



Paramedic Services Section 21 Committee Meeting Minutes

@ 675 Cochrane Drive, Toronto

Date: May 27 & 28, 2026

Time: 1:00pm – 4:30pm & 9:00am – 12:00pm

Attendance:

(Members)

Ian Nash (co-chair)
Colin Heise (co-chair)
Marc Goudie
Dave Doran
Harri Hamalainen
Mike Nunn
Shane Muir
Stephen Adlington

CUPE

Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs

Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs

OPSEU

Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs

Unifor

Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs

SEIU

(Observers)

Nancy Bradshaw
Natasha D'Angelo
Don Pierce
Patricia Clausen

Strategy Advisor, Prevention Division, MLITSD

Workers Health and Safety Centre (WHSC)

Senior Field Manager, Ministry of Health

Senior Director Health, Safety & Wellbeing (PSHSA)

(Facilitator)

Julie Jeurond

Provincial Specialist, MLITSD

(Guest)

Dr. Joel Moody
Kirsten Cutler

Chief Prevention Officer, MLITSD

Assistant Deputy Minister, Prevention

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

The Paramedic Section 21 meeting was held at 675 Cochrane Drive, Toronto. The meeting is co-chaired by I. Nash and Colin Heise.

2.0 November 2025 Minutes and Action Items

The minutes from the march 2026 meeting were prepared and distributed to the members for comment then provided to the co-chairs for approval. The minutes were finalized, approved and provided to PSHSA and WHSC for posting to their websites.

3.0 Guest, Dr. Joel Moody, Chief Prevention Officer, MLITSD

Dr. Joel Moody attended the meeting today and introduced the new Prevention Division ADM, Kirsten Cutler.

He spoke about commonalities and similarities that exist and how we can leverage these.

Following up on the issue that was raised with the Minister regarding communication hardware, Dr. Moody asked about costing for hardware. According to Don Pierce, MOH, the cost of a single portable is \$10,00 plus fees.

- In response the issue was raised at a MOH Director's Steering Committee Meeting and the Ambulance Dispatch Information Technology Table (ADIT). A Working Group has been formed to start reviewing the requests for portables and communication tools for all paramedics. Network capacity is an issue, hoping for a finding by the fall.

Some of the topics discussed include:

- Presumptive legislation – Minister's Office is reviewing the issue.
- Discussion around having more time for S. 21 meetings.
- Inequity between different services because of the funding model – larger tax bases are able to provide better services.

4.0 Ministry of Health Update

An update was provided by Don Pierce, Senior Field Manager

- Emergency Health Services Division
 - Monitoring for Ebola and Hantavirus – no positive events reported at this time.
 - MPDS has an infectious disease module that has been turned on. Additional travel questions re: Congo and Uganda have been added.
 - Not a full directive at this time, more of a recommendation.
 - No transportation protocols in place – still considered low risk.
 - Can still make reference to the 2015 directives.
 - No Hantavirus positive patients.
 - PSRN – paused for Eastern region and waiting for green light for Central East.
 - MPDS – Sudbury completed last week, SW region by end of 2026 (Windsor and London). The last 3 will be North Bay, Muskoka and Parry Sound in 2027.
 - Race to ACE (Accredited Centre of Excellence done by the International Academy of Emergency Dispatch (IAED)) accreditation. Accreditation took place in Ottawa and Thunder Bay is next to be accredited. Next is Kingston, Oshawa and Renfrew. Ottawa will be hosting a symposium on secondary triage in October.
 - NG911 – the ability to text and send pictures to come in a future phase. Mandate is to have everyone NG911 by March 2027. Minimal impact with the implementation of NG911. In the future there may be the opportunity to cascade calls to another centre if one centre is overwhelmed.
 - FIFA – MOH is there to help Toronto. Peel, Durham and York services are providing coverage. 6 games scheduled and expecting 230,000 people/day.
 - CAD and CAD Interface – Mississauga, Oshawa and Georgian will be sharing information during FIFA.
 - New CAD – looking for new vendor. The hope is that all Paramedic Service will be on one CAD and all the CACCs will be on one CAD (except Toronto).
 - Community Paramedicine – taking over funding of CP at long-term care. Working with OAPC and CP programs to ensure the CP program will be successful.
 - Base hospitals patching – many services have gone to RPPO for OMC (Ontario Medical Consult) Program. Recently Central East program has moved across and Sunnybrook as well. Dedicated physician have been hired to give protocols and support.
 - Radios – 2.5% of radios are with IT for fix and return and 2.5% goes to the paramedic service. Issue has been flagged, there should be a minimum available.
 - CP Funding – any plans to increase the funding? Funding is static. Wages have increased with 75% going to wages. 50/50 funding model with half from municipality and half from province.
 - PSRN – for paging and patching. Radio system testing taking place later this week in Mississauga. Findings will be shared with MERC. Encrypted radio system may have created an issue with coded or encrypted messages.
 - Defibrillator Registration and Public Access Act, 2020 (Bill 141) – regulator in the process drafting the legislation and identifying number of defibrillators in the province. Once that is done they will say where the defibrillators need to be kept, who is responsible. There are about 5,000 registered but figure there may be an additional 25,000 in use.

