

A message from Lynda Cranston, President & CEO

Legislation Update – Emergency and Health Services Commission

March 14, 2013

I'm excited to inform you that the Emergency and Health Services Commission (EHSC) is now officially a division of PHSA. In addition, EHSC has now been renamed BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS). The changes came into effect as a result of Bill 7, the Emergency Health Services Amendment Act 2013, passing final reading in the legislature on March 14.

Previously, EHSC reported to government directly through the Ministry of Health. Now, the newly renamed BCEHS is part of the health sector under PHSA. This new alignment with PHSA brings BCEHS officially into the health sector; PHSA is a natural home for BCEHS because both organizations provide specialized services throughout the province.

BCEHS is comprised of three operating entities—BC Ambulance Service, BC Bedline, and Trauma Services BC. The reach of BCEHS is vast with 184 ambulance stations and several administrative offices spread throughout the province. Over 4,000 people work at BCEHS as paramedics, dispatchers, patient transfer call takers, managers, physicians, and in administrative support and corporate services functions.

Together, PHSA and BCEHS will continue pursuing opportunities to improve patient care and improve efficiencies. Some examples of how PHSA's existing infrastructure and expertise has benefitted BCEHS to date include:

- new systems and processes to improve patient care quality and safety;
- development of updated payroll and scheduling systems; and
- continued capital investment to upgrade ambulance stations and facilities throughout the province.

Although PHSA and BCEHS have already formed close partnerships and a strong relationship over the past few years, this is a significant milestone at PHSA and an exciting time for all of us.

Together with BCEHS, we will fulfill our shared vision of providing the best possible care for patients throughout the province. Please take the opportunity to welcome our BCEHS colleagues into the PHSA family.