

April 20, 2015

To: Licensed Nova Scotia Paramedics

Fr: EHS

Re: Regulatory Advisory Note

Dear respected colleagues,

To begin, on behalf of EHS and the Department of Health and Wellness, we would like to thank you for your expertise, time, energy, passion, and excellent care that you have provided to patients within Nova Scotia.

We wanted to take a moment to introduce two items.

[1] In the months to follow we will be issuing a 'EHS Paramedic Regulatory Newsletter' which will provide an update on various items relevant to paramedic practice including items such as: [1] online registration and re-registration practices; [2] current paramedic cohort profile and [3] reviews of the variety of scopes and roles of paramedics in Nova Scotia.

[2] Some of you may remember that in 2005, the province passed legislation that would create a College of Paramedics – ensuring that paramedics would have a strong voice in how your profession is regulated.

- That legislation has never been proclaimed. The provincial government sees this as a priority, and would like to move forward in the coming months.
- The Department of Health and Wellness has asked members of the College of Paramedics Advisory Committee (COPAC) to review and provide their opinion on the existing Paramedics Act, and some amendments the Department feels are required before the legislation comes into force.
- Consulting with paramedics first is key. The province has not determined when it will introduce amendments and proclaim the Act yet. First, it wants to ensure it has heard the views of paramedics, as represented by COPAC.
- Once it has done that, the province will introduce amendments and determine an effective date for the College.
- We intend to modernize the Paramedics Act to ensure it's in line with current legislation for self-regulated health professions. Paramedics will still be a self-regulated profession and all the key aspects of the legislation would stay the same.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact us anytime through the EHS office at healthehs@novascotia.ca. Please free to contact members of COPAC regarding progress of the Act and College of Paramedics.

The current COPAC members are: Colleen Carey, Derek LeBlanc, JJ MacIsaac, Lawrence Briand, Darrell Bardua, Bruce Sangster, Donna Warren, Maureen Leslie and Karl Kowalczyk.

With best regards,



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