



Photo credit: Saskatchewan Air Ambulance

The Pulse

by SCoP

The Saskatchewan College
of Paramedics newsletter
October, 2017

Congratulations on 70+ years of service!

Saskatchewan Air Ambulance, North America's first non-military air ambulance, was launched over 70 years ago and is still going strong. We had a chat recently with SAA Manager David Mandzuk to talk about how things work there now, and of course a lot has changed since 1946.

What began with one pilot, one nurse, one engineer and one plane now includes 14 paramedics, 24 flight nurses, 30 pilots, and other staff including a manager, a medical director, maintenance engineers and mechanics.

Did they even have patient care reports in 1946? These days, David Mandzuk is looking forward to accessing electronic health records, an unimaginable resource 70 years ago. The eHR Viewer is currently being tested under a pilot project between the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, eHealth Saskatchewan, and the Saskatchewan College of Paramedics. It hasn't yet rolled out to Saskatoon, but David is eager for the moment it does. "We would love to be part of that," he says, describing his interest in a seamless experience between healthcare providers.

Back in the early years, transporting patients with polio was a common occurrence. In recent years, pediatric patients requiring transport from Regina General Hospital to Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon, or to Edmonton, are the types of calls that help bump Regina General Hospital to the number one referral centre in the province.

The second highest number of referrals are out of the Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon. Most of the rest of SAA call volumes are from northern communities. LaRonge; Île-à-la-Crosse, and LaLoche are all in the top ten, as well as regional health centres like Lloydminster, Swift Current, and Meadow Lake.

Saskatchewan Air Ambulance transports patients as far away as Toronto, Ottawa, Vancouver, and sometimes destinations like the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, New York, or Duke Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina. The King Air 200 aircraft can fly 2,000 kilometers, as far away as Stony Rapids and back, on just one tank of fuel.

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“That’s a great thing about these aircraft is that they are really quite versatile, they can do many, many things. And range is one of them,” says David.

From 250 patient missions in its first year, SAA flew 1,460 in 2016. With an average of 4.5 missions dispatched by SAA per day, crews are rarely not going somewhere. The greatest demand for calls are between 7 a.m. and noon, and the slowest time of day for requests is between 3 a.m. and 7 a.m..

The aircraft feature double pod systems that enable transport for up to two patients. Typically they wouldn’t transport two critically ill patients at the same time, it’s too much work in such a small space, but they can transport a CTAS 2 and a CTAS 3 patient at the same time.

Who can’t they transport? “One of the challenges that we are experiencing, and this is universal throughout North America and certainly Canada, is the bariatric patient,” says David. “Our aircraft aren’t capable at this moment of transporting a patient who weighs greater than 300 pounds. We can transport pretty much anything else.



As far as age, of course we transport newborns to the very elderly, it doesn’t matter to us. There’s really nothing we can’t transport,” says David.

SAA has only had paramedics on flights since 1993, when base operations moved from Regina to Saskatoon, a reminder that the

profession is still young. Paramedical services for Saskatchewan Air Ambulance are contracted through MD Ambulance, and some of the flight paramedics still work on the street.

Flight paramedics are Advanced Care Paramedics with at least three to five years of experience. After hiring, they receive four more months of critical care and emergency medicine training, aviation training, and they are educated alongside flight nurses.

“We educate our nurses and paramedics side by side. Advanced airway management, surgical airways, initiation of mechanical ventilation, needle decompression of chests, those are all the things that both disciplines are educated to the same degree,” says David.

Both disciplines complement each other in the medevac critical care transport world, and it’s a really good fit.

“Typically what you’ll see is nurses gravitate towards managing a patient’s blood pressure with medications, and the paramedics might gravitate towards ventilation and airway management.

Paramedics are great with rapid assessment, nurses are more experienced in managing complex care and what that looks like two or four hours from now, even after they’ve handed off the patient. It’s a very complementary team, and if you look at critical care transport



in the medevac world, nurse-paramedic teams are the way to go.”

Paramedic licence levels are still changing, with the soon to be created Critical Care Paramedic level particularly interesting to flight paramedics. According to David, SAA flight paramedics work within the Advanced Care Paramedic scope, but they also have SAA protocols that afford them the ability to practice at an ACP level but with advanced protocols.

