
MINISTRY OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

ENSURING PARAMEDICS FOR ONTARIANS

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF PARAMEDICINE IN ONTARIO

Thank you

We are grateful for the Province of Ontario's ongoing support of vital initiatives that strengthen our communities. Together, we've achieved remarkable milestones, and we are eager to deepen this partnership to ensure that every Ontarian has access to the right care, at the right time, delivered by the right professionals.

The Challenge

Paramedic education in Ontario is at a crossroads. Today, the path to becoming a paramedic is built on a layered system of credentials—entry-level diplomas, postgraduate certificates, and unregulated community paramedic training. While this approach has served us in the past, it no longer aligns with the growing complexity of healthcare and the increasing demands placed on paramedics.

We believe there's a better way forward. A unified, four-year degree program can empower paramedics with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to deliver care that meets the evolving needs of Ontarians. It's not just about education—it's about building a foundation for the future of health care.

A Bold Proposal

We propose the implementation of a four-year degree program for paramedics in Ontario. This transformative step will:

- 1. Standardize Paramedic Education**

A degree program will eliminate scope differentiation, creating a comprehensive and cohesive education model. This will ensure every paramedic is prepared to meet the diverse and expanding needs of their communities.

2. Elevate the Role of Paramedics in Ontario's Healthcare System

By aligning paramedic education with the standards of the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA), paramedics can become proactive, collaborative healthcare providers, equipped to adapt quickly to the shifting landscape of healthcare.

3. Address Health Human Resource Challenges

Expanding and enhancing paramedic education will ensure Ontario has a robust pipeline of highly skilled professionals ready to serve in critical, innovative roles across the healthcare spectrum.

What We're Asking

To realize this vision, we need your support to:

- **Launch a Four-Year Degree Program by Fall 2025**
Develop a clear implementation plan to introduce the program across all provincially funded paramedic schools, addressing potential "gap years" during the transition.
- **Invest in Education Infrastructure**
Increase base funding for paramedic programs to enhance lab and simulation-based training, which are critical for building clinical skills.
- **Support Expanded Enrolment**
Increase the Ministry's funding factor per student to encourage colleges to admit larger cohorts and meet the rising demand for paramedics.
- **Include Paramedic Programs in the Learn and Stay Grant**
Paramedics play a pivotal role in Ontario's healthcare system, and their education should be equally prioritized under this program.
- **Foster Collaboration with Ontario Paramedic Services**
Leverage the expertise of paramedic services to co-create meaningful clinical placement opportunities and shape educational standards that reflect real-world needs.

Why Now?

The current two-year diploma program was introduced over two decades ago to reflect the evolving role of paramedics. Today, the demands are even greater. Paramedics are at the forefront of Ontario's healthcare system, providing care in emergency departments, community settings, and virtual environments. They are asked to make complex decisions, navigate healthcare systems, and even support research initiatives.

Yet, the current educational framework falls short of the time and depth needed to prepare paramedics for these roles. A four-year degree program isn't just an upgrade—it's a necessity.

The Time for Action

Investing in paramedic education is an investment in the health and safety of every Ontarian. By empowering paramedics with a comprehensive, degree-level education, we can:

- Build a stronger, more responsive healthcare system.
- Address critical workforce shortages in urban and rural communities alike.
- Equip paramedics with the tools to lead, innovate, and adapt to the future of healthcare.

Together, we can create a system that doesn't just meet the needs of today but anticipates the challenges of tomorrow. Let's work collaboratively to make this vision a reality.

Thank you for your commitment to building a healthier, stronger Ontario. We look forward to partnering with you on this transformative journey.

