



MEDIA RELEASE

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Manitoba Paramedics Mourn Fallen B.C. Colleagues

2006/05/17 – Paramedics across Manitoba are mourning the death of two British Columbia colleagues killed earlier today. Although details are sketchy, the Paramedic Association of Manitoba has learned that two B.C. paramedics were killed early this morning after responding to an emergency call at an abandoned mine located near the community of Kimberley in southeastern British Columbia.

“These very tragic line of duty deaths will send shock waves throughout the paramedic community”, says Eric Glass, Chairman of the Paramedic Association of Manitoba. “Although we deal with life and death situations everyday, the death of a colleague is always extremely difficult. Our most sincere condolences go out to the families and friends of these two paramedics, the emergency services personnel who were witness to this tragedy, and everyone else in the B.C. Ambulance Service.

May 14 – 20, 2006 is Emergency Medical Services Awareness Week. Residents from coast to coast have been encouraged to recognize the professional commitment and sacrifice made by EMS personnel each and every day in communities across the country. “It’s unfortunate that all too often it takes a tragedy such as what’s occurred in B.C. today to put that into perspective”, adds Glass.

The last accident that resulted in paramedic line of duty deaths in Manitoba occurred in July 1995 when two EMS providers were killed while responding to an emergency in Beausejour.

The Paramedic Association of Manitoba will ask paramedics across the province to wear black ribbons on their uniforms in memory of their fallen B.C. colleagues.

The Paramedic Association of Manitoba is the professional association for registered paramedics licensed to practice in Manitoba, promoting excellence in pre-hospital emergency medical care.

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