



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 04/03/2019**

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### **BC EPILEPSY SOCIETY STATEMENT**

*The BC Epilepsy Society advocates for Tavia Marlatt to have a care plan at discharge*

**Vancouver, BC:** The BC Epilepsy Society stands with Tavia Marlatt and her mother, Renee Marlatt. Tavia is a 22-year-old woman with complex epilepsy, uncontrolled seizures, acquired brain injury and neuropsychiatric challenges. As per earlier media coverage, for the past week, Tavia has been in one of the two epilepsy beds in BC at the Seizure Monitoring Clinic at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH). After being in the Seizure Monitoring clinic for a week now, it has been discovered that Tavia's epilepsy and seizures are far more complex than was initially thought. Despite this, Tavia has been informed that, today, she will be discharged with absolutely no care plan of any kind in place. This means that Tavia will have no in-home support and Tavia and her mother Renee will have no guidance as they navigate the health care and social services system in order to get Tavia the care that she desperately needs.

Kim Davidson, Executive Director of BC Epilepsy Society has stated that "The BC Epilepsy Society is not acting in an adversarial role in this matter; rather, we are looking to work with the health care system and be advocates for Tavia's safe return to the home." She also added that "The Marlatt family has been well taken care of by the doctors, nurses and health care support staff at VGH, all of whom are incredibly professional and compassionate and for that, I am grateful. This is a higher-level systemic crisis that requires provincial attention."

In addition to the two rescue medications that Tavia is already prescribed, a third rescue medication has been added. This rescue medication is a nasal spray that must be administered by another person in order to stop an ongoing uncontrolled convulsive seizure and cannot be self-administered. Without this rescue medication being given to Tavia, serious consequences can happen, even death. This is one of the many reasons that Tavia requires a care plan with in-home support, because in addition to her complex epilepsy and uncontrolled seizures, she also has an acquired brain injury and neuropsychiatric challenges, from a previous brain surgery to control her epilepsy.

Tavia has stated "I am refusing to leave the hospital until they have a care plan in place for me" as she is fearful of the serious, potentially fatal injuries that may occur without a care plan and out in

the community. She has also stated that they will have to call the police and arrest her to get her to leave the hospital.

Within the international epilepsy community via Google Alerts, this story is being shared beyond the borders of British Columbia and Canada and advocacy is coming in from international epilepsy organizations and partners of the BC Epilepsy Society. Despite this, neither the Marlatt family nor the BC Epilepsy Society has heard back from Minister of Health, Adrian Dix or the health authority about this case. The BC Epilepsy Society is now asking Premier John Horgan to intervene on behalf of this family to get them a care plan to leave the hospital safely.

For more information on Tavia's story, please check out our [blog post](#) on the topic, as well as interviews by [CBC News](#) and by [Global BC News](#).

If you would like to learn more about the support services that the BC Epilepsy Society offers for people living with epilepsy and their families, please email [info@bcepilepsy.com](mailto:info@bcepilepsy.com) or visit our website at [www.bcepilepsy.com](http://www.bcepilepsy.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kim Davidson  
Executive Director  
BC Epilepsy Society