

ALBERTA PARAMEDIC ASSOCIATION

Proclamation of the Association





The Proclamation

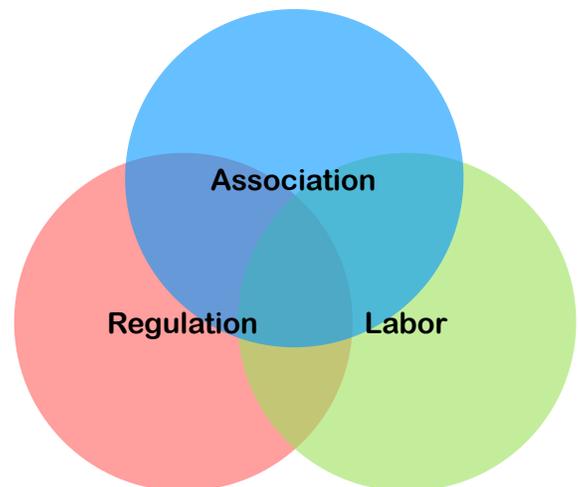
In Alberta, paramedicine has seen a tremendous advancement in both regulation and operations; while its professional practice has remained stagnate. Collectively the various arguments for stagnation leads to one common denominator, that being the absence of an association to protect and advance its professional practice. In an era when practitioners have felt they've lost control of their own practice, we the members of the Alberta Paramedic Association behold the responsibility to give that control to its professionals.

A Professional Association

A self governing profession encompasses regulation, labor and association. Though in other jurisdictions an association may act as a regulator or a bargaining agent; a standalone professional association does neither, but instead represents knowledge, skills and their health and wellness.

To be a balanced self governing profession; the Alberta Paramedic Association deems necessary, for each of the following components to be independent of each other;

- Regulation
Is the organization whose role is to serve the public interest. Within Alberta this is the Alberta College of Paramedics.
- Labor
Is the organization(s) that function to represent the operations of the profession. In Alberta this is a combination of the unions, public and private employers.
- Association
Is the organization that serves the interest of the practitioner within their professional practice. In Alberta that is the Alberta Paramedic Association.



Vision Statement

To empower Alberta's Paramedics to lead their own profession through an elected representing body known as the Alberta Paramedic Association.

Mission Statement

To enhance the knowledge, skills and health and wellness of the paramedic profession.

Core Values

In matters consistent with its purpose, the Association represents the collection of all Paramedics within Alberta as one voice. That voice must have core values which act as a guiding principal to dictate its own behaviour and action. The following are the core values of the Association.

Collaborative

Will utilize collaboration with members and various stakeholders, professionals and agencies to achieve its objectives.

Innovative

Providing solutions, supporting research, enhance knowledge and promoting evidence based practice.

Leadership

Will act as a leader for its members on matters pertaining to its professional practice.

Professional

Represent itself with the display of characteristic traits of a professional. This includes but not limited to: Appearance, demeanor, reliability and competence.

Democratic

The Association is chosen by its members to represent its members. It will also demonstrate diplomacy in all business affairs.

Integrity

The Association will always be ethical, honest and act in the best interest of the practitioners.

Pragmatic

To use a sensible and realistic approach to decisions and or solutions to problems within the profession.

Responsive

The association shall be responsive to the professional needs of its membership.

Paramedic Professional Practice

The Association is responsible to maintain and advocate for continuous enhancement of professional practice. The association has recognized professional practice within paramedicine as the following three pillars:

Knowledge

This includes but is not limited to any knowledge that a practitioner must possess to be a licensed, competent and safe practitioner. This includes the following areas;

- Entry to practice;
- Continuing education;
- Remediation;
- Professional mobility;
- Registration renewal.

Skills

This pertains too, but not limited to, any skill at which a practitioner must be proficient in order to be licensed by the Alberta College of Paramedics; any skills within the National Occupational Competency Profile and the Alberta Occupational Competency Profile. The following are areas outlined by the NOCP guidelines at which the Association shall advocate for enhancement;

- *Professional responsibilities;*
- *Communication;*
- *Health and safety;*
- *Assessment and diagnostics;*
- *Therapeutics;*
- *Integration;*
- *Transportation;*
- *Health promotion and public safety.*

Health and Wellness

Within this area the Association shall focus on the health and wellness of the practitioner. The fundamentals of this area are;

- Physical;
- Psychological;
- Lifestyle.

Mechanics of the Association

Advocating for the enhancement of professional practice shall be the primary function of the Association. The mechanism to achieve that function will be through the following;

Research

The Association shall be a focal point for Paramedic research. The Association shall encourage and support research that will improve the quality of practice, lifestyle, public engagement and the health and well being of Paramedics. Though from time to time the Association may be funded to conduct research, the primary function should be;

- An avenue for research to be maintained and accessed by members and various partners;
- A resource for members and various partners to access information;
- Act as a network of connections to various resources for our members and/or partners who are conducting research;
- A resource for various support systems that will aid the member and/or partner who is conducting the research.

Education

Education will be the mechanism at which the Association advocates, engages and educates its members. Education is also the mechanism utilized to lobby the governing bodies and the public for a higher level of professional practice. Educational strategies may include;

- Conventions;
- Workshops;
- Continuing Education;
- Online collaboration;
- Public awareness.

The Association will be a representing voice of the paramedic society in determining its own education. This includes but not limited to;

- Working with various stakeholders to develop higher educational standards and learning outcomes;
- Partnering with various industry leaders to develop educational material that is specific to the paramedic profession and achieves specific learning outcomes;
- Diversity of paramedic education;
- Preceptor and student support.

Accreditation

The Association will utilize an accreditation process as a means to certify and guarantee that the objectives of the Association are being met by stakeholders in the profession.

Examples may include;

- Educational programs;
- Employer programs;
- Operational programs;
- Quality assurance programs;
- Professional programs.

Conclusion

In Alberta, Paramedics have been given an opportunity to establish a well balanced, organized profession consisting of all three components that make up a self governing body. Through the independent components we will have a regulator for public interest, a combination of employers and unions to advance operations and an Association that will enhance our knowledge, skills and our health and wellness.