
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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BC Ambulance Service

6 YEAR OLD RECEIVES RECOGNITION FOR HEROISM

VICTORIA – The BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) presented 6 year old Erick MacKinnon with a Good Samaritan award to recognize his quick actions which saved his mother’s life.

“It is most fitting that Erick be acknowledged and honoured for his actions,” said George Abbott, Minister of Health. “This young boy’s response is an example to all of us about how being attentive and calm can make a difference when dealing with a life-threatening situation.”

On December 18, 2007, Carrie MacKinnon, a Type 1 diabetic and nurse, woke up with low blood sugar. She asked her 6 year old son, Erick, to get her two juice boxes from the fridge. Having talked to him his whole life about her diabetes, he asked his mom if her blood sugar was low and she replied “Yes”. Erick knew right away to call 911. He explained clearly to the Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD) that his mother was a diabetic and needed help. When Carrie woke up in her living room with an IV in her arm and BCAS paramedics looking after her, Erick sat calmly on the couch watching cartoons.

“The bravery of this young boy is highly commendable,” said Shawn Carby, Executive Director for BC Ambulance Service Vancouver Island region. “I believe Erick’s knowledge of his mother’s situation and his quick actions in calling 911, saved his mother’s life that day.”

The BCAS Good Samaritan Award is presented by the BCAS to individuals who have provided unselfish and humanitarian assistance during a medical emergency. The award aims to recognize the selfless acts of individuals, and promote and raise awareness, of the important role members of the public can play during a medical emergency.

The award was presented at Erick’s school, Davis Road E’cole, in Ladysmith, during the school’s closing assembly on June 25, by BCAS Superintendents John McKinstry and Rick Ruppenthal.

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