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## MEDIA RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Manitoba Paramedics Mourn Fallen Ontario Colleague**

**2007/02/27** – Paramedics across Manitoba were saddened to learn of the death of an Ontario paramedic killed earlier this week near Blenheim, southeast of Chatham, Ontario. Thirty-year-old Paul Patterson, a paramedic with Sun Parlour Emergency Services, was killed in the line of duty Sunday in a single vehicle rollover as he responded to another motor vehicle accident in the area. It appears Patterson lost control of the EMS vehicle he was driving on icy roads, and was ejected when it rolled off the highway into the ditch. He was taken to hospital in Chatham where he later died of his injuries.

“A tragedy like this sends 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 another paramedic killed in the line of duty is always extremely difficult. Our most sincere condolences go out to Mr. Patterson’s family and friends, the emergency services personnel who were witness to this tragedy, and his fellow paramedics in the Chatham-Kent area.

Patterson is the fifth Canadian paramedic to die in the line of duty in the past 10 months. Andrew Eykelenboom and Glen Arnold, both field medics with the Canadian Forces, died in separate incidents in Afghanistan last year. And on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006 paramedics Kim Weitzel and Shawn Currier were killed while responding to an emergency call at a decommissioned mine site just outside Kimberley, B.C. 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.

A line of duty death funeral for Paul Patterson will be held on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> in Strathroy, Ontario. The Paramedic Association of Manitoba will be sending representation to the service, and it’s expected other paramedics from Manitoba will be in attendance as well.

Paramedics across the province are encouraged to wear black ribbons on their uniforms in memory of their fallen Ontario colleague.

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.

- 30 -