

Niagara EMS Chief Kevin Smith to leave Niagara Region

NIAGARA REGION, March 22, 2021 – After nine years as Chief of Niagara Emergency Medical Services (Niagara EMS), Kevin Smith has announced he is leaving Niagara Region to take a position with British Columbia Emergency Health Services (BCEHS).

Kevin Smith began his career as a paramedic in Niagara after graduating from Niagara College in 1992 and going on to receive his Advanced Care Paramedic designation from the Michener Institute, Toronto in 1998.

In his role as Chief, Kevin helped lead in the transformation of Niagara EMS to a Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) model of service delivery. This structure includes more than 450 advanced and primary care paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, nurses, occupational therapists, emergency planners, support and administrative staff.

Kevin is also active in national, provincial and regional paramedic organizations including the Academy of International Mobile Healthcare Integration (AIMHI) as President and Vice-President of the Paramedic Chiefs of Canada. Since 2021 he has also served as a member of Niagara College's Board of Governors.

"Kevin Smith has been an absolute leader in Niagara, transforming our Emergency Medical Service to a dynamic mobile integrated health operation that is receiving global attention," said Dr. Mustafa Hirji, Medical Officer of Health & Commissioner of Public Health & Emergency Services (Acting). "Moreover, he has been a respected and trusted figure in our community. I thank him for three decades of service to paramedicine in Niagara, and know the people of British Columbia will be well served by him in his new role."

"On behalf of the Niagara Region, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to Kevin for his contributions and commitment to the community of Niagara," said Ron Tripp, Chief Administrative Officer. "Kevin's leadership, professionalism and dedication was especially appreciated over the past two years as he both led the EMS Team and provided critical support to the entire organization through our response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. While Kevin will be truly missed here at the Region, I am very proud of what he has accomplished as our Chief. We all wish him and his family well on this very exciting new opportunity. The Province of British Columbia is very lucky to have him."

Kevin will be leaving Niagara EMS on May 6 and will assume his new position as Chief Systems and Strategy Officer for BCEHS on May 9.

Plans to recruit and fill the role of Niagara EMS Chief are currently underway.

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