



Taking action for ambulance service

There are a number of ways you, as a concerned citizen, can fight to maintain and improve ambulance services in your community. Please encourage friends and family to join you in taking action.

E-mail the Premier

Contact Premier Gordon Campbell at premier@gov.bc.ca.
Send a copy to BC Health Services Minister Kevin Falcon at kevin.falcon.mla@leg.bc.ca
and to MLA Katrine Conroy at katrine.conroy.mla@leg.bc.ca.

Contact your MLA

You can do this by e-mail, phone, or in person by paying a visit to their constituency office. Generally, in-person contact is the most effective, followed by phone calls, then an e-mail. Having said that, if you only have time to send an e-mail, it's more effective than taking no action at all! Contact information for MLAs, including their e-mail addresses, can be found online at www.leg.bc.ca/mla/3-1-1.htm

Whichever method you use to contact your MLA, it is important to identify yourself as a member of their constituency, including your name, phone number and address. Politicians receive calls and correspondence from all over the province, and prioritize their own local constituents. It's also important remember to treat their staff person, who will usually be your first and main contact, with courtesy and respect.

Keep your message simple. You can express your concerns about the deteriorating ambulance service, the level and availability of that service in your community, about the recruitment and retention of skilled ambulance paramedics, or one of the other messages from below.

Three key points:

- 1) It is vital that when contract negotiations with ambulance paramedics are stalled they are turned over to independent third-party arbitration, like with firefighters and police, for fair settlement.
- 2) That negotiation NOT legislation is the cornerstone of democratic workers rights.
- 3) That the people of British Columbia and every community in the province deserve the best ambulance service possible – and that it is the government's job to ensure that happens.