It’s a unique working environment in a profession known for its unique working environments, and it seems like it’s a pretty interesting place to be.

The first Saskatchewan Air Ambulance aircraft was based at the Regina airport, and the first flight was to Liberty on February 3, 1946. By the end of August, it had completed over a hundred trips and a second Norseman, CF-SAM, was purchased.

The history of SAA is filled with colourful and hair-raising tales of landing in fields and on highways. Documentaries and books exist chronicling the “Wings of Mercy” that is Saskatchewan Air Ambulance. CF-SAM was even honored on a stamp in 1982, and, quite uniquely, is on display at the Western Development Museum in Moose Jaw.

Licence renewal is open! Deadline: Dec 1

The Licence Renewal form:

- Knows your licence level
- Knows what is required for each licence level to renew
- Knows what you have already submitted in the past
- Calculates what is expired and what isn't
- Requires you to input dates of new cards and skills **(important)**
- Does not allow you to submit it until it is complete **(very important)**

The process for renewing licences this year is the same as it was last year.

To renew your licence, you must prove that all educational requirements have been met by submitting proof using the **Renewal Form** in your Member Account, and you must ensure payment arrives at the SCoP office.

All SCoP licences are valid until the end of the year, and the deadline to renew is December 1.

How to avoid late fees: restricted licences

If—for any reason—you are unable to complete your renewal by December 1, you have an option for avoiding late fees that will not impact how you work. All members who are currently licenced may choose a restricted licence at time of renewal if they do not have requirements fulfilled. The option is available on the renewal form.

A restriction costs \$100. **You can still work alone and perform all skills when a licence is restricted because of renewal.** You will then have 6 months to complete unfinished renewal requirements and submit them to the College to have your restriction lifted.

Once late fees are \$100 or more, you can save yourself worry and money by choosing a restricted licence.

Late fees begin at \$50 on December 2 and increase by \$25 each Monday. They are \$100 beginning December 11, and \$125 beginning December 18.

This means, for example, if you are registered for an ITLS class but it is not until December 12, you can pay for a restricted licence now and not have to worry later about late fees increasing. It will cost the same amount.

Not working? Non practicing

If you are not planning to work for part or all of 2018, you may want to consider a non-practicing licence for \$50. Read the renewal instructions on the College website for more information on this option.

How to avoid late fees: submit early

Early birds get the worm, and early renewers (is that a word?) are entered to win one of two pre-paid Visa cards worth \$250. **Complete your renewal by November 1** to have your name automatically entered to win!

Receipts

Receipts will be available for download in your Member Account within a week of submitting your payment. Receipts are not sent immediately, but a few days later.

How to know you're renewed

During slower times, renewals are processed usually within a day or two. During busy times, such as the last week of November and first week of December, renewals can take up to 3 or 4 days to be processed.

Once you have submitted your Licence Renewal form, watch your email to see if anything needs to be resubmitted, and watch for your name to appear on the Member List linked from the main page of the SCoP website. Your licence is renewed when your name is listed with the year 2018.

Most renewals these days are completed correctly the first time, but sometimes documents and details are missing or incorrect. Watch your email and watch the Member List to ensure your licence is renewed.

Email from the College

We do not send receipts or notices that your licence has been renewed via email.

We do send emails if you have made a mistake with your renewal, and we have the ability to email only members who haven't completed renewal. If you are receiving emails from SCoP and they say you are not renewed, they are important and you should make sure you understand their content.

Hotmail users: please read!

If you have a Hotmail account, it is strongly recommended that you add "**@collegeofparamedics.sk.ca**" to your Safe Senders list so that you receive all emails from the College. You are probably receiving some emails from the College, but there could be more in your junk folder.

Instructions for this can be found here <http://bit.ly/2yV79se> or by searching online for "how to add to Hotmail's safe senders list."

Even if you have received emails from staff of the College before, Hotmail users might miss some if you do not take this important step.

Miss something?

If you need to send more documents to the College and you have already submitted your Renewal Form, you can send additional documents using the Document Upload form. Most members can complete their licence renewal without using the Document Upload form.

