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Dr. Tom Pashby Sports Safety Award

Media Release

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FOR NOON RELEASE

WEST VANCOUVER'S RICHARD KINAR TO RECEIVE \$10,000 DR. TOM PASHBY SPORTS SAFETY AWARD

Presentation at West Vancouver Community Centre on Saturday, November 14 at 12:30 p.m.
Spirit Room | 2121 Marine Drive | West Vancouver | BC | V7V 4Y2 | 604 921-3411

The Dr. Tom Pashby Sports Safety Fund is proud to announce that Richard Kinar of West Vancouver is the winner of the sixth Dr. Tom Pashby Safety Fund Award given to a Canadian who has made an outstanding contribution in the prevention of catastrophic injuries in sports and recreation.

A catastrophic injury is one that leaves a person with a permanent impairment. It usually affects the eyes, brain or spinal cord.

The Dr. Tom Pashby Sports Safety Fund was formed in 1989 to make sure the ideals and passion for safety of the Toronto Ophthalmologist would continue forever. He died in 2005 but The Fund carries on his work. The Award will be on display at Canada's Sports Hall of Fame.

Mr. Kinar, 53, a member of the CSA Helmet Ski Committee, is the sixth person to receive the award which includes a \$10,000 prize. While not promoting safety on the Ski Hills, Kinar works as a receiver and spends his spare time promoting his message including the documentary "Wipe Out". The film shows the long term social and economic effects of preventable head injuries on three skiers. He is also a Board Member with the Brain Injury Association of Canada.

"Richard is very passionate about head protection and is a worthy recipient," says Dr. Pat Bishop who chairs the Canadian Standards Association Committee on safety equipment and was the first winner of this prestigious award.

"He was most influential in getting the ski helmet standards passed," Bishop said. "He convinced the politicians in British Columbia to provide the funding for the CSA to develop the CSA Standard."

"Education is the first step in prevention," is quote from the late Dr. Pashby who was the volunteer who collected data on eye injuries in hockey and racquetball sports. He led the way for hockey players to wear helmets and facemasks. He also worked tirelessly to reduce spinal cord injuries and concussions in recreational sport.

Kinesiologist Dr. Pat Bishop, Neurosurgeon Dr. Karen Johnston, sport medicine physician and Chief Medical Officer of Hockey Canada Dr. Mark Aubry were the first three recipients. In 2007, Kevin Stubbington, a Windsor Minor Hockey Association volunteer, won it for his inventive idea of using a STOP (Safety Towards Other Players) Sign on the back of sweaters to make an opponent think before hitting another player. Last year Toronto Star journalist Randy Starkman was recognized for his extensive work in educating the public on the existence and problems surrounding catastrophic injuries in sports. Mr. Starkman the first sportswriter to receive this prestigious award which includes a \$10,000 prize.

For further information, contact Fund Chair William Pashby at wpashby@blgcanada.com or (416) 367-6249.