Society for Prehospital Educators in Canada (SPEC)
Presentation to NAPA
Gold Coast, May 2013
Joe Acker, CSU

Note:
- I am not a member of SPEC!
- I don’t know much about SPEC!

Mandate:
SPEC serves as a voice and resource for Canadian prehospital healthcare educators and working with key stakeholders to enhance the delivery of prehospital training.
SPEC History

- Formed in 2005 (VC meetings)
- First face to face meeting in 2007 at AGM
- By-laws ratified in 2007
- Membership fee initiated in late 2007
- Annual conferences since 2007

Membership

- Educators from the colleges and schools across Canada who teach all levels of paramedics
- Few ambulance service educators are members of SPEC

SPEC Objectives

1. To establish, encourage and promote:
   1. excellence in prehospital education;
   2. recognition of the importance of prehospital education for the citizenry of Canada;
   3. development and maintenance of standards for prehospital/paramedic training programs and continuing education of prehospital providers;
   4. research in the field of prehospital medicine and improve patient care standards;
   5. coordination of community, provincial and national prehospital education;
2. To represent the opinions and concerns of prehospital educators in subjects related to standards of practice and quality of care; and
3. To foster relationships with organizations with similar objectives.

Current Initiatives

1. Implementation Process for High Fidelity Simulation (HFS) Policy
2. Creation and Implementation of a Canadian Prehospital Instructor Program
3. Prehospital Healthcare Research Initiatives
4. National Occupational Competency Profile (NOCP) Review and Update
5. National Registration Exam
PAC, SPEC, CMA, PCC

- Paramedic Association of Canada (PAC): Developed the National Occupational Competency Profile for Paramedics (EMR, PCP, ACP, CCP)
- SPEC: Develops and delivers paramedic curriculum
- Canadian Medical Association (CMA): Responsible for accreditation of paramedic courses
- Paramedic Chiefs of Canada (PCC): Hires paramedics from accredited courses – stakeholder to PAC and CMA regarding NOCPs
- Canadian Organisation of Paramedic Regulators: Government / Colleges

Strengths of SPEC

- Snazzy website & good national communication among educators
- Monthly newsletter
- Yearly educator’s conference
- Small group of dedicated members working together
- Good relationship with PAC, CMA and PCC

Snazzy Website

- http://my-spec.org/home
Weaknesses of SPEC

- It is essentially run by one person and the views expressed publicly are often his.
- The conference has a TON of potential but always devolves to very tactical issues.
- Membership is stagnant and probably shrinking.

Questions & Discussion