



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

October 18, 2017
Hon. Harry Bains
Minister of Labour
Room 342, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4



Dr. Andrew Weaver MLA
Oak Bay-Gordon Head

Dear Minister Bains,

With reference to my private member's bill, the *Police and Fire Services Collective Bargaining Amendment Act*, I have been in ongoing consultation with paramedics in BC. Though passionately committed to their profession, many of them are having a very challenging time.

A key and current issue of concern for BC paramedics is that they were placed in a large bargaining association, the Facilities Bargaining Association (FBA in 2010), and feel that within that context their sector specific issues are not being addressed.

I have spoken at length with the Provincial President of the Ambulance Paramedics and Emergency Dispatchers of BC about their concerns and possible solutions. As was promised by past governments, they are hoping government will create a separate health sector bargaining unit for paramedics, permitting paramedics to bargain directly with their Employer about issues specific to paramedics and patients. As you are aware, this solution does not require legislation, but direction from the Minister of Labour to the Labour Relations Board to add a bargaining unit under Part 3, Section 19.5 (a) of the *Health Authorities Act*.

When feasible, I would welcome an opportunity to speak with you about this in more detail.

Best wishes,

Andrew Weaver, MLA
Oak Bay – Gordon Head

Constituency Office A

219-3930 Shelbourne St.
Victoria BC V8P 5P6
T 250-472-8528
Andrew.Weaver.mla@leg.bc.ca

Legislative Office

Room 028 Parliament Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4
T 250-387-8347
Andrew.Weaver.mla@leg.bc.ca

