

The Pulse

Paramedics: Trusted – Professional

Saskatchewan College of Paramedics • Newsletter #5, May 2011

SCoP AGM drew many members

A total of 55 people took in SCoP's Annual General Meeting in Moose Jaw on April 8. In fact, for the second year in a row, the event received representation from most sectors and all license levels of the membership. AGM organizers say they were pleased with the turnout.

"We really want to ensure the AGM incorporates input and feedback from as many of our members as possible, so we are always hoping for a good turnout. We were really pleased to see such a great participation in this year's event," said Sheri Hupp, SCoP's executive director.

For the first time this year, members were also able to take in a free CME session in advance of the AGM. The session included a presentation by Saskatchewan's Chief Coroner, Kent Stewart, on the role of the Coroner's Office and the importance of professionalism for both the coroner and the paramedic when attending at a death. Hupp said feedback on the session was so positive the organization will offer another CME session immediately prior to next year's AGM in April 2012.

SCoP's 2011 AGM saw two new members take their seats on SCoP's Council (see page 6), and the approval of seven new resolutions (see page 2).

Hupp is now welcoming the new members to SCoP's Council and is thanking all those who ran for Council positions.

"To be a strong member-driven organization, we need strong member participation. Being able to choose from a pool of candidates of this calibre bodes very well for SCoP. I want to encourage all candidates to continue to be involved in the organization and to put their names forward for other SCoP committees or initiatives."

The 2011 AGM was hosted by Moose Jaw and District EMS.

"We were really pleased to be able to host this event. It is wonderful to see SCoP developing and maturing as an organization. It was also great to see so many SCoP members in attendance at the event," said Kyle Sereda, Director of Operations, Moose Jaw and District EMS.

For those who are planning ahead, the **2012 SCoP AGM will be held in Prince Albert on April 20, 2012**. Hupp hopes the 2012 event will draw similar numbers of members and provide the organization input and feedback that will help the organization set its course for 2013.



Robert Kent Stewart, Chief Coroner for Saskatchewan, presents at AGM/CME session
Courtesy of Dan Lewis

Changes to mandatory safe lifting and moving CME – coming in 2012!

Beginning in January 2012, SCoP members will no longer be required to take safe lifting and moving training as a mandatory requirement.

While SCoP continues to encourage members to regularly review safe lifting and moving techniques, the organization will no longer mandate that members take the training.

"We've found that most organizations are offering this training to their employees. Our requirement was in some ways duplicating the training being done by employers in this area," said Cheryl Solonenko, Investigations and Research Coordinator, SCoP.

Solonenko said that by eliminating the safe lifting and moving CME mandatory requirement, SCoP is giving CME coordinators more flexibility to organize programs that address other areas within members' roles.

The policy change will come into effect in January 2012. Solonenko said the decision to hold off implementing the policy until the beginning of 2012 was a result of feedback from members.

"Members have told us that they don't want us to make a lot of changes during a licensing year and without giving enough notice. They would rather have changes implemented at the beginning of the New Year and have asked that we give them advance notice so that they can adjust accordingly," she said.

While members will not be required to take safe lifting and moving training, SCoP will continue to accept approved safe lifting and moving training for CME credits.



Members support all resolutions at 2011 AGM



Members listen to presentations at SCoP's 2011 AGM

Courtesy of Dan Lewis

A total of seven resolutions were put before the membership at SCoP's 2011 AGM on April 8 in Moose Jaw. All of the seven resolutions received membership approval. Resolutions approved include:

I. REGISTRATION

1.1 Registration – Equivalency Assessment Fees

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Council amendment to *Administrative Bylaws, September 15, 2010* be confirmed as follows:

27. Processing Fees

- 27.1 The processing fee payable for an initial application for registration as a member is \$50;
- 27.2 An equivalency assessment fee is payable in the case of applicants who have completed the relevant education program to be licensed as an EMR, EMT, EMT-A or EMT-P that was not accredited by the Canadian Medical Association, and who have not been registered as an EMR, EMT, EMT-A or EMT-P in another Canadian jurisdiction. The equivalency assessment fee is:

