



March 15, 2016

TO: All CUPE Paramedic locals

FROM: CACO

RE: APRIL 2016 CUPE ONTARIO — CACO PARAMEDIC LOBBY DAY AT QUEEN'S PARK

The CUPE Ontario — CACO 2016 MPP paramedic lobby day at Queen's Park is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13. We encourage participation from across the province. We're optimistic that your local will be sending representatives/paramedics and joining us for the lobby that includes meetings with MPPs and an MPP-paramedics' breakfast on April 13. There is also a special training session happening at the Sheraton Hotel downtown Toronto on the evening of April 12 from 19:00 (7 p.m.) to 22:00 (10 p.m.).

Please confirm on the attached registration form who is attending the lobby day and training from your local and whether overnight hotel accommodation is required.

Lobbying MPPs and government for changes we want works.

Those of you who took part in the MPP lobby last year will remember that the training held the evening before the lobby day provided us all with background information, facts, data and ways of talking and presenting our perspectives to MPPs on several key issues including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Our lobby in 2015, supported years of work by Ontario MPP Cheri DiNovo to change legislation making PTSD an on-the-job injury under the Workplace Safety Insurance Act. Earlier in February 2016 we joined other first responders for the Minister of Labour's announcement that his government was introducing a new PTSD "presumptive" amendment to the Act that would include paramedics, paramedic services communication officers as well as other first responders. Lobbying and considerable public awareness campaigns by many first responders' groups, including CUPE created the conditions for this significant change.

This year (2016) the CACO MPP lobby is focused on two pressing issues affecting the paramedic profession:

- **the possible introduction by the Ontario government of a regulatory college for paramedics and;**
- **the dilution of paramedic training that would permit firefighters to qualify as paramedics.**

As you may know recently there have been several media stories focused on a paramedic regulatory college and public transparency for paramedic disciplinary hearings. We are extremely concerned that some in our profession are quoted in the media seemingly promoting a new regulatory college regime, which is being incorrectly portrayed as a form of self-regulation for paramedics. The suggestion they are making is that a paramedic regulatory college would replace the current provincial oversight system for our profession.

Based on our recent meetings and conversations with government, we believe that rather than a regulatory college providing self-regulation, it would be structured as another, and separate layer of regulation. That's in addition to the existing paramedic regulatory oversight of the ministry of health, base hospital and the respective paramedic services employers.

It is important to have clarity on this issue before we take part in the April 13 MPP lobby meetings. Part of the lobby training will review CACOs continuing concerns with a college structure.

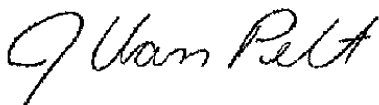
Our profession has evolved considerably over several decades of increased qualifications and educational requirements. We are confident in saying to those who are promoting this regulatory regime that a college will do nothing to further paramedics' professional standing and qualifications.

We are equally confident that a proposal by the province's firefighters to dilute paramedic training in order to increase the use of less skilled paramedic personnel in medical emergencies is not in the best interest of the public safety.

A segment of our April 13 lobby meetings will focus on providing MPPs with the rationale of why the public will best be served keeping emergency medical response delivered solely by highly trained paramedics. We will also stress that provincial funding investment in paramedic services (not fire) is needed to improve patient outcomes and ambulance response times.

Please contact us if you have any questions about registering for the lobby day. Hope to see many of you and your local members at the April 13 MPP breakfast, lobby meetings and lobby training the day before (April 12).

In solidarity,



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