5.0 Public Services Health and Safety Association (PSHSA) Update

Update on the Anti-Stigma Campaign was provided by Patricia Clausen, Senior Director Health, Safety & Wellbeing



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PSHSA Update_Solger

6.0 Workers Health and Safety Centre (WHSC) Update

An update was provided by Natasha D'Angelo, Manager, Special Projects

- Discounts on Mental Health courses until mid-June.
- 50% off on in-person training from June 17th until end of summer.
- Free instructor training in the fall.

7.0 MLITSD Update

Prevention Division:

- Nancy Bradshaw provided an update on JHSC Certification Training which comes into force on July 1, 2026.



JHSC Update for
Paramedic section 21

Occupational Health and Safety Branch:

- Question was asked about reporting of mental health incidents to the JHSC.
 - Under the *OHSA*, psychological injuries, such as post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), are not critical injuries as defined in [O. Reg. 420/21: Notices and Reports under Sections 51 to 53.1 of the Act - Fatalities, Critical Injuries, Occupational Illnesses and Other Incidents](#) nor are psychological injuries considered “occupational illnesses” as defined under the *OHSA*. As a result, Section 51 and 52(2) of the *OHSA* do not apply to these injuries and there is no employer duty to notify the Ministry or **workplace parties** of these injuries.
- Discussion about lift assist calls in retirement homes and nursing homes
 - Some services are tracking calls that are coming in for lift-assist calls.
 - Some retirement homes have zero-lift policies
 - Some services may or may not follow-up on lift-assist calls based on their deployment plans. If the call is a result of a fall, then they will attend and make a decision.
 - Sending bills to the home does not work because there is no transport to the hospital.
 - Under the triage system, each service can determine what the time is going to be for certain types of calls, different types of priorities and different times of day, each service makes that determination. There are off-load delays in certain communities and as a direct result there are not enough ambulances for low acuity calls, so they are not operationalized right away. For lift-assist they may not get transport at all, they may get an assessment, or they may get an ambulance immediately.
 - Some of the information collected by not be accurate, relying on the caller.
 - Some services use a DOTY belt, a blanket, hover mat, mega mat or scoop stretcher for assistance.
 - Some services have met with their local retirement/nursing homes about the concerns related to they lift-assist calls. Policies change when home ownership changes.
 - Training is on-going, often annually on safe lifting techniques.
 - Costs related to lift-assist calls can range from \$300-\$1200 depending on the region.

8.0 Roundtable and New Business

H. Hamalainen

- Staffing shortage will make summer vacation requests a challenge.
- New ambulance received.

D. Pierce

- Need to support our workers, CACC employees and paramedic services.
- Many changes coming, looking to the future, looking for partnerships and opportunities.

S. Adlington

- Still don't have a pager – it has been 10 months. Phones also went down which was being used to contact us for calls.
- Shooting at local college, one student was killed and another injured. Service has yet to do a debrief on this incident.
- Implemented a FTO program and hired 16 FTOs.

I. Nash

- Staffing issues serious problem – summer vacation will be challenging.
- Violence on the rise again.
- Unpredictable weather – tornadoes warnings, more extreme weather.
- Communication between EMS and police still a problem.
- Ebola – may not be ready to address this infectious disease.

