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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
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BC Ambulance Service

### **16 YEAR OLD RECEIVES MEDAL FOR ROLE IN STRANGERS SURVIVAL**

LANGLEY – The BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) presented 16 year old Max Johnson with a Vital Link Medal to recognize his role in saving the life of a stranger when he performed Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) on a customer at the restaurant he works at.

“Max deserves our highest praise and recognition,” said Minister of Health Living and Sport, Mary Polak. “His ability to call upon his first aid training and save this man’s life is truly heroic and shows us what a pivotal role each of us has to play as first responders with the right training.”

On June 17, 2008 Max Johnson was working at the White Spot Restaurant in Langley, when a 68 year old man collapsed in the restaurant. Johnson, having received first aid training many years earlier during swimming lessons and in a community first aid course, recognized the man needed immediate assistance because he was not breathing and did not have a pulse. While his manager called 911, Johnson began CPR which he performed until BCAS paramedics arrived. He continued to assist the paramedics as they prepared the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) machine. With his assistance, paramedics successfully resuscitated the patient and then transported him to hospital where he has since recovered.

“We know that even with the best technology, medical expertise and timely deployment of first responders, the best chance for someone in cardiac arrest is still to have a bystander perform CPR until paramedics arrive,” said Kevin Urton, Superintendent for the BC Ambulance Service. “Max should be recognized for his knowledge, quick actions and role as a vital link.”

BCAS paramedics present the vital link award to recognise those British Columbians that have performed CPR, the most vital link in the chain of survival, and hope the award will encourage others to learn the life saving skill. A cardiac arrest victim is FOUR times more likely to survive if they receive bystander CPR, however this basic procedure is not performed in approximately 85% of all cardiac arrest cases. With early access to 911 and bystander CPR, BCAS and the public can work together to improve the outcome of patients suffering from cardiac arrest.

The award was presented on July 23 at 11:00am at the Langley White Spot Restaurant on the Langley Bypass, by BCAS Superintendent Kevin Urton and attending paramedic and Unit Chief, Andrew Billing. Also in attendance was the patient’s daughter Shawn Greenberg.

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