The Document Upload form is also available throughout the year for use by anyone wishing to submit documents to SCoP. Please understand that submitting your Document Upload form does not complete renewal.

The only way to renew your licence is to submit the Renewal Form.

How Your Member Account Helps You Renew

All members can access information about their SCoP membership through their **Member Account**. Just login with the green button at the top of the website

Within your Member Account, you can:

- See tons of info about your licence
- See when your restrictions expire
- Update your snail mail and email addresses
- Change your password
- Print payment receipts
- Update the photo for your member card
- See which Licence Requirements we have on file for you
- Apply for Licence Renewal



Member Account

Licence Requirements

Within your Member Account there is a tab called Licence Requirements. If you're using a smartphone, it will look like a link, not a tab. And yes, everything in the Member Account will work on a laptop, smartphone, or tablet, including uploads. It might look a little different on each platform, but it is all the same content.

Everything in the Member Account will work on a laptop, smartphone, or tablet, including uploads!

The items listed in the Licence Requirements section are the educational requirements needed for you to be licensed with SCoP that have not yet expired. These requirements are also displayed **within the Licence Renewal form**.

Exact requirements for renewal are all listed on our website, separated by licence level. The following is an explanation of how those requirements show up in your Member Account and Licence Renewal form and how to read them.

Mandatory cards are things like BLS "C" – HCP, ITLS, PHTLS, PALS, PEPP, and ACLS.

These certifications are ok for 2018 if they haven't expired when you submit your renewal form.

If your card hasn't expired yet, you can use it to renew.

For example, if your BLS "C" HCP card expires on November 6, 2017, as shown in the table below, the card is valid and can be used for renewal as long as you submit your Renewal Form on or before November 6. If you wait until November 7 to renew, you cannot use this card. In fact, the form will actually require you to upload a new card or request a Restricted Licence.

Item	Date Issued	Date of expiry	Instructor
BLS "C" for Health Care Providers	06/11/2015	06/11/2017	No

Mandatory skills are things like Mechanical Aids to Breathing/Oxygen, Supraglottic Airways, Intubation, Cardioversion, et cetera.

These are required every two years, which means to renew your licence for 2018, you must have had these skills assessed either in 2016 or 2017.

For the example below, this skill is ok for renewal.

Item	Date Issued	Date of expiry	Instructor
ALS Pediatric: Intubation	01/05/2016	31/12/2018	No

It was done in 2016 so it's fine, plus the system has calculated the expiry to the end of next year. **Remember, you are renewing your licence so that you can work until the end of 2018.** This skill is good to the end of 2018.

Note on Medications review: a self-review of medications is to be performed by all members every two years. A certificate of completion is not required for this skill. Members are advised to make note of the date that they do their medications self-review, so that it can be entered into the Renewal Form. More information on the medications review can be found under the Renewal Instructions on the SCoP website.

Continuing Medical Education credits may appear in your Licence Requirements tab.

Most members have to obtain 20 CME credits in 2017 to renew their licence for 2018. Exceptions to this are listed on our website under Members > Renewal.

In the example below, this person obtained their credits in 2016 and still needs to do them in 2017 so they can work in 2018:

Item	Date Issued	Date of expiry	Instructor
CME 20 Credits per year	01/11/2016	31/12/2017	No

These dates are all available to you in the Licence Requirements tab within the Member Account. They will also show up within the Licence Renewal form online!

For full instructions on renewal, visit:
<http://collegeofparamedics.sk.ca/web/renewal>

Important dates for licence renewal:

November 1: early bird deadline

December 1: renewal deadline; late fees begin December 2

January 1: licence is expired

February 1: reinstatement is required

Professional Conduct Committee Update

The College is responsible for the protection of the public, and management of this responsibility is one of the most important roles that the College has. It is our job to assure the public of the knowledge, skill, proficiency and competency of members in the practice of emergency medical services.

For 2017, the professional conduct committee has begun investigation into 17 complaints. Of these, 15 relate to professional misconduct, and two are related to professional incompetence.

