

HEALTH CARE

The Engine for Healthy and Resilient Communities



Create a Paramedic Regulatory College in Ontario

Establishing a **Paramedic Regulatory College** is the top priority for the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) under our strategic priority of health care. The EOWC encourages the Ontario Government and the Minister of Health, the Honourable Sylvia Jones, to advance this reform in collaboration with municipal partners, paramedic leaders, and health system professionals.

Ontario is now an outlier among Canadian jurisdictions, with most provinces having established paramedic regulatory colleges. Establishing a college would **strengthen public protection, modernize professional oversight, and better position paramedics to support health system priorities**, delivering tangible benefits for communities and patients.

As **paramedics increasingly deliver care** in community, primary care, long-term care, public health, and non-911 settings, the absence of a unified, self-regulatory framework has resulted in inconsistent standards, duplicative oversight, and limited transparency for patients and the public.

For the EOWC's 103 municipalities, many of which are rural and underserviced, paramedics are a critical component of the local health care system. A modern, consistent **regulatory framework is needed to ensure communities receive high-quality, timely care while supporting workforce sustainability and system efficiency.**

Together, **let us take the next step to support paramedics taking health care to the next level** and establish a regulated paramedic college.

Recommendation

As provincial partners, the EOWC requests the Ontario Government, led by the Minister of Health, to announce intent to include paramedics under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*. This would start the process of establishing a regulated paramedic college in Ontario.

If announced, the EOWC would look to be part of the consultation process to inform provincial decisions affecting eastern Ontario municipalities, services and patients.

Why a Regulated Paramedic College? Key Evidence:

- **National standards alignment for a mobile workforce:** Provinces such as Alberta, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island regulate paramedics through professional colleges, supporting consistent standards and labour mobility. A regulatory college would remove inconsistencies across provinces and ensure licensure is recognized, aligning with Ontario's goal of removing interprovincial barriers for health care professionals. For example, barriers exist for licensing Canadian Armed Forces medics in Ontario due to the outdated *Ambulance Act, 1990*.
- **Government cost and liability savings:** Municipalities as paramedic employers have the potential to save money through reduced malpractice and liability insurance requirements, changes to how education and continuing education are funded, and increased individual professional accountability for continuing education. Municipal employers currently bear significant liability; a college model would shift professional responsibility to individual paramedics, similar to nurses and other health care professionals.
- **Public protection:** Unlike other regulated health professions, paramedics do not have a single, transparent complaints, discipline, and quality assurance framework that is publicly accountable.

- **Expanded scope of practice:** A regulatory college would allow for expanded paramedic scope in community-based care, further reducing avoidable emergency department visits and better supporting care at home for seniors, long-term care, and underserved populations.
- **Fragmented oversight:** Current regulation is divided among multiple entities, resulting in inconsistent certification, continuing education requirements, and professional accountability mechanisms.
- **Red-Tape reduction:** Current oversight is divided between ministry staff, base hospitals, certifiers, and employers which is a duplicative and inefficient model.
- **Rural and regional impact:** Across the EOWC's 103 municipalities, where healthcare access challenges are often more pronounced, paramedics are often the most accessible healthcare providers, particularly in rural, remote, and underserviced communities. A modern regulatory framework would strengthen the ability of paramedics to support local health systems and community well-being.

Background

Paramedics in Ontario are not regulated under the *[Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991](#)* (RHPA) and instead are certified through a fragmented model involving employers, base hospitals, and the Ministry of Health under the *[Ambulance Act, 1990](#)*. This model no longer serves the contemporary scope of paramedic practice or Ontario's broader health system transformation.

Currently, paramedics in Ontario are required to work for a licensed paramedic service. Certification and ongoing competence are overseen through a combination of employer policies, base hospital medical direction, and ministry oversight.

Over the past decade, paramedicine has evolved significantly. Paramedics now support primary care teams, deliver community paramedicine programs, contribute to public health initiatives, and provide care in settings far beyond traditional emergency response, including industrial settings.

The EOWC municipalities operate 12 paramedic services across the region, supporting 1.1 million people. There are approximately 11,400 people actively enrolled in community paramedicine.

The EOWC has partnered with the [Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs](#) who has formally recommended the creation of a Paramedic Regulatory College. This position is consistent with national best practices and aligns with Ontario's objectives to modernize healthcare delivery, improve access to care, and reduce system pressures.

EOWC Resources

The EOWC remains a reliable, trusted partner. The EOWC encourages government and health care partners to learn more about the EOWC's paramedic services policy papers and data.

- [EOWC – Paramedic Services Situational Overview, May 2023](#)

