



## Government of Yukon

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**NEWS**release

FOR RELEASE #10-162  
August 23, 2010

### Emergency medical services signs memorandum of understanding with volunteers

WHITEHORSE – The Volunteer Ambulance Society and the Yukon government's Emergency Medical Services branch have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Community Services Minister Archie Lang announced today.

"Volunteer emergency medical responders provide excellent services to Yukoners and help foster healthy and safer communities," Lang said. "I am pleased to announce the memorandum with the Volunteer Ambulance Society which will go a long way to foster a positive working relationship that helps to improve emergency medical services throughout Yukon."

The terms of the MOU include a two-dollar per hour increase in the honoraria paid for call-outs; standard uniforms; a boot allowance; an allowance for loss of personal property while on call; improved honoraria for recertification; and a training and retention bonus.

"The memorandum is a real accomplishment and is great for our volunteer medical responders. "Although we call them volunteers, our people are professionals who are well-trained and committed to being emergency medical responders," Volunteer Ambulance Society president Ted Baker said.

"These are people who will drop what they're doing to respond to the public's calls for help," Lang said. "The memorandum is important to us because it demonstrates that we are working together to make improvements for our volunteers which helps to increase recruitment and retention."

The MOU affects approximately 150 volunteer emergency medical responders in 15 active volunteer EMS stations across Yukon. Last year, EMS crews responded to 5,033 calls in Whitehorse, 1,501 calls in rural Yukon and completed 643 medevac flights.

As part of the Protective Services Division of the Department of Community Services, Emergency Medical Services works hand-in-hand across the territory with the Fire Marshal's Office, Wildland Fire Management, the Emergency Measures Organization and the Safety and Training branch to save lives and protect property from human and natural cause threats.

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