Protocol Revisions Coming Soon

Several changes are being made to the Paramedic Clinical Practice Protocols manual. An email announcement will be sent out to all members when the new manual is ready, which should be sometime in October.

Changes for 2019 Licence Renewal

The Requirements Reporting Forms, which are pdf documents that members print and fill out to report skills and CME for licence renewal, will be redesigned and simplified for 2019.

The new forms will only need to be used when reporting the mandatory skills needed for renewal:

- EMR: mechanical aids to breathing/oxygen
- EMT or PCP 2001: none
- PCP 2011 or ICP: Supraglottic airways
- ACP: ten ALS skills

The Licence Renewal form in the Member Account has space for members to record CME credits and upload certificates of completion, and has space to enter dates for mandatory cards and the medications self-review. Most members currently submit certificates of completion for everything but skills, so a simplified skills document will help streamline renewal. These new forms will be available for download on January 1, 2018.

EMR Exam Fee Increase

The fee for the Emergency Medical Responder licensing exam will be increasing to \$500 beginning with the February, 2018 sitting. The PCP and ACP exams will remain at \$650 + PST.

2017 Council Election and AGM

The 2017 Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 2 in Regina at the Travelodge Hotel and Convention Centre. Approximately 100 members attended the full day networking and education event.

Members enjoyed presentations from local speakers with themes revolving around health and wellness and adapting to change.

The morning began with George Hleboff, a paramedic with Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region and educator with SaskPolytech, who gave a moving presentation on the stress of PTSD. Full of useful information on how to identify issues and cope, he also guided the room through a short session of mindfulness meditation.

After lunch, Kellie Garrett, leadership consultant and one of Canada's 100 Most Powerful Women and Top 25 Influential Women, offered her expertise on dealing with change. Worksheets from her presentation were emailed to all members in May. If you would like to have them resent to you, please send an email to collette.parks@collegeofparamedics.sk.ca.

Throughout the day, presentations on the paramedic profession were also given.

Kassandra Haughton and Brennan Schmidt from eHealth Saskatchewan, with Chis Fay from Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region EMS, presented on the Electronic Health Record (eHR) Viewer pilot project, which was also a feature article in this newsletter earlier in 2017. Members in attendance took the opportunity to ask questions about this promising new project.

Sherri Julé, Manager of Prehospital Emergency Medical Services for Saskatoon Health Region, shared encouraging information about the success of community paramedicine in the Saskatoon Health Region.

Updates from the College were also part of an informative day. Jennifer Williams, Director of Professional Practice and Research at the College



2017-2018 SCoP Council members, from left to right: Angela Graham (Member-at-large); Olumide Adetunji, LL.B, LL.M (Pubic Representative), Bill Fischer (Vice President); Jason Trask (President); Kyle Sereda (Member-at-large); Betty Hoffart, FCMA (Public Representative). Missing: Aris Scott (Member-at-large); Kael Irvine (Member-at-large, fire representative); Tom Janisch (Public Representative)

of Paramedics, gave an update on SCoP projects. Jacquie Messer-Lepage, Executive Director of the College of Paramedics, presented information on the new federal Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) legislation and how it affects members of the College, and also presented an update of the College strategic plan. All of these presentations are available on the College website in the AGM section under Resources.

On the business side of things, votes for the Council election this year were submitted once again online in a quick and easy process for both members and College staff. The College thanks those members who ran in the election, and those who voted.

The AGM was the first opportunity for members to meet their new Council for 2017 – 2018.

Newly elected Angela Graham will join Council for a two year term as a member-at-large. An ACP based out of Saskatoon, Angela is a paramedic

and member of the professional development team at MD Ambulance.

Those in attendance at the AGM voted to pass a regulatory bylaw amendment that will support the creation of a Critical Care Paramedic licence level. This bylaw results from a resolution passed by the membership at the 2016 AGM.

