

For Immediate Release
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UBCM MOTION SUPPORTS NEW DEMOCRAT CALL FOR EQUAL AMBULANCE SERVICE

VICTORIA – A motion passed by overwhelming majority at the Union of BC Municipalities convention today in Victoria supports New Democrat questions surrounding rural and remote ambulance attendant pay and service levels Health Critic Adrian Dix said today.

“While the Campbell government and Health Minister George Abbot continue to dismiss the serious concerns raised, municipalities have sent a message that this is reality,” said Dix. “This is a case of the government clearly fearing reality.”

Members of the UBCM passed a resolution stating that there should be no distinction in the pay category of standby ambulance attendants in rural and remote communities and that all areas of the province be entitled to equal service.

“The Campbell government has shown it doesn’t care about the needs of those citizens living in rural and remote areas by compromising their ability to attract and retain ambulance paramedics,” Opposition Municipal Affairs Critic Charlie Wyse said. “The situation facing rural BC on this issue is dire and should be garnering serious attention from the health minister.”

“The BC Ambulance service is committed to providing high quality services to the people of BC, yet the government isn’t sharing that commitment,” said Dix. “The facts that we are providing come directly from the BC Ambulance service and BC Stats, and to dismiss those as the health minister has done is to ignore the government’s own findings.”

“It was over a year ago when I began calling attention to this issue in the Cariboo region,” Wyse concluded. “Now the public is calling for change – municipalities are calling for change – and it is only the Campbell government that continues to drag its feet on this serious issue.”

- 30 -