

COPR

Canadian Organization of
Paramedic Regulators



OCRP

Organisation Canadienne des
Régulateurs Paramédicaux

Date: August 18, 2016
From: The Canadian Organization of Paramedic Regulators/Organisation Canadienne des Régulateurs Paramédicaux
Re: COPR NOTIFICATION - ACCREDITATION OF PARAMEDIC PROGRAMS

BACKGROUND:

The Canadian Organization of Paramedic Regulators (COPR) is comprised of self-regulating colleges and government (or government delegated) regulators of the paramedic professions in Canada.

The COPR mandate is to serve public interest by ensuring that paramedic professionals provide safe and ethical care, and that the providers are licenced, competent, and qualified. COPR is committed to:

- 1) Establishing national regulatory standards and harmonizing provincial policies and procedures;
- 2) Reducing and removing interprovincial regulatory barriers to member mobility;
- 3) Acting as a forum for information exchange between Canadian paramedic regulators; and
- 4) Undertaking national initiatives on behalf of Canada's paramedic regulators.

COPR provides leadership around national regulatory issues and supports Canada's paramedic regulators in their mandate of protecting the public.

POSITION STATEMENT:

COPR is issuing this formal notification regarding regulator endorsed accreditation for paramedic education programs.

Paramedic program approval (as related to provincial licensure) is a regulatory responsibility in many provinces. In jurisdictions where education program accreditation is also required (as part of the program approval process or otherwise), regulator endorsement of the accrediting body is often necessary. In some provinces, this endorsement is articulated in provincial legislation or bylaws.

In order to be considered for accreditation endorsement by COPR, accrediting bodies must ensure that the following terms are met and can be demonstrated successfully:

- Creation of a partnership with COPR to support strong accreditation processes;
- Development of accreditation processes that are profession informed and support best practices for educational programs and standards;
- Demonstrated impartiality in accreditation; the focus of accreditation must be program competency and must not advance other interests; and
- Demonstrated ability to conduct accreditation activity.

Stakeholders interested in working collaboratively with COPR on this important initiative should send all correspondence to COPR's email address info@copr.ca.

Jacqueline Messer-Lepage, Chair, COPR Council