



## **Resolution No. 09 – 05**

### **Emergency Medical Disclosure of Personal Information**

WHEREAS: On April 1st, 2009 the provision of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in the Province of Alberta will transfer from local municipality authority to Alberta Health Services (AHS). In addition to the transition of EMS to AHS, the Emergency Health Services Act (EHS) has been proclaimed. The proclamation of the EHS Act now results in several significant changes in how EMS is operated and it's relationship with law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS: The change in the applicable legislation will result in EMS medical staff and EMS dispatch staff being restricted in what patient health information they will be permitted to release to law enforcement personnel; and

WHEREAS: Law enforcement agencies require immediate personal information for patients who come under the initial care of EMS relative to being subject or complicit to criminal acts such as domestic violence, impaired driving, serious assaults and other serious criminal investigations;

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

The Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police (AACP) in light of the aforementioned concerns, urges the Minister of Health and Wellness to review and amend relevant sections of the Alberta Health Information Act (and its associated regulation) and more specifically:

- i. To provide police officers with the authority to request and receive from Emergency Medical Services (responders and dispatchers) personal information of patients in their care and custody that have been or may be subject to a criminal investigation, and
- ii. To develop working protocols for law enforcement agencies and Emergency Medical Services that would permit the efficient and effective collection, sharing and disclosure of patient personal information between law enforcement agencies and Emergency Medical Services.