



Take the Healthy Living Pledge and win a Whistler family getaway.  
Every move is a good move.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ActNowBC  
FIND OUT MORE

CTV BRITISH COLUMBIA



**The first Canadian Medical Assistance Team departs for Sichuan province in China, from Vancouver, B.C., Saturday, May 17th, 2008.**

**Canadian medical team to put skills to use in China**

Updated: Sat May. 17 2008 14:39:53

ctvbc.ca

A Canadian medical team is heading to the earthquake-ravaged province of Sichuan, China on Saturday to put their skills to use.

The five-member Canadian Medical Assistance Team (CMAT) of doctors and paramedics, including two from Toronto, Ont. and three from Vancouver, B.C., will arrive in Chengdu in Sichuan province within the next 24 hours.

The group will meet with Red Cross and other emergency and relief groups on the ground and make an assessment of the most urgent needs in the region.

It will then create a plan to help on the ground as much as possible during their two-week stay.

CMAT will use the advanced team's assessment to determine what supplies and skills will be most needed for its next response team, which could depart as early as next Wednesday.

A 6.1-magnitude earthquake struck Sichuan province on Saturday, only five days after a 7.9-magnitude tremor caused widespread death and destruction in the region.

Chinese officials report the death toll is more than 28,000, and an estimated 11,000 people remain buried in Sichuan province.

Chris Kaley, a paramedic from Squamish, is part of the CMAT team.

He calls himself the rookie of the group because it's his first emergency-response trip.

"It's been a bit of a roller coaster," he said of the preparations ahead of his departure.

"It's starting to sink in now, I think it's going to be a bit overwhelming. I think we're all a bit anxious, but we're looking forward to getting there and getting to work."

The other team members include paramedic Dave Deines from Vancouver, Dr. Dave Ratcliffe from Comox, B.C., and Dr. Haibo Xu and Dr. Charles Jiang from Ontario.

The group is taking medicine, first aid and trauma supplies, as well as physician travel packs, which could potentially treat thousands of sick people.

Donations can be made, and a record of the team's progress can be found on the [CMAT website](#).

With a report from CTV British Columbia's Jina You



**Chris Kaley, a paramedic from Squamish, B.C., is part of the Canadian Medical Assistance Team departing for Sichuan province in China, Saturday, May 17th, 2008.**

Take the Healthy Living Pledge and win a Whistler family getaway.  
Every move is a good move.

BRITISH COLUMBIA ActNowBC  
FIND OUT MORE

WHAT'S ON



**CTV Movie: PROM QUEEN**

A gay teen brings his boyfriend to the prom.

Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed  
7:00pm  
My Messy Life  
8:00pm  
CTV Movie: PROM QUEEN  
10:00pm  
Comedy Inc.  
10:30pm  
Comedy Inc.

RELATED STORIES

- Hundreds gather to remember Chinese quake victims
- China quake relief in 'crucial phase:' President Hu
- China says earthquake may have killed 50,000
- Chinese troops dig for survivors near epicentre
- Students from B.C. safe after enduring China quake

WEB LINKS

[Canadian Medical Teams](#)

USER TOOLS

- del.icio.us
- Reddit
- Print This Page
- Feedback
- DIGG
- Facebook
- E-Mail Story
- Fonts: **Bigger** **Smaller**

Do you have more information for us on this story? Email us at [bcassign@ctv.ca](mailto:bcassign@ctv.ca)