- 27.2.1 \$950 in the case of an applicant who has completed the relevant education program in a country other than Canada;
- 27.2.1 \$650 in the case of an applicant for EMT-P registration who has completed the relevant education program in Canada;
- 27.2.2 \$550 in the case of an applicant for EMT-A registration who has completed the relevant education program in Canada;

27.2.3 \$400 in the case of an applicant for EMT registration who has completed the relevant education program in Canada; or

27.2.4 \$300 in the case of an applicant for EMR registration who has completed the relevant education program in Canada;

27.2.5 Equivalency Assessment Fees are not refundable.

1.2 Registration – Prorating Membership Fees

BE IT RESOLVED the Council amendment to *Administrative Bylaws, March 2011* to section 28 be confirmed as follows:

- 28.4 If application for initial registration and licensing is made on or after July 1 in any year, the license fee will be 80% of the cost of the annual licensing fee.

1.3 Registration – Currency of Credentials for Initial Registration

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Minister of Health be requested to amend the *Regulatory Bylaws* to:

1. Require paramedics to register with the College within two years of graduating from an entry level program;
2. Require paramedics who have not registered within two years of graduating but are still less than five years from graduating to take a Council approved re-entry program prior to registering with the College; and
3. Require paramedics who have not applied to register for more than five years since graduating from an entry level program to retake the training program in its entirety.

Resolutions from 2011 AGM - continued

2. COMMITTEES

2.1 Committees – Public Appointments to Education Committee

BE IT RESOLVED the Council amendment to *Administrative Bylaws, March 2011* to section 38.1.3 be confirmed as follows:

- 38.1 The membership of the education committee shall be:
 38.1.3 a public appointee.

2.2 Committees – Membership on the Nomination Committee

BE IT RESOLVED the Council amendment to *Administrative Bylaws, March 2011* to section 40.1.2 be confirmed as follows:

- 40.1 The membership of the nominations committee shall be:
 40.1.2 one member with previous council experience and one public appointee with previous board or committee experience, both of whom shall be appointed by council for a three-year term on a staggered basis.

3. COUNCIL

3.1 Council – Term of President and Vice President

BE IT RESOLVED the Council amendment to *Administrative Bylaws, March 2011* to section 28 be confirmed as follows:

- 6.1 The term of office for the elected members of the council, other than the president and vice-president, shall be three years and shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which the member is elected. The term of office for the president and vice-president shall each be two years, non-renewable.
 6.3 The vice-president succeeds to the office of president on the expiry or termination of the president's term of office and thereafter continues in office as the president of the college...

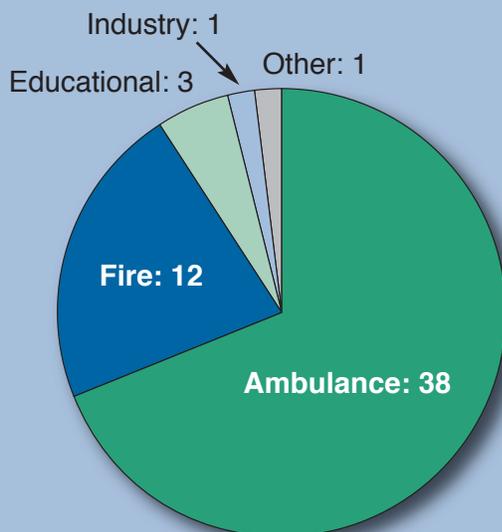
3.2 Council – Representation of Council

BE IT RESOLVED the Council amendment to *Administrative Bylaws, March 2011* to section 11.1 be confirmed as follows:

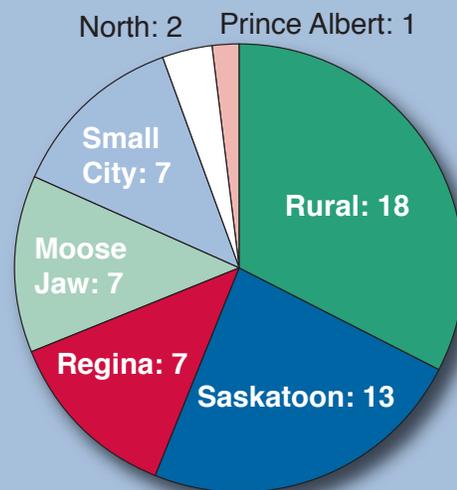
- 11.1 The vice-president shall:
 11.1.5 represent the council to outside parties when designated to do so by the president.

