

# PARAMEDIC

**Q What do you like best about your job?**

**A** Paramedics wear a variety of “hats” and deal with emergency situations that often require pivotal decision-making. As a two-person team, we possess a level of independence and employ critical thinking out in the field. The challenges are plenty and every day is unique.

**Q Describe your typical day**

**A** A typical 12 hour shift begins with checking the equipment and the ambulance with my partner. After logging on with our dispatchers, we can be sent out on a call right away or move on to one of eight standby stations located throughout the Region. We have a high call volume day and night, and I can always expect it to be busy whether it’s treating a patient with a heart attack, delivering a baby or managing a car crash.

**Q How are you making a difference?**

**A** There is a high degree of discipline that comes with the job. I ensure that my skills and knowledge are kept up to date. This also means being mentally, physically and emotionally primed and ready for any given situation. Patients may require life-saving measures such as defibrillation, or they may simply need advice and reassurance. Whatever the needs are, I do my best to assure the highest quality of care and in turn, I feel great about the work I have done at the end of every shift.



“I’ve been working for Region of Waterloo Public Health, Emergency Medical Services since 2006.”

“I have a Primary Care Paramedic Diploma from Conestoga College.”

“I find The Region to be a progressive and conscientious employer.”



Region of Waterloo  
PUBLIC HEALTH

**Q What do you like about working and living in Waterloo Region?**

**A** The Region of Waterloo prides itself on being a progressive and environmentally conscientious service/area. In the tri-cities and surrounding areas, I am exposed to a variety of different cultures and diverse age groups, which make both working and living here more interesting.

**Q Why did you choose to work for Region of Waterloo Public Health?**

**A** I moved to the Region from London, Ontario to attend Conestoga College for the two-year Paramedic Program and to be closer to my family who live in Toronto. While in school, I completed my field placement here and was also hired as a Fleet Support person. Through these experiences, I became familiar with the Region's EMS. The service has also proven itself to a pioneer in leading-edge technology and patient care equipment.

**Q What would you tell someone considering a career as a Paramedic?**

**A** Paramedicine is ever progressing and there is a high level of competition in this area, so do some research before committing yourself to the process. Ride-out as an observer and get involved in related work. I worked for five years with various patient transfer services and completed a one year EMT program with field training in Michigan before deciding that this was what I wanted to do. You must have a desire to help people in order to find this job fulfilling. Always be open to learning, never give up and you will find Paramedicine to be a very rewarding career choice.



Region of Waterloo

PUBLIC HEALTH

For information about other careers with Region of Waterloo Public Health, please contact us at 519-883-2000 ext. 5354.

[www.region.waterloo.on.ca/ph](http://www.region.waterloo.on.ca/ph)

**Qualifications You Need:**

- Primary Care Paramedic or Advanced Care Paramedic diploma
- Advanced Emergency Medical Care Assistant with Base Hospital certification
- Current certification in Symptom Relief and Semi-automatic Defibrillation
- Current CPR certification
- Class "F" Ontario Driver's License
- All other Primary Care Paramedic requirements detailed in the Ambulance Act.

**Wage/Salary Range**

Primary Care Paramedic:  
Approximately \$28-\$30/hour  
(2008 rates)

Advanced Care Paramedic:  
Approximately \$31-\$34/hour  
(2008 rates)

**Schools You Can Attend**

See the Ontario Paramedic Association website at [www.ontarioparamedic.ca](http://www.ontarioparamedic.ca) for complete information on Ontario colleges offering both Primary Care and Advanced Care Paramedic programs

**Related Websites:**

Paramedic Association of Canada: [www.paramedic.ca](http://www.paramedic.ca)