe Regional Health Authority, and was formerly employed with the Athabasca Health Authority. He provides service in northern

communities, and has volunteered at the 2002 Saskatchewan Winter Games (Humboldt) and the 2004 Tim Horton's Brier (Saskatoon).

Mr. Anderson is running for Council because he is concerned that non-traditional EMS delivery is currently underrepresented within the Council. He would like to assist the College in enabling EMS providers to continue their education and to have Saskatchewan EMS enhance its role in rural and remote locations.



Jon Antal

Jon Antal has worked as an EMT-P with the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region-EMS for the past 15 years.

Mr. Antal has served as a member-at-large on the Council for the Saskatchewan College of Paramedics. He has also served on both the Council's Executive

Committee and Registration Committee. He is a part-time instructor at SIAST, and is an ACLS, PALS and PEPP instructor. He is running for Council because he feels it is important to continue the work he has been doing with the College. If elected again, Jon will bring a solid understanding of the structure, and issues faced by the College, as well as enthusiasm for the work done by the College.



Bill Cook

Bill Cook has 24 years of experience as an EMT-P. He is currently employed with Duck Mountain Ambulance and has worked EMS for Moose Jaw, Central Butte and Rosetown. He has had experience working in northern forest fire camps, has been involved with search and

rescue, and has worked in public education and staff development. He also worked as a consultant with the Red Cross and Life Saving Society delivering safety programs across the province. He has been a member of the Red Cross Provincial Board of Directors and the Lifesaving Society Examiners Committee. An active instructor for Heart and Stroke, Red Cross and Lifesaving Society, and First Responder development throughout the province, he is running for Council because he believes his experience would be an asset to the board.



Eric Blosky

Eric Blosky has been an EMT with the Heartland Health Region for the past six years. He currently provides EMS services in Rosetown, Saskatchewan.

Mr. Blosky is a Saskatchewan Safety Council PDiC – Ambulance Operations courses instructor. He is also currently

a continuing education instructor for Rosetown EMS. He is running for Council because he wants to help improve EMS in Saskatchewan, and wants to learn more about how the College operates. He has said that as a councilor he would try to do whatever is needed of him to the best of his abilities.



Karen Bullock

Karen Bullock graduated in 1996 as an EMT and then in 2006 as an EMT-A. She is currently employed by the Prairie North RHA and Maidstone Ambulance and has been for the past 14 years. She provides service in largely small 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 and project leader and a provincial Emergency Services Practices Committee 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.



Lisa Daradich

Lisa Daradich has 19 years experience within EMS as an EMR/EMT/EMT-A (ICP). She currently works full time for the Athabasca Health Authority in northern Saskatchewan. She continues to work part time for Cupar Ambulance. Past work experience includes Fort

Qu'Appelle Ambulance and Regina Ambulance. Her board experience includes acting as president of the Cupar Soccer Club, sitting as a member of the Cupar Rink Committee and a member of the Catholic Women's League.

Ms. Daradich is running for Council because she is interested in the present and future of the organization and would like to raise awareness of the profession. She believes that if elected to Council she would bring a variety of experience and a vision for continued improved care within the health care sector.



Edward Didur

Edward Didur has been an EMT for eight years. He is currently employed with the Saskatoon Health Region – Cudworth EMS, and provides service in rural communities. He is involved in instructing Community School Safety Net programs in Cudworth schools and has

provided a few community-based seminars for seniors.

Mr. Didur is running for Council because he believes that rural EMS and EMTs need to have a voice on Council, and he wishes to be involved in providing that voice. He has said that if elected, he will listen to all concerns brought to him, and will be readily available for consultations as needed.