Who attended the AGM?

By sector



By community

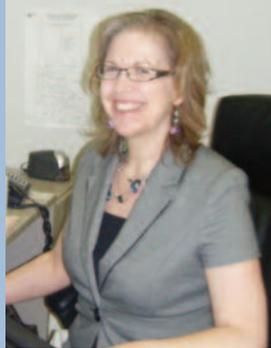


Saying our good-byes

We're saddened to announce the departure of two key members of our office staff.

Patti Lewis and Cheryl Solonenko will be leaving SCoP's administrative team in June. Both Patti and Cheryl have played very important roles in the organization over the past number of years.

Patti Lewis, who was an employee of SCoP since before it evolved into a self-regulating body, has played a key role in the overall administration of SCoP services.



Patti Lewis

"June will be bittersweet for us. We will be very sad to lose Patti in our offices, but, at the same time, we will be really happy that she is looking at pursuing new and different opportunities," said Sheri Hupp, SCoP's executive director.



Cheryl Solonenko

Cheryl Solonenko joined SCoP in 2010 as the organization's investigations and research coordinator.

"While Cheryl has only been here a short while, she played a really important role in the development of our CME, and CME audit program. We want to thank SIAST for providing Cheryl with the opportunity to join us for over a year," said Hupp.

Hupp thanked both Patti and Cheryl for their hard work and commitment to the organization and encouraged others to wish them well as they change roles in July.

Hupp advised that the organization is in the process of hiring staff to fill both positions and has also hired a part-time clerk position to help address the growing workload in the office. Miranda Koot will work Tuesday through Thursday and will provide receptionist duties and administrative support to the College. Hupp expects the two remaining positions will be filled by early June.

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.

SCoP works on protocols for facility based and air rescue services

Over the past few months, SCoP has been working with the College of Physicians and Surgeons (CPSS) on establishing approved protocols for paramedics based in facilities or in air ambulances.



Paramedics based in facilities and in air ambulances often deal with more acute patient issues. As a result, they have an extended scope of practice enabling them to provide patients with a wider range of medication, and allowing them to use a broader spectrum of patient procedures.

These practitioners take specialized courses, similar to those taken by nurses working in the same environment.

While paramedics working in these areas have been operating under SCoP protocols, these protocols had, until recently, never been approved by the CPSS.

"This meant that often these paramedics were required to exceed their scope of practice, which was a significant concern for SCoP," said Brent Stewart, President of SCoP.

Working with the CPSS, SCoP was able to get temporary approval for paramedics working in these areas to continue to operate under the existing protocols. For the approval to become permanent, SCoP now needs to provide information to the CPSS showing that all the protocols in these areas are based in evidence.

Because the Shock, Trauma, and Air Rescue Society (STARS) has announced plans to move into Saskatchewan in 2012, SCoP is currently looking at merging the two sets of air rescue protocols into one document.

At the same time, the College is also working on a Scope of Practice document for all paramedics. While protocols tend to speak to the limitations of a practitioner's scope of work, the Scope of Practice document will speak much more broadly to the work done by paramedics and be similar to scope of practice documents that are utilized in other health care professions across Canada.

SCoP hopes to integrate the work it is doing on a Scope of Practice document with the work it is doing on the facility based and air rescue protocols and bring a comprehensive package of documents to the CPSS by the fall of 2011.

We will be offering members an opportunity to provide feedback on these documents, likely over the summer and into the early fall, before they go to the CPSS in late fall of 2011.

