

The Pulse

by SCoP

Saskatchewan College of Paramedics newsletter

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Stanley Mission First Responder Vehicle Project

By Eric Jelinski, ACP and Police Officer

The primary goal of the First Responder Vehicle project was to provide the community of Stanley Mission timely access to well-equipped First Responders.

Given that goal, the project team secured a vehicle donated by Medavie Health Services West. Corporate sponsorships and donations also ensured that the required medical equipment, inspections, maintenance and decaling were supplied to make this project effective and operational.

BACKGROUND

The Stanley Mission Cree Nation is part of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band in Northern Saskatchewan. This thriving community is situated 305 kilometers north of Prince Albert along the banks of the Churchill River.

Stanley Mission is home to approximately 2,500 residents. Medically, this community is served by a dedicated team of health care providers comprised of nurse practitioners, nurses, Advanced Care



Paramedics, dental and mental health professionals. This care is provided in a clinic setting, and there is no local ambulance service.

Currently, EMS is provided by the La Ronge Paramedic Service. Response times to Stanley Mission can take anywhere from 50-90 minutes depending on road conditions.

When a 911 call is placed to La Ronge EMS, the staff at the Stanley Mission Clinic are contacted and requested to respond to the call while the patient awaits the arrival of the ambulance. The main priorities of the First Responder(s) are to attend the scene, stabilize, and move the patient to the clinic for the best care possible while they await definitive transport to La Ronge via ambulance.

Previous to the completion of this project, the First Responder(s) was transported to scene in the Community Security vehicle, which was a truck or SUV. In the first half of 2024, there

were four cardiac arrests. Two of these patients were transported to the clinic in the box of a pick-up truck, and two were transported in the trunk of an SUV. This type of transporting, which is unheard of anywhere else in Saskatchewan, has a significant and often negative impact on patient care while placing the medical staff at risk of injury.

OBJECTIVES & STRATEGY

The best level of patient care would be to have patients transitioned to the clinic so the full complement of Health Care Providers could participate in the care and resuscitation of the patient.

The project team secured a retired front-line ambulance from Medavie Health Services West. This ambulance procurement allows Community Security to safely transport the First Responder(s) to scene, retrieve, resuscitate and transition the patient safely back to the clinic for a maximum level of care while they await definite transport from La Ronge EMS.

With sponsorship, mechanical suitability was ensured with regards to vehicle safety including engine, tires, transmission, brakes, and oil. New community-minded decaling was

provided. The vehicle also has the appropriate extrication equipment such as a scoop-stretcher, spine-board and ambulance stretcher. All objectives of this project were successfully accomplished.

The new vehicle does not operate like a full ambulance which would traditionally have the inverted word displayed in front. Instead, the vehicle reads “Ahkosiwitâpânâsk,” meaning “sick vehicle” in Cree. A local Cree language teacher was consulted to choose an appropriate word.

IMPACT ANALYSIS

The First Responder Vehicle acquisition has provided an immediate tangible and positive impact to the community of Stanley Mission. There are rare instances where donation strategies can have the ability to save lives, and this is one of those opportunities. To be able to retrieve patients and transition them to the clinic while ensuring First Responder Safety greatly impacts the level of care provided.

CONCLUSION

Through corporate sponsorship, members of the Stanley Mission community have much improved timely care from First Responders. Thank you to Medavie Health Services West, Our Saskatchewan RCMP, National Police Federation, Vallen Canada, Saskatoon Paramedic Association, Kal-Tire, and Cowan Graphics.

EMR

PCP

ACP

COPR Entry to Practice Examination changes

The following information was provided by COPR through their December newsletter. Please note that the Saskatchewan College of Paramedics is working on updating our processes as the profession moves towards the Canadian Paramedic Competence Framework (CPCF) and away from the National Occupational Competency Profile (NOCP).

Ensuring the validity and integrity of COPR's Entry to Practice Examination is a strategic priority for COPR. Several important initiatives are being undertaken by COPR that support this priority. If you have any concerns, please reach out to COPR.

TRANSITION TO THE CANADIAN PARAMEDIC COMPETENCE FRAMEWORK (CPCF)

Transitioning the examinations to the new CPCF will be gradual, with an overlap of examinations being provided based on the new CPCF and the current National Occupational Competency Profile (NOCP) for all designations. Following this overlap

period, candidates will be required to write the examination using the CPCF regardless of whether they pass or fail. Through feedback gathered from consultations with regulators and educators, **COPR is pleased to share the timelines in the chart below.**

EMR KNOWLEDGE WORKSHOP

To support examination item development, COPR recently assembled a group of subject matter experts who worked on expanding and defining Foundational Knowledge in the EMR CPCF, Care Along a Health and Social Continuum, Appendix A. The revised EMR CPCF will be shared with all interested parties within the coming weeks.

