



Manitoba
Association of
Health
Care
Professionals

The incident involving Paramedics from Swan River rolling their ambulance into the ditch is only a symptom of a much larger problem facing Paramedics and Emergency Services in Manitoba.

Paramedic fatigue, reliance on a large casual workforce, and reduction in services to several communities are causing difficulties for Paramedics to deliver their services.

The Manitoba Association of Health Care Professionals (MAHCP) believes there are better solutions and as such has arranged to meet with representatives of Manitoba Health the week of September 3 to discuss issues affecting Manitoba Paramedics.

The MAHCP has effectively worked with the Employers where they represent Paramedics to develop positive solutions to these problems.

South Eastman Health was faced with a situation not dissimilar to the Prairie Mountain Regional Health Authority, where the majority of their staffing was done through casual employees.

This meant that often service delivery was tenuous and the Employer scrambled to fill shifts. It also meant that full and part time employees were over worked as they were shifted beyond their physical capacity. Long hours and extended shift schedules contributed to full and part-time employees becoming overworked.

When the MAHCP presented a scheduling model and worked with the Employer to refine the model the end result is today **in South Eastman and Nor-Man, the majority of Paramedics are full or part time employees.** This has resulted in better and a more reliable service. This has also ensured a more stable workforce less affected by fatigue and long hours of work.

Although certainly not the only answer to the issue of Paramedic fatigue and the delivery of a quality emergency service, **the MAHCP believes that creating a more permanent stable workforce can alleviate many of the problems being faced by Emergency Medical Services in rural Manitoba.**