Member profile

Member finds health care and education make exciting mix

For Jerry Smith, work and life is about “helping others.” A special education teacher by day, Jerry is a PCP on weekends, nights and holidays. He also teaches grade one math, grade four math and science, and provides any first aid needed to all the students in Leader’s K-12 school.

“If anybody has a sore arm or a scraped knee then they call Jerry to put a band-aid on it – so I sort of do the first aid in the school.”



Jerry Smith

Jerry became a First Responder with EMS in 1985, after moving to Leader, Saskatchewan from Prince Albert with his wife and two young daughters. In 1987, he became an EMT and later upgraded to a PCP.

“I liked the idea of being able to help folks – kind of exciting. At first, it was something to do with driving fast, and lights and sirens and all that kind of stuff. I found it interesting – being able to help people in difficult situations. It kind of matches what I do in Special Ed – I have enjoyed it.”

Working on a casual basis as a PCP,

Jerry deals with between 200 and 250 calls per year. Over the past 25 years, Jerry has done everything from helping to deliver babies to dealing with traumas associated with car accidents and rollovers. Jerry said working as a PCP in a small community means he knows, or knows

someone who knows, many of the people whom he assists.

“Quite often it is people you know. If it is someone who is sick and who needs to get to a hospital, it can be quite satisfying to be able to hold their hand and make them smile as much as you can. Sometimes it is someone who is badly hurt or worse, and that is more difficult.”

His work as a PCP has helped to enhance his teaching role. Over the years, he has taught First Aid and CPR to students in Leader Composite School. He has stressed the importance of safety to his students

and has helped to organize a number of mock accidents at the school to help raise student awareness of safety and the importance of safe driving techniques.

“Usually, we set it up before school or after school – when the kids arrive a car is rolled over or on its side lying on the road in front of the school.”

Despite the fact that he juggles two demanding roles, Jerry is proud to state that in 25 years he’s only been late for his work as a teacher once, as a result of a PCP call.

While Jerry has assisted a wide variety of different people in a variety of different situations during his 25 years as a PCP, probably his most unusual assist took place at the end of April when he carried his daughter’s wedding gown on an 11-hour trip to Hawaii.

At age 55 (he turned 55 while being interviewed for this article), he is contemplating retirement from teaching, but says he will always find a way to be involved with the health sector.

We’ll be doing member profiles regularly – please contact us at office@collegeofparamedics.sk.ca if you know someone we should be featuring in this section.

SCoP aids in development of national COPR exam

There may soon be common exams across Canadian provinces for Primary Care Paramedics (PCPs) and Advanced Care Paramedics (ACPs) – making it more consistent for paramedics to move between provinces.

SCoP is currently working with its provincial counterparts and the Canadian Organization of Paramedic Regulators (COPR) on the development of inter-provincial PCP and ACP exams. These exams will help to ensure that PCPs and ACPs moving between provinces all have the same level of training, which will, in turn, help provincial paramedic regulatory bodies and associations to enhance their protection of the public.

“Currently, exams aren’t very consistent across provinces, which is a big problem. This is about consistency and moving toward better labour mobility. This really will make it fairer for paramedics moving between provinces

because requirements will be more consistent,” said Sheri Hupp, Executive Director, SCoP.

The project is funded through the federal government.

COPR has hired an exam consultant to help with the development of these exams. The consultant has put together two exam working groups using representatives from across the country.

SCoP sent out requests for member participants in this process in February. It has hired members to participate in these groups because of the significant time required for these projects. Participants will be providing more than 150 hours of time in the development of these exams.

“We know we ask a lot of our members. This is a huge commitment. We want to acknowledge the time required and the expertise our members bring to the table,” said Hupp.

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SCoP's Council for 2011



Brent Stewart – President
Three-year term, elected in 2009

Brent has more than 20 years of experience in the EMS service. He is an advanced care paramedic who began his career in 1991 and who has since worked in Saskatoon at MD Ambulance. He currently heads SIAST's Emergency Health Care Program in Saskatoon and continues to work casual at MD Ambulance. He has been the president of the SCoP Council since its inception in 2008. Brent became involved with the SCoP Council because he felt it was important for paramedics to be self-regulating and instead of criticizing everyone else involved in the journey to self-regulation be a part of that journey.