Lyle Karasiuk

Lyle Karasiuk is an EMT-P (ACP) who has worked for Parkland Ambulance Care for the past 22 years. He serves mainly urban communities. He is the past chair of the Saskatchewan Paramedic Association, chair of the Prince Albert Safe Communities board,

and a member of the National Safe Communities board. He is an instructor/trainer for the Red Cross First Responders program, and instructor/trainer for ITLS and is on numerous volunteer committees. He is running for Council because he is committed to strong growth of the new College regulatory body for all. He believes that he brings experience, determination and commitment, and that his significant board experience and collaborative approach would be an asset to the board.



Cari Evenson

Cari Evenson is an EMT with four years experience in the field. She is currently employed by Frontier EMS and by the Cypress Health Region as a casual EMT. She serves mainly rural communities. She is the EMO coordinator for Frontier's EMO Committee, acts as a

facilitator for Frontier and is a First Aid and CPR instructor. She is running for Council because she would like to see more representation from rural members, she'd like to expand her role within EMS and she thinks it would be a great experience.



Trevor King

Trevor King has been an EMT for three years and became an EMT-A (ICP) in 2009. He is currently employed with Blaine Lake Ambulance and provides service in rural communities. He has volunteered with the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation conservation camp.

He is running for Council because he wants to assist in the development of the College, especially in rural service areas. He believes he can contribute fresh ideas to assist the College in better serving the different EMS sectors across the province.



Anthony Huckabay

Anthony Huckabay is an EMT-P who has worked in EMS for 28 years. He has worked for Midway Ambulance, Kamsack Ambulance and Gull Lake Ambulance. He is currently employed with the Sunrise Health Region and has worked for the region for more than eight years.

Mr. Huckabay has been an ITLS Committee member, has acted as a coordinator for SCoP, and has been on the Community Health Advisory Committee. He is running for Council because he wants to help further the development of EMS and SCoP within the province. He believes he can contribute an understanding of the provincial EMS system and the people who work in both rural and urban areas.



Hugh Lord

Hugh Lord has been in EMS for 30 years, 24 of which have been at the EMT-P level. He is currently employed with WPD Ambulance in North Battleford. His experience has been in urban and rural/suburban, as well as in private and public sector service. He has recently completed the Bachelor of

Applied Business, Emergency Services from Lakeland College. Although he has not had a great deal of exposure to Saskatchewan, he believes the College will provide opportunities for advancement into the future.

Where are we headed? – The future of SCoP

As a new organization, we've done a lot in the last year. But there is still a lot of work we need to do.

We're now developing SCoP's roadmap for the next three to five years. We've drafted some proposed goals and priorities, and we need you to tell us what you think of them. Providing us your thoughts is really important, because once we have finalized them, they will set our direction into the future. We'd like to launch this new direction at our 2010 AGM in Meadow Lake on Friday, April 16th, 2010.

We hired a research group to help us develop our proposed goals. They interviewed members and stakeholders, and did an assessment of the College's progress. Here are some of the things they told us.



- recognition that the College is a new organization in its "infancy," has done a lot of work in its first year and will continue to improve; and
- confusion and a lack of understanding on the interaction of the roles between the College, the health authorities, private operators, SIAST (as the single training institution for paramedics), and the Ministry of Health.

There is:

- overwhelming support for the establishment of the College;
- no clear consensus on how broad or narrow the role of the College should be;
- a limited understanding by the majority of members about what professionalism means;

Our new plan is intended to address these issues and set a course for the future. Members received a copy with their license renewal for 2010. You can also find it on our website. Let us know your thoughts on our progress, and proposed goals and priorities. Send us an e-mail or give us a call!

Making the grade – educational needs for 2010

Did you know that there are courses you **must take in 2010** to be licensed to work as a paramedic (EMR, EMT, EMT-A, and EMT-P) in Saskatchewan in 2011?

As an organization, we are working to ensure all of our members have the training they need to provide emergency health services safely.

If you aren't sure what courses you need to take, please visit our website

at www.collegeofparamedics.sk.ca.

On the home page, click on the Continuing Medical Education button across the top of the page. Follow the links to CME Requirements for Licensure in 2011.