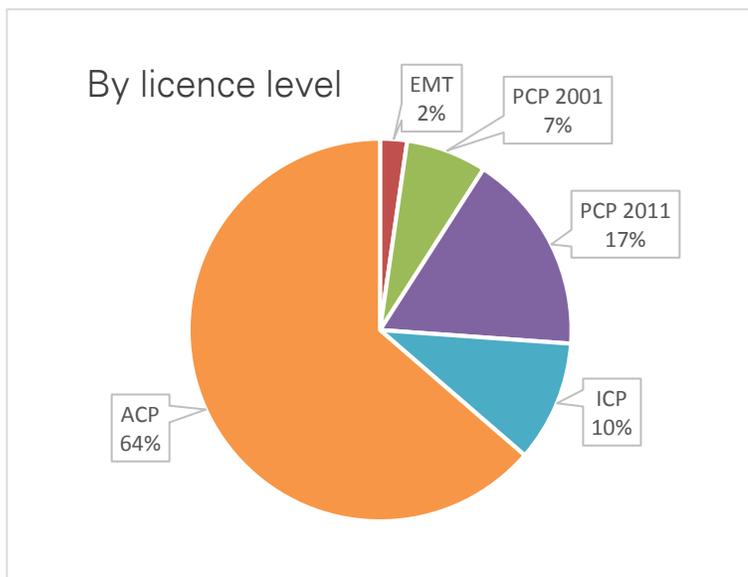
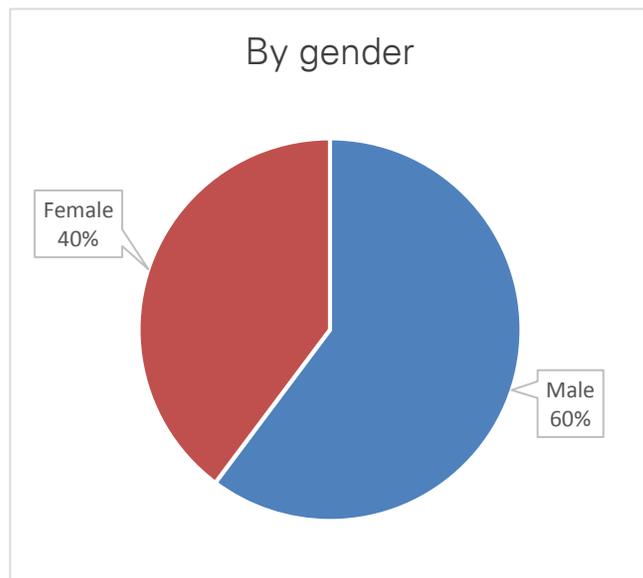
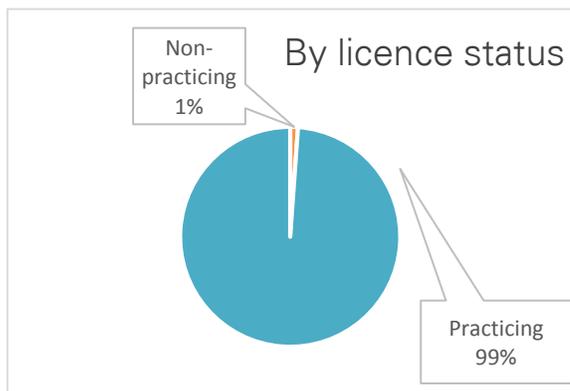
Another vote on amending the administrative bylaws to incorporate the role of a Past President on SCoP Council was passed.

A resolution to create a new temporary restricted licence was not passed.

Details of all resolutions discussed are under the AGM section of the Resources area of the College website.

Thank you to all members who attended the AGM for your valuable contributions to the Saskatchewan College of Paramedics, and to the regulation of the paramedic profession.

AGM Attendance by the numbers



George Hleboff leading attendees in mindfulness meditation at the SCoP AGM.



**SASKATCHEWAN
COLLEGE OF
PARAMEDICS**

YOUR LICENCE IS EXPIRING...

**Renew by
November 1 to
win \$250!**



Early birds
can win 1 of 2
prepaid Visa
cards worth
\$250 each!

Renewal deadline:
December 1

Your licence to practice expires at the end of the year and the deadline to renew is December 1, 2017. Renew by November 1 and you'll be entered to win 1 of 2 prepaid Visa cards worth \$250 each!

The info you need is all on our website:

collegeofparamedics.sk.ca/web/Renewal