

January 22, 2015



Dear sisters and brothers,

As front-line Ambulance Communication Officers (ACOs) and Paramedics, we know from our many emergency medical calls how our professional training, expertise and experience have saved many lives in our communities.

The people that we serve in our community expect their paramedics to have the full professional medical training, qualifications and experience to help residents when they have health-related emergencies. Their lives depend on the expertise and experience of fully-trained, qualified and actively practicing paramedics.

And so it is with interest that we notice yet again from our fellow emergency response workers, the firefighters' latest attempt to qualify themselves as paramedics when they are clearly not the actively practicing paramedics who can provide the comprehensive medical services that our members specialize in every day on every call.

This is not their first attempt to reclassify themselves as firefighters providing limited paramedic services, and it probably will not be their last. However, as our members know, all health-related emergency calls require true dedicated paramedics with comprehensive skills and qualifications to help people in emergency medical distress.

As your union, CUPE will not only represent our members with full vigor, we will also work hard to ensure that the public continues to have full access to quality emergency medical services provided by fully-trained, highly-skilled and practicing paramedics.

When people call 911 seeking emergency medical services, they expect true paramedics by their side, tending to their needs and using all our training, high skill set and experience to assist them during emergency situations.

As your union, CUPE and CACO (CUPE Ambulance Committee of Ontario) will be there to ensure that this high demand quality public service will continue to be delivered by trained, experienced and actively practicing dedicated paramedics.

We will continue to focus on our job to save lives in our community by delivering professional paramedic services, and ensure the public receives the best quality emergency medical care from **true paramedics**.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Day". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Chris Day
(A) Chair of CACO
CUPE