



**British Columbia
Ambulance Service**
Emergency and Health Services Commission

Memorandum

Provincial Headquarters
PO Box 9600 Stn Prov Govt
2261 Keating X Road, Block C
Victoria BC V8W 9P1

October 20, 2010

CLIFF: 857091

File: 195-20/BCAS All

To: All BCAS Staff

Re: Paramedics Jo-Ann Fuller and Ivan Polivka

It is with great sadness that I confirm that the two BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) paramedics involved in the tragic incident at Kennedy Lake yesterday morning are veteran paramedics Jo-Ann Fuller and Ivan Polivka. The Tofino based paramedics were returning from a call in Port Alberni when they were involved in a fatal, single vehicle accident.

Jo-Ann, a 23 year veteran of BCAS, was working as a PCP-IV and the Unit Chief at Tofino Station 136. Ivan Polivka had 14 years of service with our organization and was working as a PCP-IV at the Tofino station.

Words cannot begin to express our deepest condolences to Jo-Ann's and Ivan's families and friends for this tragedy, which will be felt throughout the province in all BCAS stations, offices and regions. This incident is a great shock to all of us and the passing of a colleague is an unexpected event and never one that we are prepared for.

As I indicated in my previous memo, our Critical Incident Stress Peer Team has been providing support to those involved, and counselling services are also being offered through our Employee Assistance Provider Shepell fgi. Staff who would like assistance dealing with this loss should contact Shepell fgi at: 1-800-387-4765 or the Critical Incident Stress Peer Team at: 1-800-303-6066.

We are grateful for the concern and sympathy expressed by our colleagues throughout the healthcare system, other EMS providers and the Ministry of Health Services.

A tribute page for Jo-Ann and Ivan has been created on the BCAS Intranet, including a form through which employees can send notes and messages of condolence to Jo-Ann's and Ivan's families and loved ones: <https://intranet.bcas.ca/people/memorials/2010/fuller-polivka/index.html>.

Please keep Jo-Ann's and Ivan's families and loved ones in your thoughts and prayers as we all work through this difficult time together. I will do my best to keep you aware of the plans and wishes of Jo-Ann's and Ivan's families as they unfold over the next few days.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Les M. Fisher".

Les Fisher
Chief Operating Officer

British Columbia Ambulance Service

Professionalism - Accountability - Responsiveness - Teamwork - Wellness