



Paramedic Association of Manitoba

MEDIA RELEASE

Paramedics Applaud Conservative Strategy to Strengthen EMS

McFadyen's plan to strengthen emergency medical services consistent with paramedic recommendations.

For Immediate Release

2007/05/15 – The Paramedic Association of Manitoba says today's announcement by Conservative leader Hugh McFadyen is welcome news and is consistent with many of their recommendations to improve pre-hospital emergency health care services.

Included in the Conservative health care strategy (Time To Deal With ER Crisis: McFadyen) is a promise to strengthen Manitoba's emergency medical services system. According to McFadyen, a Conservative government would:

- Expand scopes of practice for paramedics;
- Implement protocols for paramedics to treat without transport when appropriate;
- Address ambulance offload delays;
- Implement self-regulatory legislation for paramedics.

The Paramedic Association of Manitoba released a White Paper entitled *Emergency Medical Services – Manitoba's Quiet Crisis* late last week. In it they outlined the need to better integrate paramedics into the health system in efforts to improve pre-hospital emergency care and reduce the burden on the provinces emergency rooms.

"At first glance it appears that Mr. McFadyen's Conservatives recognize that paramedics may well be a part of a solution to improve health care," said Eric Glass, Association Chairman. "The measures he outlined today are very consistent with the messaging we've been delivering to policy makers for a long time now. Paramedics are health care professionals, and strengthening the front lines of our health care system has the potential to improve patient outcomes and alleviate some of the stress on our emergency rooms and intensive care units."

Emergency Medical Services – Manitoba's Quiet Crisis is available for viewing online at www.paramedicsofmanitoba.ca

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

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