



Manitoba Paramedics... Responding for Life

March 27, 2006

Mr. Ron Schuler
500 - 167 Lombard Ave.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 0V3

Dear Mr. Schuler:

Thank you for your correspondence dated March 27, 2006 in which you outline your policy regarding the delivery of Emergency Medical Services in Manitoba. The Paramedic Association of Manitoba is very pleased to see that you consider this issue important enough to bring to the forefront of your Progressive Conservative leadership campaign. As a professional Association we have consistently communicated the need to improve service delivery, paramedic training and funding for Manitoba's EMS system.

In order to ensure Manitobans receive appropriate and timely emergency medical care when they most need it, it's imperative that we find alternatives to the barriers created by regional boundaries. The use of GPS and vehicle locator equipment that is to be employed by the proposed Medical Transportation Coordination Centre will undoubtedly help to reduce response times throughout rural Manitoba. To broaden that concept and coordinate the utilization of both rural and urban EMS resources would most certainly have the potential to further improve paramedic response.

Your suggestion that additional provincial funding for Emergency Medical Services is required to ensure future sustainability of our system is also very accurate. Our estimates suggest that Manitoba spends approximately \$12 per capita on EMS, which falls well below the \$30 - \$40 provincial average across the country.

The concept of developing a more centralized management system for Manitoba's emergency medical services is also worth very serious consideration in our view. Currently each of the eleven Regional Health Authorities has its own distinct philosophies regarding service delivery and standards for emergency medical services. To adopt a system that ensured Manitobans received seamless and consistent service province-wide would be extremely beneficial.

Thank you for making the improvement of Manitoba's Emergency Medical Services system a priority in your campaign and for your party.

Sincerely,

Eric Glass
Chairman
Paramedic Association of Manitoba