

For Immediate Release  
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BC Ambulance Service

## **AMBULANCE DISPATCHER HELPS COUPLE DELIVER BABY**

GOLDEN – The BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) will present a Stork Award to a 911 Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD) in Golden today for the assistance she provided over the phone helping a couple deliver their baby.

“Use both hands to unwrap the chord from around his neck,” instructed BCAS EMD Nickie LaSaga. “Now place the baby on the mother’s chest and tie the chord with a shoelace or a piece of string. Gently wipe out the babies mouth and nose and briskly rub his back until he takes a breath.”

On August 6, 2008, Janine Dendy wasn’t due to give birth for another month and thought she was having false labour when her and fiancé Walter Hayton got a big surprise. Dendy’s labour progressed quickly and by the time Hayton called 911, the baby’s head was already visible. LaSaga answered the call and realized that the baby was in distress. While the ambulance was being dispatched, LaSaga provided instructions to Hayton on how to deliver the baby safely.

“The assistance provided over the phone by emergency medical dispatcher Nickie LaSaga helped save the life of mother and baby,” said Health Services Minister George Abbott. “As a father of three, I would like to offer my heart-felt congratulations on a job well done to Nickie who is an example of the outstanding work of BC Ambulance Service dispatchers.”

“I was still asleep and everything happened so quickly that I didn’t have time to be worried,” said Hayton. “We live in quite a remote area so I’m glad there was someone on the phone to help me. Janine and our family are all looking forward to meeting Nickie and saying thank you in person.”

The Stork Award is being presented to LaSaga to recognize her life-saving role for both mother and child. The presentation is also an opportunity to bring the dispatcher and the patient and their family together. It is hoped that by recognizing these individuals, the public will learn more about how BCAS dispatchers can assist 911 callers during an emergency medical situation.

The Stork Award presentation will take place at the BCAS station in Golden, 700 8<sup>th</sup> Ave at 1:00 p.m. with BCAS Superintendent Jason Twells and Dispatch Superintendent Doug Garland with mother, father and the healthy baby boy present.

For more information, please contact:

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