



Paramedic Chiefs
of Canada
Chefs Paramédics
du Canada

Caring for the Frontline

Canada's paramedics play a frontline role in maintaining the health and safety of communities across the country. Everyday, paramedics are exposed to psychological stress and traumatic events that can take a serious toll on their mental health. During the pandemic, these stresses and strains have only increased. On top of that, incidents of violence against paramedics are at an all-time high.

Our Ask



Support for ongoing research into the impact of job-related stresses on the health of paramedics



Legislated protection for paramedics with increased punishment for threats and violence, including Bill S-233 (violence against first responders). PCC is asking to appear as a witness at committee



Implementation of the recommendations from 2019 Health Committee Report on Violence Facing Healthcare Workers in Canada



Ongoing support for the Canadian Institute of Public Safety Research & Treatment (CIPSRT) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)



In 2014, a study of Canadian paramedics found that **75%** of respondents reported experiencing violence on the job. This included verbal abuse, intimidation, physical assault, and sexual harassment.

The survey has not been updated since the pandemic but anecdotal evidence suggests that **these numbers have risen significantly**.

According to the *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, paramedics are the most likely — of all first responders — to develop suicidal thoughts.

Paramedics risk their own health to protect our communities.

It's time we protected them.

Read more about our vision for the future of paramedicine in Canada [here](#).



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Relieving the Pressure

Healthcare in Canada is under significant and increasing strain. COVID-19, RSV and bad flu seasons have pushed our entire system to the brink. For paramedics, this has meant longer response times, unacceptable off-load delays and threats to patient safety. Like other health professions, paramedicine also faces challenges with retention and recruitment, which places additional pressure on current resources.

Supply chain and tariff-related disruptions impacted access to lifesaving equipment and demonstrated the need for better coordination at the federal level between paramedics and government departments.

Our Ask



Development of a pan-Canadian strategy for health human resources



Examine faster inter-provincial recognition and certification of paramedics



Provide incentives to paramedics willing to work in rural & remote communities



Establish a Canadian National Paramedicine Secretariat (CNPS)



Improve coordination between paramedics and federal departments to safeguard supply chains for lifesaving equipment.



With their numbers dwindling and work hours increasing, paramedics need backup and support. They must be included in the overall discussion around health human resources. While we fully recognize that healthcare delivery falls under provincial jurisdiction, the federal government can help advance a strong, sophisticated and resilient public safety system that supports frontline paramedics and meets the needs of all Canadians.

Wait times are increasing for an emergency service where
every second counts.

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Expanding Patient Care

Our Ask



Greater federal investment in community paramedicine initiative



Encourage provinces and hospitals to use paramedics to the full scope of their practice



Employ community paramedics in Indigenous communities in rural and remote parts of Canada



Federal support to hold Provinces accountable for Ambulance Offload time performance



Improved information and data sharing between paramedics and federal departments to expand response capacity for threats like opioids, natural disasters, and pandemics.

During the pandemic, governments broadened the delivery of healthcare to include an increased focus on public health, prevention, integration, and improved access. Paramedics across the country stepped up and staffed pop-up vaccination clinics, as well as providing non-urgent health service. Paramedics have the training, skills, and ability to offer more than emergency care. We can improve healthcare delivery in all communities across Canada.



In addition to our delivery of urgent and emergency care, paramedics can make home visits to seniors and patients with chronic diseases. They can also follow-up with people recently discharged from hospital or act as navigators for other community health services. As well, paramedics are trained to emergency triage and provide palliative end of life care, both of which could take pressure off our overcrowded hospitals.

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