

**For Immediate Release**  
**October 25, 2006**

**INTERIOR AMBULANCE CRISIS DEMONSTRATED BY SEPTEMBER STATISTICS**

**VICTORIA** – Thirty-one BC ambulance stations were out-of-service in the month of September in the Interior region alone. Those are the startling results of a survey conducted of ambulance stations and obtained by NDP Health critic Adrian Dix.

“These numbers dramatically illustrate the ambulance crisis facing BC communities,” said Dix. “From Grand Forks to Revelstoke, our network of ambulance stations has developed serious holes on many days. Every time communities, ambulance paramedics or the Opposition have raised the issue over the past month, the BC Liberal government has attacked the messenger and refused to deal with the evidence. However, this time, the Premier and Minister Abbott will have to address the stark consequences of their failure to act.”

Dix also released information about call volumes in stations downsized from full-time to part-time by the BC Liberal government. For example, in Sooke, call volumes increased by 104% in ten years, in Ashcroft 154%, in Merritt 76%, yet in these three communities and 14 others, vacancies have gone unfilled and positions have been downsized.

Cariboo South MLA Charlie Wyse added: “I am proud of our ambulance paramedics. However, in communities across BC, they are faced with an impossible task. That is why the Union of BC Municipalities supported our call for decisive action to deal with the crisis in communities across the Interior and Vancouver Island. This is a vital emergency service and no one gave the Premier or Minister Abbott a mandate to downgrade it.”

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