

AMBULANCE PARAMEDICS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

CUPE LOCAL 873

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April 15, 2009

Mayor & Councilors:

We are writing to ask for your support to defend the ambulance emergency response services in your community.

Due to the deterioration of the BC Ambulance Service, we, the 3,500 members of the Ambulance Paramedics of BC, CUPE Local 873 have been forced to go on strike. During this dispute, ambulance services will **NOT** be disrupted.

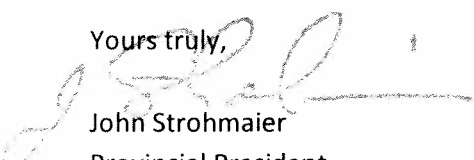
For the past four years we have been publicizing the critical condition of BC ambulance services. We have three main concerns:

1. That your community has adequately-staffed ambulance services to deal with emergencies and skyrocketing call volumes. Response times must be shorter, not longer.
2. That wages for ambulance paramedics be brought into line with other emergency response professionals. Ambulance paramedics are currently the lowest paid of all emergency service workers in BC. Stand-by wages in ambulance stations are only \$10 per hour, while the on-call standby rate is only \$2 per hour!
3. That the employer's latest offer of a one-year contract is not long enough to ensure stability and public confidence. We need a multi-year agreement that addresses wage parity and stability. As our population ages and demands on our services grow, we must ensure that we can continue to hire and retain the best ambulance paramedics.

The government wants a 90-day delay before negotiations resume - we want to get to the bargaining table with an independent third-party mediator **now**.

We ask that you pass a motion calling on the provincial government that oversees the BC Ambulance Service for a return to the bargaining table with an independent third-party mediator to ensure that all BC communities get the emergency services that we deserve.

Yours truly,


John Strohmaier
Provincial President
CUPE Local 873



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