



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, February 22, 2007

EMS CHIEFS OF CANADA RELEASE WHITE PAPER ON FUTURE OF EMS

Ottawa, Ontario – Bruce Farr, president of the EMS Chiefs of Canada, today released a White Paper on the status and future direction of emergency medical services (EMS) in Canada.

The EMS Chiefs of Canada believe that the future of paramedicine in Canada is at the centre of the community, providing health care in a mobile setting. Current pressures on the health care system call for renewal and redefinition of the ways in which emergency medical services are provided. Growing challenges, such as an aging population, transitions in the social safety net, and the current capacity for hospitals to accept patients; require systemic changes in the way EMS systems work to support the health of people in their communities.

"Strategic investments in community based paramedic services will save money in overall health care costs, and, more importantly, can save lives," Chief Farr stated. "The White Paper outlines a nation-wide strategy to realize the future of EMS in Canada with paramedic ambulance crews playing a key role as providers of frontline health care in a mobile setting."

The purpose of the White Paper is to outline the direction policy makers must take to develop a comprehensive, effective system of community-based pre-hospital care across Canada. The White Paper provides a foundation, with six key strategies that EMS systems across the country can use to adapt their services to meet the unique needs and conditions of their respective communities.

The EMS Chiefs of Canada offer a common strategic vision of how emergency medical services will be provided in the future. Achieving this vision will take participation and collaboration with policy makers, other health care providers, public safety organizations and the general public.

"EMS treats more than two million patients a year in Canada, which is about 5,500 patients each day," said Chief Farr. "As medical sciences improve and new technologies and procedures are developed, EMS professionals can play an increasingly important role in the evolution of health care in this country."

"The White Paper offers a strategic plan to make the most effective use of resources, while enhancing patient care – and, with support and partnerships, it's achievable for the future," commented Chief Farr.

The White Paper is available for viewing online at www.emscc.ca.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: A backgrounder is available online at www.emscc.ca

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To Advance and Align EMS Leadership in Canada