

February 16, 2021

Paramedic Association of Canada  
c/o Dave Deines, President  
201 - 4 Florence St.  
Ottawa, ON K2P 0W7

*Sent via email:*

Mr. Deines and respected members of the Board,

The Alberta College of Paramedics (College) has acted as the Alberta Chapter for the Paramedic Association of Canada (PAC) for many years as willing partners and participants, with the intention of helping further the interests of the paramedic profession at the national level. While our relationship has faced its challenges, we have always found a way past them and value the work done at the national level on behalf of the paramedic profession.

Alberta's regulated members, who are mandatory members of PAC<sup>1</sup>, have enjoyed the benefit of the national group rate for liability insurance for several years and have expressed a value for the relationship between the College and PAC.

As we informed you on January 27, the Government of Alberta recently passed a Bill (*Bill 46 Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2020*) that fundamentally changes the *Health Professions Act*, which governs the work of all regulatory healthcare colleges in Alberta. Among other significant changes, the Bill specifically prohibits a College from acting as, or holding itself out as, a professional association. To ensure our understanding of this was as complete as possible, the College did engage a regulatory law expert who confirmed that due to the legislative changes, the College is no longer legally permitted to act as the Alberta Chapter for PAC.

This letter serves as official notice that the Alberta College of Paramedics is hereby withdrawing as PAC's Alberta Chapter. On behalf of the governing Council of the College, I assure you we are committed to taking all measured steps appropriate to ensure a smooth transition out of our official capacity with PAC. Our immediate key concern is to ensure that Alberta practitioners continue to have access to preferred rates for personal professional liability insurance. As the College we recognize we are in a sensitive position, as by legislation all practitioners are required to hold active liability insurance to remain eligible to practice; however, we cannot force a regulated member into an association to access said liability insurance.

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<sup>1</sup> Per Paramedic Association of Canada's Bylaws

We regret that despite our best efforts, discussions between our College, PAC executives and Marsh Insurance have not resulted in a solution that would allow Alberta's regulated members to access the PAC liability insurance plan through Marsh Insurance. The lack of a solution forced our College to take steps to avoid putting our regulated members at risk of liability insurance gaps or in the difficult position of having to source other options.

Working with a different broker, the College has been successful in securing the same policy coverage and rate for our regulated members. This will ensure our regulated members are able to avoid interruption of coverage, as upon the expiry of their policy with PAC/Marsh, Alberta's regulated members will be able to transition to the new policy under the agreement made with our new broker if they so choose.

While we regret any impact this may have on PAC or its remaining members on the Marsh Insurance agreement, we trust you will understand this step was absolutely necessary to ensure appropriate coverage remains accessible for our regulated members to enable them to meet their legislative requirements.

We continue to appreciate the efforts made at the national level on behalf of the entire profession and while our affiliation efforts may no longer be possible, we look forward to working with all of our national partners on how we can move forward and continue to collaborate, while focusing on our primary mandate to work in the public interest.

Sincerely,



Melissa Manion

President

Cc:

Tim Stairs - Secretary Treasurer  
Phil Comeau- Chairperson of the Board  
Troy Clifford, Ambulance Paramedics of British Columbia  
Andrew Williamson, Paramedic Services Chiefs of Saskatchewan  
Brent Bekiaris, Paramedic Association of Manitoba  
Darryl Wilton, Ontario Paramedic Association  
Joey Ouellet, Corporation Des Paramédics Du Quebec

Phil Comeau, Paramedic Association of New Brunswick / L'association des paramédics du Nouveau-Brunswick (Chair of Board)  
Ryan O'Meara, Paramedic Association of PEI  
Rodney Gaudet, Paramedic Association of NFLD and Labrador  
MCpl Jamie Knox, Department of National Defence and Canadian Forces