PUBLICATION OF RESULTS 02/02

Earlier this year, COPR contracted Camprof, an independent consulting firm, to conduct research regarding trends in high-stakes examinations. One identified trend was of increasing transparency in the release of pass/fail rates by educational institutions. Beginning the first quarter of 2026, using the previous year data, COPR will be publishing the aggregate annual pass rates for each educational institution on the COPR website. To ensure confidentiality, only those institutions with six or more candidates writing the COPR examination annually will be included.

Timeline	# of Administrations	EMR Examination Delivery
November 2025	Two EMR examinations offered	One using the NOCP, one using the CPCF
February 2026	Two EMR examinations offered	One using the NOCP, one using the CPCF
May 2026	Two EMR examinations offered	One using the NOCP, one using the CPCF
July 2026	One EMR examination offered	CPCF

Timeline	# of Administrations	PCP Examination Delivery
February 2026	One PCP examination offered	NOCP
May 2026	Two PCP examinations offered	One using the NOCP, one using the CPCF
July 2026	Two PCP examinations offered	One using the NOCP, one using the CPCF
September 2026	Two PCP examinations offered	One using the NOCP, one using the CPCF
November 2026	One PCP examination offered	CPCF

Timeline	# of Administrations	ACP Examination Delivery
February 2027	One ACP examination offered	NOCP
May 2027	Two ACP examinations offered	One using the NOCP, one using the CPCF
June/July 2027	Two ACP examinations offered	One using the NOCP, one using the CPCF
September 2027	Two ACP examinations offered	One using the NOCP, one using the CPCF
November 2027	One ACP examination offered	CPCF

SCORE REPORTS

Beginning with the November 2024 administration, the post-administration score reports per practice designation (EMR, PCP, and ACP) per institution with six or more candidates will be shared four to six weeks after each administration.

For more information on any of these initiatives, please reach out to COPR.

Community Paramedic Endorsement review

The Saskatchewan College of Paramedics first developed the Community Paramedic endorsement in 2019. It was recognized at the time that paramedics were being pulled into more diverse roles to meet the demands of the health care system at the time. Since then, the issues of wait times in emergency departments (ED), increased call volumes of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), decreased recruitment and retention rates of health care professionals, and limited access to health care services in rural and remote areas, have steadily increased. Keeping patients close to home or in their community is just as, if not more, important today than it was five years ago.

The Saskatchewan College of Paramedics (SCoP) fully supports the role that community paramedicine has in supporting solutions to manage these challenges. The CP program is an ever-evolving model of collaborative community-based health care.

A comprehensive review of the needs of the community paramedic has been completed. **This includes a revised competency profile and medications chart.** These are now available on our website at <https://collegeofparamedics.sk.ca/community-paramedic-endorsement/>

2024 – 2026 Council vacancy filled



David Kopperud, ACP

David Kopperud was appointed to Council in November of 2024 to fill a vacated two-year term.

David currently works as a Deputy Superintendent for Medavie Health Services West in Saskatoon.

His EMS career began back in 2014 in Spiritwood as a Primary Care Paramedic. Shortly after being hired by M.D. Ambulance, David went to Advanced Care Paramedic school at Saskatchewan Polytechnic in Saskatoon. Graduating from the ACP program in the spring of 2019, David has since pursued leadership opportunities and is passionate for inspiring change within the profession.

David has taken part in many additional training and educational opportunities such as the Saskatoon Lighthouse pilot project, the "Emergency Response" paramedic TV show, as well as the one-year Harvard leadership program offered to leaders within Medavie.

With a keen focus on continuous learning, David is passionate about the evolution and improvement of the paramedic industry. In the fall of 2023, David was selected to partake in an international recruitment mission to Australia where the team successfully

recruited roughly 25 paramedics to join Medavie services across the province.

One of David's most notable passions is the improvement for mental health support across our industry. David has been to numerous mental health conferences and is one of the leaders in the Peer Support team in Saskatoon. David has also worked with Saskatchewan Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM SK) and has led multiple

debriefings for first responders after mass casualty calls/events.

David is currently 1 of 4 full time supervisors in Saskatoon, overseeing roughly 30 paramedics each shift. While still serving the public and attending high acuity calls, David's focus is on leadership and supporting the paramedics he works alongside.

Professional Conduct 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.

So far in 2025, the Professional Conduct Committee has received 11 new complaints.

Of these, at least 3 relate to professional incompetence and the balance relates to professional misconduct.

PCP Restriction changes

The College wishes to advise that Council has approved a revision to the restricted requirement for PCP members awaiting examination results. These changes went into effect on January 9, 2025.

Previously, restricted licence members awaiting examination results were allowed to work within their scope of practice while under direct supervision by an unrestricted licence holder.

PCP members with an exam restriction will continue to be allowed to practice to the full scope of an unrestricted PCP member during direct supervision. The revised policy now allows for patient care under indirect supervision, with **certain activities prohibited**. The motion passed is as follows.

“Revise the restriction to allow a restricted member to work under indirect supervision while performing low risk activities.”

Restricted members would be required to perform specific skills (high risk) under direct supervision and could work under indirect supervision during other patient care activities.

