

# Paramedic



## What do you like best about your job?

I really like being mobile, and in this job, you're never in one spot for too long. I also definitely get a sense of satisfaction and of giving back to the community by serving as a paramedic. I also like working with a partner; developing that sense of trust. This job also allows you to make your own decisions in the moment while you are out in the field.

## Describe your typical day?

After I've checked my vehicle and equipment, we have roll call where the supervisor discusses any road closures, off-load delays, busy hospitals, and other relevant information. Then I log on with dispatch and head to a designated station. Every day is different out in the field. Some are busy and some are really quiet, and I find that you need both kinds of days. The calls can be anything; we see heart attacks, car accidents, mass casualty incidents, but we also see things like lonely people calling, falls, and minor incidents that can be treated on scene. Paperwork is always part of our shift too. We complete reports for each call we attend.

## How are you making a difference?

I think my difference is made on an individual level. I can make more of a difference talking to people. You can be talking one-on-one with a patient and they tell you things they might not feel comfortable telling others. On a small scale level, I feel I can contribute to calming each patient, and I can arrange for patients to be seen quickly at hospitals for cases of a stroke or heart attack, where timing is important.

## What do you like about working or living in Waterloo Region?

It has always been very important to me to be able to work in Waterloo Region. I grew up here and I have a connection with this area. I can go on a call to assist someone and find out that I spent time with him as a kid – that really means something to me. I even remember as a kid seeing the paramedics at the station near my house and going in and talking to them. Now I am working with some of those same paramedics, and that makes this feel like a real community.



## Why did you choose to work for Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services?

In addition to wanting to work where I grew up, I chose Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services for a few reasons. I really value the mix of calls we get. Some are rural and some are urban. I could be called out to a farm on the same day I get called to a homeless shelter, and that variety is rewarding. There is also a younger population here in the Region due to the concentration of schools, and it means a lot to me to be able to be there for the youth in our area. I have also always heard great things about the team of paramedics at the Region.

## What would you tell someone considering a career as a Paramedic?

I would tell them to investigate what they do and chat with paramedics or visit Conestoga College and speak with instructors and staff. You truly have to have a desire to help others, and you need to feel that desire in your core.

### 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 Semiautomatic Defibrillation
- Current CPR certification
- Class "F" Ontario Driver's License
- All other Primary Care Paramedic requirements detailed in the Ambulance Act

### Wage/salary range:

- \$34.54 to \$41.31 hourly (2015 rates)



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## Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services

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