



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 20, 2014**

### **Beacon Community Services Staff Receive Major Awards**

VICTORIA, BC – Two Beacon Community Services (BCS) staff members have been recognized for their work with major awards. Karen Mac, a BCS Community Health Worker is the winner of the inaugural BC Care Provider of the Year award, presented at a gala awards ceremony at Victoria's Fairmont Empress Hotel last night.

She is joined by Samantha Gemmell, LPN, Manager of the Piercy Respite Hotel who has received The Greater Victoria Eldercare Foundation's Jeanette Funke-Furber Gerontological Award for her 2013 work in dementia care.

"All of us at Beacon Community Services are incredibly proud of Karen and Samantha," said Isobel Mackenzie, CEO Beacon Community Services. "These awards are a true reflection of the caring and dedicated work that these two women provide to Beacon's clients."

The Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Health, MLA Kamloops – North Thompson, presented Karen Mac with her BC Care Provider of the Year award. The prize which is to be awarded annually recognizes a front-line care provider employed by a BC Care member who has demonstrated a commitment to quality, compassion and excellence in delivering care to one or more residents and/or clients.

Samantha Gemmell will receive continuing education funding as the Jeanette Funke-Furber Gerontological Award winner to be used to enhance and advance her education in care for the elderly. The fund was established by Jeanette Funke-Furber and Robert Furber in 2010 to further their belief in the importance of continued education for caregivers.

Beacon Community Services is community-based, not-for-profit services agency that offers a wide range of programs and services to thousands of clients in the Capital Regional District. Every day Beacon brings care and comfort to over 9000 people and together the staff and volunteers are "Making a Difference in Someone's Life".

-30-

**Media contact:**

Sandra Hudson  
250-216-1380  
sandra@goodrelations.ca

2723 Quadra Street • Victoria, BC V8T 4E5 • Tel: 250.658-6407 • Fax: 250.361-8720  
[www.beaconcs.ca](http://www.beaconcs.ca) • [info@beaconcs.ca](mailto:info@beaconcs.ca)

*Employment Services • Child, Youth & Family Services • Counselling • Volunteer Services • Home Support • Seniors Housing  
Charitable Registration No. 12995 1174 RR0001*