



OPSEU
SEFPO

Paramedics

make the difference

February 2, 2012

Re Emergency Medical Services delivery in Ontario municipalities

Dear

Investment in ambulances and paramedics is essential to preserving quality delivery of emergency services. Duplication of services in medical emergencies is unnecessary and costly to our municipalities.

A communication from the Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association (OPFFA) sets out their position regarding simultaneous dispatch on all life and limb medical calls. However, paramedics believe that ambulance services are capable of providing the expertise and timely response required on all medical emergencies.

Recent studies indicate that broadening the scope of tiered response agreements will only heighten the cost of emergency response to the taxpayers. These studies also show that there is **no clinical evidence** that an expanded scope of fire department tiered medical response would deliver an increase in meaningful patient procedures or improve patient outcomes. Duplicated services in medical emergencies are **unnecessary** and **costly to municipalities**.

Medical evidence supports the important role that citizens can provide in emergency response. Paramedics recognize that early citizen cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and early citizen defibrillation greatly increase survival outcomes. Ontario's paramedics have the expertise and training to provide the necessary follow-up treatment and transport of patients.

OPSEU paramedics would like to ensure that there is an efficient and cost-effective high quality tiered emergency response agreement that meets the specific needs of your community.

We request an opportunity to discuss this important matter at your earliest convenience.

Paramedics make the difference.

Sincerely,



Warren (Smokey) Thomas, President,
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