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Manitoba Paramedics Stress Importance of Emergency Medical Services to Health Care

2002/04/19 - The Paramedic Association of Manitoba has called on Health Minister Dave Chomiak to ensure appropriate funding for emergency medical services is a priority when outlining health care expenditures in the upcoming provincial budget.

In recognizing the need to ensure that additional health care funding is allocated appropriately, the Paramedic Association of Manitoba outlined potential benefits that a strong EMS system offers to health care.

In a recent letter to the Minister, they suggest “well-trained paramedics practicing within a strong emergency medical services system have the potential to provide advanced medical treatments and save significant money and resources in our hospital emergency rooms. A health care system in Manitoba that is in dire need of finding ways to reduce its dependency on limited financial and facility resources needs to ensure it has a strong EMS system”.

Eric Glass, Chairman of the Paramedic Association of Manitoba, states that funding for emergency medical services in Manitoba still falls well below that of any other jurisdiction in Canada. He goes on to say that the current level of pre-hospital care in this province varies significantly not only from region to region, but often community to community. As a result, some paramedics are starting to look elsewhere in Canada for opportunities to practice in more proactive EMS environments.

The Paramedic Association of Manitoba represents the professional interests of Emergency Medical Services practitioners throughout the province to ensure the well-being and appropriate medical treatment of patients.

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