

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **CAMPBELL GOVERNMENT PLANS CUTS TO B.C. AMBULANCE SERVICE**

**VICTORIA** – Despite rising demand for emergency services across the province, the Campbell Government is planning to make cuts to the B.C. Ambulance Service which is facing a \$10 million budget shortfall, NDP Health Critic Adrian Dix said today.

“We’ve already seen the dramatic impact of cuts and service reduction in rural areas, but now the whole province is facing cuts,” said Dix. “B.C.’s population is growing and the demand on the B.C. Ambulance Service is also increasing. However, this government has chosen to put patients and emergency services at risk by cutting services.”

Dix learned about the \$10 million budget shortfall after representatives of the paramedics union met with BCAS CEO Fred Plateel and Executive Officer Lee Doney. The union representatives were told not to expect significant budget increases despite the looming shortfall, increased demand and higher population. The result will be cuts to services, including the transfer of some ambulance services to the B.C. Nurseline.

“British Columbians were promised health care when and where they need it,” said Dix. “But under Gordon Campbell, rural communities have faced ambulance station closures and service reductions. The looming budget shortfall shows that B.C. does not have a plan to get more paramedics and actually meet service demands in those rural communities. Equally concerning is that these cuts will start to impact other communities in growing regions like the Lower Mainland.

“The Premier and Minister of Health, George Abbott, must step in now and ensure the B.C. Ambulance Service has the resources it needs to meet the emergency needs of British Columbians,” said Dix. “Anything else will put patients at risk.”

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