C. Heise

- Large recruitment wrapping up with significant onboarding in the next few months.
- Preparing for MPDS launch in the fall.

D. Doran

- Working with locals and OPSEU health and safety department, setting up meeting with JHSC in the province to have Q&A sessions, trying to educate committees on their roles, responsibilities.
- Implemented an inspection platform including a risk matrix for workplace inspections.
- All JHSC members should be certified along with supervisors. Everyone now has level 1.
- All JHSC members in Frontenac are in the process of getting certified.
- Toronto City Council passed a motion to give better safety training to Toronto police – hoping that Kingston City Council passes a similar motion.
- Copenhagen survey – trying to mitigate some of the hazards identified, actions being taken on mental health issues.
- BOS (Before Operational Stress) Program have recently been completed.

M. Goudie

- 21 new paramedics have been hired.

N. D'Angelo

- Presumptive legislation for Occupational Cancer survey – where is this at? CPO is looking at the issue and have asked us to hold off on sending out a survey.

S. Muir

- Excited for Thunder Bay CACC accreditation.
- Inter-disciplinary team that works with crisis workers, paramedics and indigenous health associates will get dispatched.
- 23 new paramedics hired.

- Local building that is going through evictions is posing a risk to first responders.
- Tactical EMS team in the works this year.
- New building for CP medics team – old school can bring issues related to renovation.
- Lack of police response due to staffing issues. Pushing our staging policies to protect medics.
- Staffing an issue.
- WSIB reporting when it comes to students. MLITSD advised that the service should be doing their own report.
- Developed very popular Emergency Response Info Kit (ERIK) – attaches to light switch in your home and contains vital information including DNRs, medications, medical history and contacts and pharmacy and primary care physician.
- 20 out of 23 new hires came from the Learn and Stay Program.

M. Nunn

- During the winter we were able to get trucks from remote communities with patient transfers from nursing stations to airports along with implementing emergency response teams in the communities. Overwhelmingly positive feedback about having safe vehicles to transport patients.
- Application for Multi-Site JHSC was declined after a couple district managers were not in agreement with the proposed model. Will go back to those districts to address concerns and try to apply again.

Day 2

9.0 WSIB Presentation

Anthony Grimaldi, Senior Program Lead, Specialized Claims and Recovery Services presented on Claims Trends in the Paramedic Sector. Anthony will be invited to return in September.



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10.0 Guidance Notes

Up next for revision:

- EMS Worker Exposure to Hazardous Drugs (2015) – assigned to Dave and Marc
- Traffic Safety and Worker Visibility (2017) – assigned to Ian and Harri

Work on GN's in development/review:

- GN #6 Motor Vehicle Advanced Technology Hazards (**revision**) - assigned to Dave, Harri, Colin
- GN #2 EMS Vehicle Occupant Safety (**revision**) – assigned to Shane, Stephen and Mike
- Lithium-Ion Battery Incident (**new**) – Dave to edit to reflect new template
- Specialty Teams (**new**) – Colin and Ian

Proposed GN Topics:

- Tactical Response – Marc, Dave and Shane to start development
- Rapid Response
- Single Responder } Ian and Harri to start development
- Driving Standards – Stephen and Mike to start development

GN sent to legal for initial staff level review

- GN #3 Improving Air Quality in Paramedic Services Buildings (formerly titled: Reducing Diesel Exhaust in EMS Stations, **revision**)
- GN #9 Workplace Violence and Harassment (Colin & Dave) (**revision**)
- GN #XX Cold Stress (**new**)

GN in approvals:

- Working On or Around Water and Ice (**new**)
- Limiting Exposure to Gases (**new**)

Recently approved GN:

- Heat Stress (new)(**posted**)

11.0 Action Items

- From last meeting: Inquire with Dr. Tyli if there is an update to the Respirator Use for Emergency Responders: Discuss the Validation of Respirator Fit Testing for Emergency Workers During Simulated Life Support Tasks Study Response: Dr. Tyli was contacted by email but not response was received.
- Members requested that Day 2 meeting be extended until 3 or 4pm at September meeting.

12.0 Scheduled meetings for 2026

September 16 & 17
November 18 & 19

13.0 Meeting Adjourned