

October 14, 2023, is the 2nd annual **Allied Health Professionals Day**. The Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board (the Board) would like to acknowledge and celebrate all Emergency Medical Assistants who perform their duties with compassion, competence, and conduct in accordance with regulated standards regarding patient care and safety. The Board recognizes and is very grateful for the tireless dedication and continuing work that EMAs have undertaken on a daily basis for the care of British Columbians.

This past year saw the positive impacts of Emergency Medical Assistants on the continuing pandemic response, extraordinary weather events including a widespread and intensive wildfire season and mitigating the mounting substance use crisis. The Board also recognizes that record-breaking overdose related deaths have had a particularly disheartening effect for those on the front lines.

Part of the B.C.'s Health Human Resources Strategy was to increase the scope of practice for all paramedics and first responders, allowing better care for patients needing emergency health services. In September 2022, Ministerial Order M292 was approved, expanding the skills and services that Emergency Medical Assistants can acquire within their license category. There are several training agencies now offering Board recognized upgraded training programs.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to providing safe, high-quality emergency health services to the people of British Columbia.