Taking responsibility for member CME – new program is seeing success

More than 150 SCoP members are taking an active role in expanding the skills of Saskatchewan paramedics.

All have taken a one-day training session that enables them to act as coordinators or agents of SCoP. Coordinator training sessions were offered in October of 2009, and in January and February of 2010.

The coordinators assist members in selecting

appropriate Continuing Medical Education (CME) opportunities and in completing their registration renewal each year with the College. The coordinators act as a liaison between the College and members, and monitor and report all member training courses taken.

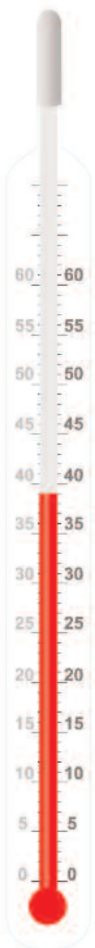
All members are required to take a set of mandatory courses every two years, and a specific number of elective credit courses each year (see the SCoP website at www.collegeofparamedics.sk.ca).

Education Committee Chair Bob Fenner said the CME requirements help to ensure all members are able

to provide knowledgeable, quality patient care.

"Our mandate is to protect the public. We're working to ensure that our members get the training they need to ensure that patients are safe, and that patient care is high quality," said Fenner.

The College is currently in the process of developing a "proctor" training program, which would enable authorized members to allocate credit points to specific training programs or workshops. The first such program is expected to run in 2011.



Building a trusted profession – member conduct matters!

The way you conduct yourself on the job is critical to building public trust and support for our profession. How we as an organization deal with the professional conduct of our members is critical to the integrity of our organization.

As a result, SCoP's Professional Conduct Committee plays a really important role in the new organization.

The committee deals with all concerns raised about professional conduct and member competence. Complaints against members can be made by either College members or members of the general public.

Once a complaint is received, the committee will decide whether or not it is within the College's jurisdiction. If so, an investigation into the complaint will be initiated. To ensure fairness, the investigation will gather information from as many sources as possible.

Once the investigation is finished the committee reviews all of the information gathered and determines how to handle the issue. The complaint could be dismissed, referred to the Discipline Committee for a hearing, or resolved through mediation.

"If it is something that we think we can fix with a consensual complaint resolution agreement, we'll try to arrange that. That is what we would



Courtesy MD Ambulance, Saskatoon

prefer to have happen in most cases," said Ken Luciak, Professional Conduct Committee Chair.

If the parties and the College are not able to reach a resolution, the committee will then decide if the complaint should go onto the Discipline Committee.

While there has been some concern that this process could be used vindictively by some, Luciak said it's important to understand that a false complaint made purely for vindictive purposes could have the complainant investigated for misconduct.

"There is a risk to making a vexatious or false complaint. Misleading the

College about a complaint could be considered professional misconduct."

Luciak said committee members come from varied backgrounds and very different view points. They also receive support from the College's Executive Director and legal counsel. He said this mix helps to ensure fairness in the process.

All investigations done by the Professional Conduct Committee are private. They only become public if they are turned over to the Discipline Committee.

A total of 13 complaints have been investigated since the fall of 2008. Most have been resolved successfully. A number are still involved in the investigation or resolution process, and two have been referred for discipline hearings.

Setting the course for 2010 – SCoP AGM

We're hosting our Annual General Meeting on Friday, April 16th, 2010, and we'd really like you to come!

The AGM will take place at the Catholic Hall at 504 3rd Avenue East, Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan. If you are interested in a ride, let us know. We may charter a bus or rent a van to allow members to travel together from Regina, Saskatoon or Prince Albert.

A block of rooms has been booked in SCoP's name at the Super 8 Motel in Meadow Lake for April 15th. Please call (306) 236-1188 to make a reservation.

Come meet College leaders for 2010 and be involved in setting the organization's course for the next year.

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.