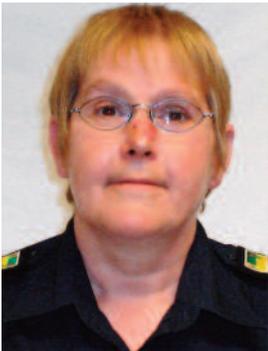
Derek Dagenais – Vice-President
Three-year term, elected in 2009

Derek became an EMT in 1992 and has been working with the Humboldt EMS ever since. He completed his EMT Advanced in 1998 and then completed the EMT Paramedic program in 2000. He has also been heavily involved in instructing programs such as PCP and ICP, ITLS and ACLS. He became involved with the College of Paramedics in 2006 and has been a member of the executive ever since. He continues to be involved with SCoP because he believes the College has made great progress and will ensure high quality EMS in Saskatchewan into the future.



Jon Antal – Member-at-Large (Health)
Three-year term, elected in 2010

Jon has worked as an EMT-P/ACP with the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region for the past 16 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, teaching the ACLS, PALS and PEPP programs. He feels it is important to continue the work he has been doing with the Council. He believes he provides a solid understanding of the structure of the College, and enthusiasm for the work done by the College.



Karen Bullock – Member-at-Large (Health)
Three-year term, elected in 2011

Karen graduated in 1996 as an EMT and then in 2006 as an ICP. She is currently employed by Maidstone Ambulance, Prairie North RHA, 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 councillor, 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.



Cari Evenson – Member-at-Large (Health)
Three-year term, elected in 2010

Cari is an EMT-A with five years experience in the field. She is currently employed by Frontier EMS and by the Cypress Health Region as a casual EMT-A. 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 ran 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.

SCoP's Council for 2011 – continued



Lindsay Holm – Member-at-Large (Fire)
Three-year term, elected in 2011

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 ran 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.



James Struthers, QC – Public Representative
Three-year term, appointed in 2009

Jamie Struthers is a lawyer and Legal Director with Legal Aid Saskatchewan. He has extensive volunteer experience, including serving on the boards of the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada, the Cornwall Alternative School and other local co-operatives. He has also worked with Amnesty International. He was appointed to the SCoP Council by Saskatchewan's Minister of Health in May 2009 and serves on the Discipline and Legislation and Bylaws Committees. He agreed to become a member of Council to continue the work in self-governing health care professions, which he started as a public representative on the Board of Directors of the Saskatchewan Association of Licensed Practical Nurses in 2003.



Karen Wallace – Public Representative
Three-year term, appointed in 2009

Karen Wallace, of White City, is a regional branch compliance manager with Credential Asset Management Inc. She has extensive volunteer experience, including White City Town councillor, Zoning and Appeals Board, EMS coordinator and First Responder. She was appointed to the SCoP Council by Saskatchewan's Minister of Health in June 2009 and serves on both the Audit and Education Committees. She agreed to become a member of Council because it is an area of interest that complements her involvement with the First Responders and EMS.

Public Representative – Vacant

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National COPR exam

The first group has been working with the examiner on the development of policies around the exam, and insuring the exam links back to the National Occupational Competency Profile (NOCP) for each designation.

This group is looking at areas such as how long the exam should be, what the weighting of the test should be, how many questions should be on the exam, etc. SCoP's representatives on this group have

been SCoP's executive director, Sheri Hupp, and Jan Heibert (ACP).

The second group is working on the actual development of the exams. The group is made up of largely ACP and PCP subject matter experts. The group will develop the exam content based on the requirements outlined by the exam policy group. SCoP's participants on the exam development group are: Jan Hiebert (ACP), Kyle Sereda (ACP), Connie Jo Wilson (PCP), and Kathy Christmann (PCP).

The exam policy group is currently wrapping up its role, and the exam development group is just getting underway. It is expected that the exams should be developed by the winter of 2012.

Coordinator training coming this fall

Interested in learning about the role of a coordinator? We're offering training in the fall. Watch the website for further details.