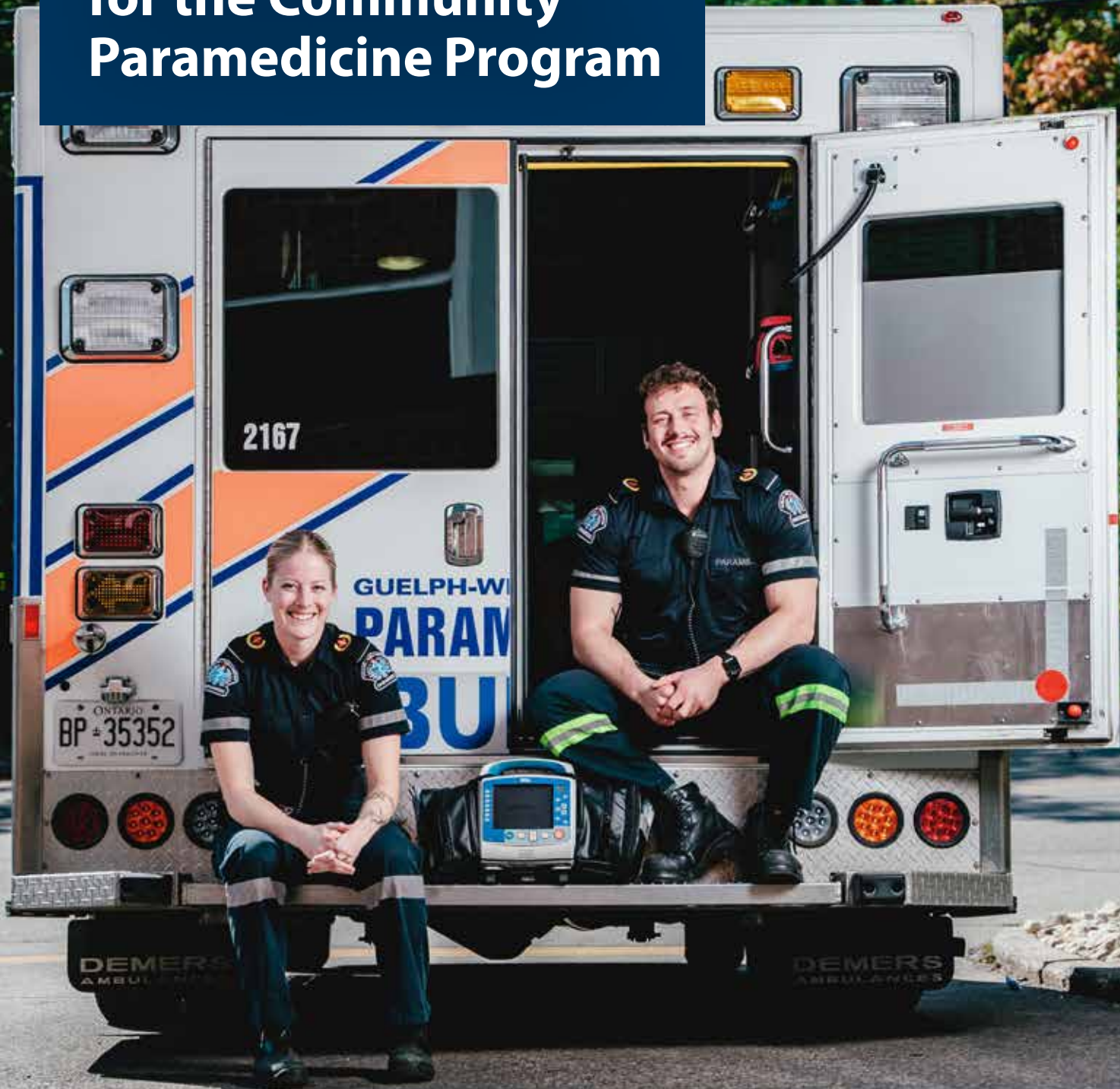


Issue at a glance:
**Permanent Funding
for the Community
Paramedicine Program**



The details

The Community Paramedicine for Long-term Care (CPLTC) program has demonstrated province-wide success in stabilizing individuals with long-term care needs, reducing emergency department visits, and improving the quality of life for patients and caregivers. In 2022–23, paramedic services across the province served over 36,000 individuals, significantly reducing the number of 911 calls, emergency department visits, and hospitalizations among CPLTC clients. In this time, the program was able to deliver these benefits at an average cost to the province of only \$8.40/client/day – which represents just 13 per cent of the government-funded cost of a basic LTC home bed. In Guelph, CPLTC program staff visited an average of 18 people per day in 2022, with ten per cent of program participants surveyed indicating that they would have called 911 or gone to the emergency department had they not had access to CPLTC resources.

Currently, this program is funded until March 31, 2026. The contract staff operating the program are highly qualified, however the year-to-year nature of the program funding makes staff retention a continued challenge. **Making the program permanent will allow us to hire staff on a permanent basis, acquire an operating land base, and further increase the quality of service for Community Paramedicine users.**

A 2023 survey of CPLTC program participants across the province gathered overwhelmingly positive responses:



Over 90 per cent of program participants were highly satisfied with the level of support provided by Community Paramedics, with the program making them feel safer in their homes.



Survey respondents appreciated the unrushed, comprehensive, and compassionate care and health education provided by Community Paramedics.



Many family members and caregivers indicated a sense of peace and relief as a result of the positive experiences with Community Paramedics.



Health care providers spoke positively of the program's ability to provide patient centered care, and foster integration with other available health services while also reducing the burden on the wider health system.

Source: Community Paramedicine For Long Term Care (CPLTC) Program Evaluation, September 2023.

The City of Guelph calls on the Ministry of Long Term Care to establish consistent and permanent funding for the Community Paramedicine for Long Term Care program to allow Guelph-Wellington paramedics and paramedic services across Ontario to continue achieving our shared long-term care priorities.

Why this is important

Across Ontario, the Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care (CPLTC) program has proven to be a highly successful and cost-effective method to support individuals requiring long-term care living in the community. However, the year-to-year nature of the funding for this program makes it challenging to plan for the future, retain staff, and maintain a permanent land base which holds this program back from achieving its full potential.

Permanent and consistent funding is required for paramedic services to plan for the future and continue to provide a high level of care.

The benefits



High quality, at-home long-term care support and improved quality of life for over 36,000 individuals across Ontario.



Lower 911 utilization by program participants helping to reduce emergency room wait times

87%

87 per cent cost savings to the province per patient as compared to traditional, residential long-term care homes.



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