
INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Ministry of Health Services

BC AMBULANCE URGES PATIENCE AS SERVICE LEVELS RESTORED

VANCOUVER – The BC Ambulance (BCAS) has called for the public's patience as service levels are restored following a court ruling yesterday directing CUPE 873 and its members to return to normal staffing patterns.

BCAS sought the court's assistance following unprecedented staffing challenges this weekend after the union directed its members not to abide by the Essential Services Order.

Last night, Madam Justice Humphries of the B.C. Supreme Court issued the following direction:

- The union shall rescind its direction to its members that they only work their regularly scheduled shifts at their primary operators and an order that the Union's rescission be communicated to the public by way of a news release, and to its members by distributing that rescission through the Union's internal communications system, posting a copy of the rescission on the Union's bulletin board in each ambulance station throughout the Province and posting a copy of the rescission on the front page of the Union's website;
- The Union shall direct and instruct every Union member to obey the Order and resume their normal and historical availability for shifts by distributing that direction through the Union's internal communications system, posting a copy of the direction on the Union's bulletin board in each ambulance station throughout the Province and posting a copy of the direction on the front page of the Union's website;
- The members of the Union are hereby directed to obey the Order and to resume their normal and historical availability for shifts.

As paramedics return to work and assume regular staffing patterns, patients with non-acute conditions may wish to consider an alternative to calling for an ambulance such as the following:

- Call HealthLinkBC at 8-1-1 to speak with a nurse, dietician or pharmacist;
- Go to a local walk-in health care clinic;
- Visit your general practitioner; or
- Make your own way to the hospital emergency department - arriving in an ambulance does not mean patients will be seen more quickly.

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Media BC Ambulance Service
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