



Straights' Advanced First-Aid Experience
3436 West 30th Avenue Ron or Heather Straight
Vancouver, B.C. (604)261-5756
Canada V6S 1W4 Fax(604)261-5740

February 18, 2002

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is attesting to the quality of V Block's aquatic spine-board. I have specialized in the pre-hospital management of possible spine injured patients for over 20 years. I have 22 years experience as an advanced life support paramedic for the BC Ambulance Service. I routinely care for possible spine injured patients. I have spoken around the world at medical conferences and clinics on the care of injured athletes. My initial training and motivation stemmed from lifeguarding. I first developed the internationally recognized procedure for removing possible spine injured patients from the water in 1977. This procedure was used to win the 1979 Canadian Lifeguard Championships. It was then used by Canada in the World Lifeguarding Championships held in Vancouver in 1986. Vancouver placed second to Australia overall but excelled in the aquatic-injury-management event. The spine-board used in this event was the forerunner of V-Block's current device.

Twelve years ago, I approached Victor Rassmussen to produce the spine board I had designed in 1979. The previous manufacturer was moving and I had hoped to find a more effective producer. With Victor's background in the industrial arts and lifeguarding, he showed immediate interest. Victor began making the spine board and neck immobilizer. On his own initiative, he has since progressively improved the product. For example, where it started as a wooden board with makeshift attachments, the spine board now is made of a more durable composite material with metal runners for added strength and custom made straps and head immobilizers. With periodic consultation, he adds custom make modifications to best meet the various aquatic environmental contexts. Victor, with his past experience as a machinist, has kept this rescue device "state of the art." He has set the standard for aquatic spine board design and production. This is evident by the quality of his workmanship.

Sincerely,

Ron Straight
ALS paramedic, BGS, MEd