



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ORNGE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING QUALITY HEALTH CARE TO ONTARIO PATIENTS
Flight paramedics recovering from injuries sustained in Friday's accident

TORONTO, ON – The dedicated men and women of Ornge, and the families who support them remain committed to providing quality care to the citizens of Ontario. Each and every day, with little regard for themselves they are called upon to assist those who are critically ill and injured.

Friday February 8th was no different. While en route to meet a land ambulance the helicopter from Sudbury was involved in an accident. The paramedics on board were Ornge Critical Care flight paramedic Dennis Quenneville, who has been with the air program for the past 11 years and Rob Bird, a 23 year veteran. Bird was treated and released from hospital on Saturday. Quenneville remains in hospital and is being treated for serious but non-life threatening injuries. Also on board were Canadian Helicopters Limited pilots Greg Harper and Michael Bain who also remain in hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

“Our flight paramedics care for critically ill and injured patients, these hard working men and women are highly skilled and are capable of providing hospital level complex care in the transport environment,” said Dr. Chris Mazza, Ornge President and CEO. “Our medical team includes flight paramedics, transport nurses and transport medicine physicians, who always put the quality care of patients first, I hold them and the pilots in very high regard,” he added.

“I want to commend the brave men and women of Ornge who risk their lives every day,” said George Smitherman, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. “Our thoughts are with those paramedics and pilots who were injured and we wish them a speedy recovery.” Since the air program began 30 years ago, the rotor wing operation has exceeded 150,000 hours of accident free flying. The Transportation Safety Board of Canada is currently investigating the cause of the accident.

ABOUT ORNGE

Ornge operates from a number of bases across the province of Ontario and performs more than 18,000 admissions annually. It coordinates all aspects of Ontario's aero medical transport system, the new critical care land transport program, and the authorization of air and land ambulance transfers between hospitals. Ornge is dedicated to the provision of high quality patient care through innovative transport medicine.