

**AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

- The BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) Critical Care Transport (CCT) Program provides specialized, emergency patient care and transport for critically-ill or injured patients throughout the province.
- The CCT program ensures that patients with critical illnesses or injuries receive the highest emergency care available as soon as possible. When CCT paramedics arrive on scene, they are, in effect, bringing an intensive-care unit to the patient's side.
  - Using CCT paramedics to transport critical patients allows physicians and nurses to remain in their local hospitals.
- The program uses seven dedicated airplanes, four helicopters and can call on about 45 pre-qualified air carriers to provide chartered aircraft throughout the province as well as specially-configured ground ambulances.
  - Critical care paramedics are deployed from aircraft bases in Prince George, Kelowna, Kamloops, Nanaimo and Vancouver. BCEHS also has a dedicated helicopter based in Prince Rupert in order to access the airport and the remote communities in the area, in a timely manner.
- The CCT Education Program is accredited by the Canadian Medical Association. BCEHS is only the second jurisdiction in the Canada to achieve this distinction.
- In addition to the CCT, BCEHS also has a specialized Infant Transport Team (ITT), based at the BC Children's Hospital in Vancouver. ITT paramedics provide emergency medical care to pediatric, neo-natal and high-risk obstetric patients.
  - The Infant Transport Team uses two helicopters, two fixed-wing airplanes and five ambulances outfitted with specialized equipment to provide emergency patient care.
  - The ITT is the only critical care paramedic-based team in the world that deals with the three drastically different patient groups.
- Autolaunch is an innovative, life-saving protocol that helps ensure that patients with life-threatening injuries are transported to a trauma centre as quickly as possible.
  - This protocol is the simultaneous dispatching of both a ground ambulance(s) and an air ambulance helicopter for specific emergency medical responses based on information provided from the scene by 9-1-1 callers.

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