

**MEDIA RELEASE - For Immediate Release**

Sally Caudill, Ph.D.  
Communication & Environmental Care Coordinator  
Town of Canmore  
403.678.1520  
[scaudill@canmore.ca](mailto:scaudill@canmore.ca)  
March 6, 2012



**Town of Canmore to work with Province to Ensure  
a Seamless Transition of Ambulance Services**

The Province has given the Town of Canmore notice that starting in April of 2012 Alberta Health Services (AHS) will provide direct delivery of ambulance service in Canmore. This means that the Town's Fire-EMS Department will no longer provide both fire and ambulance services to the community. The Province will provide ambulance service and the Town will provide fire and rescue services. Residents and visitors should continue to experience the same high quality of emergency services. The main difference will be that ambulances will now respond out of the hospital rather than out of the fire hall. "The Province has assured the Town that our community will experience no service level changes with Emergency Medical Services as a result of the ambulance transition" explains Mayor Ron Casey. "The Town will work with AHS to ensure the new ambulance program succeeds in our community."

As part of this change, the Town of Canmore is creating a stand-alone fire department. On April 9, 2011 Town Council approved the Canmore Fire-Rescue Department Strategic Plan. The plan outlines the services the Town will provide after the Province takes over ambulance service. "I am proud of the work the Fire Department did to create a strategic plan that lays out a prudent and fiscally responsible stand alone fire response model. I stand behind the model as presented to and approved by Town Council" says Fire Chief Todd Sikorsky.

In addition to fire suppression and rescue services, the Town of Canmore Fire & Rescue Department will continue to co-respond to the highest priority life threatening medical calls and any calls for manpower assistance by Provincial ambulance crews. Emergency Medical Services Systems traditionally rely on Fire Departments for additional resources. This relationship will continue in Canmore.

The Fire-Rescue Department will provide a Basic Life Support (BLS) response to medical calls. BLS is provided by an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) who has completed classroom and practical education in trauma care, cardiac and stroke care, CPR, advanced first aid, child birth and basic

medication administration. EMT's and EMR's are also able to provide electrical therapy via an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) and basic airway management.

"We will be monitoring our Medical Assist calls and working with AHS to collect clear data on the impact of the new system on our community" explains Chief Sikorsky. "We are working with the Province to ensure Canmore remains a safe community for all."