

2024 AGM Resolutions

1. Amendment to the Skills Reporting Form requirements for registration renewal

Resolution moved by Trevor Lowey; seconded by Gregory Lowey

WHEREAS: The Saskatchewan College of Paramedics is the regulatory body for the paramedic profession in Saskatchewan, and;

WHEREAS: The Saskatchewan College of Paramedics determines the registration renewal requirements for members of the profession, and;

WHEREAS: The Saskatchewan College of Paramedics has determined that the timelines for the renewal of mandatory certifications required for recertification are the domain of the various agencies responsible for those certifications, and;

WHEREAS: The agencies responsible for recertification of various mandatory certificates required for the annual Saskatchewan College of Paramedics recertification process also evaluate the skills associated with those certifications, and;

WHEREAS: The requirement to complete the mandatory skills reporting form is redundant to the recertification of mandatory certificates;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The mandatory skills reporting form be removed as a requirement for annual recertification with the Saskatchewan College of Paramedics as these skills are already evaluated during the mandatory recertification process.

2. Ambulance Operator Registration

Resolution moved by Paul Hills; seconded by Adam Fedrau

WHEREAS: There are EMS/Ambulance services run by SCoP registered paramedics and non-registered paramedics or even managers/owners;

WHEREAS: These persons are in positions of decision making or influence over the operations of an ambulance service operations through many ways but not limited to policy development and implementation, budget, equipment supply, scheduling, staffing;

WHEREAS: This ability to influence or directly affect the function of the ambulance service, activities and care provided by paramedics and therefore can directly or indirectly affect the outcome of patient care;

WHEREAS: Therefore they should be held to the same level of accountability and responsibility of the licensed paramedics they oversee; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: That any owner operator that is named in a contract with the Saskatchewan Health Authority to provide EMS service to a location in Saskatchewan will hold a registration comparable to those that are paramedics. This will be mandatory upon all operators and be on top of a paramedic license they may also be registered with and;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: That any operator that is named in a contract with the Saskatchewan Health Authority to provide EMS service to a location in Saskatchewan will appoint a minimum of one to three managers that oversee the operations of the service to hold a registration comparable to those that are paramedics. This will be mandatory upon all operators and managers and be on top of a paramedic license they may also be registered with.

3. EMR Training and the Required minimum number of training hours

Resolution moved by Marie Stimson; seconded by Doris Robertson

WHEREAS: Newly trained EMRs in Saskatchewan are required to write the National COPR exam before being issued a non-restricted licence to practice paramedicine in Saskatchewan. Of the Saskatchewan-trained EMRs writing the COPR exam the pass rate is below the national average.

WHEREAS: This exam is currently providing a lot of added anxiety to the new EMR grads as well as a large financial loss which is leading to some walking away from a career in EMS due to this problem.

WHEREAS: The minimum number of training hours currently accepted by the Saskatchewan College of Paramedics is 80 hours.

WHEREAS: The current EMR training programs in place and approved by SCoP do meet the required NOCP guidelines.

WHEREAS: EMR training programs in Alberta are approximately 250 hours, some courses are a mix of in class/lab time with virtual training time as well. EMR training programs in Manitoba are approximately 300 hours, again some could be in class/lab hours and some virtual training hours. Manitoba and Albertas newly trained EMRs writing the COPR exam have an above average pass rate.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Saskatchewan College of Paramedics increase the required number of training hours needed for EMR training programs to no less than a total of 160 hours.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The required increase in hours be in place for new EMR grads writing the COPR exam

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Both the Red Cross EMR program and St. John's EMR training program continue to be used as base programs, with an increased minimum number of hours. 160 or more.

4. Restricted Supervision

Resolution moved by Steven Skoworodko; seconded by Keith Woytiuk

WHEREAS: There are sometimes delays in paramedics completing their course and writing COPR; and

WHEREAS: There is increasing paramedic burn out and fatigue; and

WHEREAS: In other medical professions like nursing, supervision does not have to be direct; and

WHEREAS: Restricted Paramedics, the only thing holding them back from being an unrestricted Paramedic is the COPR exam; and

WHEREAS: Restricted Paramedics become more confident and comfortable with patient contact and patient care; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Saskatchewan College of Paramedics change or remove the definition of supervision; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Restricted Paramedics must still work with a Paramedic of equal or higher designation and that unrestricted paramedic must be available to assist or support the restricted Paramedic.

5. Licence Exam Writing

Resolution moved by Paul Hills; seconded by Adam Fedrau

WHEREAS: There is a time and place for the need of a National exam for graduate paramedics or new to the province paramedics. Historically paramedics were considered ready for practice once they graduated their respective approved educational programs. Now it is deemed necessary to have an extra check on a graduate's knowledge;

WHEREAS: We have seen that there are less paramedic graduates entering into the working profession and delays in EMS providers having staff available to work that are unrestricted. Both items are contributing to a worker shortage in Saskatchewan;

WHEREAS: Looking at the past and experiencing the present staffing issues it is imperative that we look at all avenues to get graduated paramedics into the workforce as soon as possible to stabilize a crumbling workforce; and

WHEREAS: The existing parameters and design of the national exam isn't conducive to the needs of the paramedic profession and not in line with other professions that require a national exam;

WHEREAS: Each employer of an EMS service should be able to decide if they want or need to hire a paramedic that has passed a national exam and or have their own existing employees that are on leave to attend a registered program require to have the exam passed prior to being licensed without having to deal with the restricted status; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Saskatchewan College of Paramedics move to have the national exam be considered an endorsement that paramedics may achieve rather than a necessity to be licensed; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The national exam be used more as a designation for labour mobility rather than another level of scrutiny for a paramedic to achieve when they have already graduated from a recognized training program; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Saskatchewan College of Paramedics review the current approved exam provider and look at other options that may align better with the registration needs of the paramedic and profession similar to other professions.

6. Member Liability Insurance

Resolution moved by Steven Skoworodko; seconded by Kelly Prime

WHEREAS: Members of Saskatchewan College of Paramedics should have liability insurance to protect themselves and the public; and

WHEREAS: There is more than one company that provides liability insurance; and

WHEREAS: Other insurance companies may have additional coverage equal to or above the current liability insurance standard provided by the Saskatchewan College of Paramedics; and

WHEREAS: Saskatchewan College of Paramedics should set out minimum amounts of coverage; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Saskatchewan College of Paramedics allow members to choose an insurance that best covers them; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Members must provide proof of insurance like any of their other mandatory certificates.