



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 29, 2006

Island EMS to Begin Operations on April 1, 2006

Charlottetown PEI – Island EMS will begin operating ambulance services on Prince Edward Island (PEI) effective April 1, 2006 under a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the PEI Department of Health, Medical Programs Division.

Island EMS is a subsidiary company of Medavie Blue Cross and a sister company of Emergency Medical Care (EMC).

George McLellan, president and CEO of Island EMS and EMC said, “The Island EMS team has been working hard to have everything in place for a smooth transition on April 1.” He added, “We are especially concerned that the changeover is as smooth as possible for the EMT’s on the Island.”

All EMT’s currently registered and employed in PEI will be offered positions with Island EMS as paramedics. They will play a vital role in implementing the new enhanced, provincial ambulance service.

McLellan confirmed that both Claude Gavin and Gerard Holland have joined Island EMS as operations supervisors. “Their leadership experience as preceding operators and knowledge of PEI will be an invaluable asset to Island EMS,” he said.

As part of the MOU Island EMS will operate an Island-based central dispatch that will receive all calls for ambulance service. This will help ensure Islanders get the help they need the instant the call is answered.

The transition has been planned carefully and service delivery will be uninterrupted. Island EMS wants to stress, Islanders should continue to dial 911 if they experience a medical emergency.

The Island EMS team is looking forward to enhancing pre-hospital care in PEI and breaking new ground in ambulance service delivery through commitment to quality and exceeding the needs of patients.

- 30 -

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