



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®

*The Lifeguarding Experts*

# Investiture *citations*

Investiture of Lifesaving Honours

Rescue Commendation Award

October 05, 2015 | Government House | Edmonton, AB

## Tamara Loiselle

Cancun, Mexico – December 29, 2014

**THE MOUNTBATTEN MEDAL** *recognizes the most courageous rescue in the commonwealth by a person who is a Lifesaving Society award holder.*

Standing on a Cancun beach the morning of December 29, 2014, Tamara Loiselle and several security guards heard the screams of two swimmers who were so far from the shoreline that they appeared to be nothing more than a speck. When Tamara looked at the Security guards faces, they did not look confident enough to swim out and save the swimmers. With no one else able to go in, Tamara, a Lifesaving Society Bronze Cross award holder and a triathlon athlete, made the decision to rescue the distressed swimmers.

Armed with a life preserver attached to a rope secured to a reel on the beach, Tamara swam out against the strong current. At one point a big wave knocked the wind out of her and the rope connecting her to the beach became stuck. While swimming out Tamara realized the grave difficulty of this rescue. Thoughts of her two children were running through her mind making Tamara realize she had to make it back for her children. Once she reached the male swimmer he pleaded with her to go rescue the female swimmer who was further out. Tamara got the man to grab onto the life preserver and they swam out together to the woman.

By the time they reached the woman, only her face was sticking out of the water. She was exhausted and unable to swim any more. Tamara had both swimmers grab the life preserver and the security guards on the beach began pulling them all back to shore. Paramedics were waiting on shore to help carry the woman out of the water.

The rescued man was at a loss of words to thank Tamara and informed her that his girlfriend was about to give up. Due to Tamara's selfless act, courage, and outstanding rescue effort, the lives of two people were saved.

For **Tamara Loiselle's** quick response and outstanding effort, **Tamara** is awarded the Mountbatten Medal.