This restriction would apply to Primary Care Paramedics (PCPs) only. There is no change to the EMR restriction requiring direct supervision at all times during patient care. Advanced Care Paramedics (ACPs) can already work as a PCP when not directly supervised and can perform their ACP skills when directly supervised.

The following is a list of the prohibited activities and medications **that require direct supervision in all situations**:

- Intravenous initiation
- Manual defibrillation
- Supraglottic airways insertion
- Nasopharyngeal airways insertion
- Urinary catheter insertion
- Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP)
- Prohibited Medications:
 - Nebulized and IV administered medications (does not include those being monitored during an IFT)
 - Epinephrine, epi-pen administration is permitted.

An inclusion to the motion was passed regarding direct supervision requirements.

“that all reasonable efforts should be made to have a minimum of 2 years’ of fully licensed experience in order to supervise.”

This is to ensure that adequate means of monitoring have been established to ensure patient safety, as well as to provide adequate mentorship for restricted PCP members.

For more information on this change including FAQ, please visit <https://collegeofparamedics.sk.ca/featured/changes-to-pcp-exam-restrictions/>

Improved Restrictions tracking for members and employers

Improvements have been made to how Restrictions are displayed for both members and employers. This affects the Member List, Member Accounts, and Licence Certificates & Wallet Cards.

Restrictions are now listed in full on the Member List and in Member Accounts, along with their due dates.

SCoP licence certificates and wallet cards, available in Member Accounts, also now list whether a licence is Practicing or Non-Practicing, any Endorsements, and whether or not Restrictions exist.

College staff have also been reaching out to members with expired Restrictions to ensure that these are met in a timely manner.

All members are reminded to have their Restrictions extended before they are due if the conditions cannot be met. Restrictions are extended by filling out the Licence Restriction Extension form in your Member Account **before** the expiry date.



Photo submitted by Noël Dunn, ACP

Members with expired Restrictions will have their licences changed to Non-Practicing, and members cannot work or volunteer with a Non-Practicing licence.

Restrictions last six months and can be extended once only, for a total of 12 months. There is a \$100 fee to extend a Restriction.

Restrictions taken at Licence Renewal due to missing mandatory certificates, skills, or continuing education do not affect how a member works or their supervisory needs but are still important to clear up as soon as possible.

SCoP offers several types of restrictions. For more information including how to remove each type of restriction, visit <https://collegeofparamedics.sk.ca/licensing/non-practicing-and-restricted-licences/>

2025 AGM – call for Resolutions

Get ready for the 2025 Annual General Meeting!

This is our annual call for resolutions to be discussed at the 2025 AGM.

Members should use resolutions to raise issues for consideration by Council. Council may take the action, may request other agencies to take a particular action, enter into discussion about a particular issue with another agency, or may not take any action.

Resolutions can relate to any area of practice, education, administration, research, role of the College, or role of paramedics within healthcare. The subject of a resolution must be within the scope of the legislated authority of the College, and align with the vision, mission and strategic priorities of the College.

Issues addressed as resolutions should be those that warrant discussion by the general membership. Otherwise, the issue may be submitted to the Executive Director or the President at any time throughout the year.

Resolutions must follow the Resolution Template available on the College website.

Deadline for resolutions: Tuesday, April 8

The SCoP AGM will be held on Tuesday, May 6. This event will be virtual. More details to follow! Registration will open April 8.

2025 Council election

The election for SCoP Council is held online each year when needed, and an election will be held in 2025. Three people have put their names forward for two Member-at-Large positions on Council.

Voting this year will open on March 30 at noon. Ballots will be emailed to all members. Voting will end on April 29.

Biographies of the candidates who have put their names forward for election will be published on the SCoP website in the coming weeks, and in the next issue of The Pulse.

Continuing Education approvals

As a reminder, applications for continuing education credits (CE) must be submitted no later than September 30. Applications received after September 20 (during the renewal period) will be held until after December 2. Renewal applications awaiting credit approval may be subject to late fees.

Applications for CE credits should be submitted a minimum of 3 weeks before the start of a course (whether an online or in-person course/conference) start date. However, applications can be accepted post-course completion in some situations. Credits cannot be claimed until approval is received.

Only SCoP approved courses/conferences can be claimed for CE credit. Course title, credits awarded, area of competency, and approval number should be present on the certificate of completion. Course approvals are good for 5 years.

Emergency Medical Responders and Paramedics cannot claim the same course for credits in two (2) consecutive years. Credits must be claimed in the year the course is completed. Credits do not carry over to the following year.

Photo submissions for SCoP publications

Have some great photos that highlight this profession? Let us publish them in our Annual Report! Please send your photos to collette.parks@collegeofparamedics.sk.ca before April to be considered in the 2024 Annual Report, and any time for future newsletters. Photos must be of high quality, and permission to publish them must be granted by all individuals appearing in the photos.

What would you like to read about?

We would like to hear from you! Please tell us about any topics that you'd like to read about in future issues of *The Pulse*. Topics can be broad in scope (ex. I would like to read more success stories) or specific (ex. My workplace has a great initiative happening).

Send your ideas to collette.parks@collegeofparamedics.sk.ca