



December 7, 2011

TO: Ross Landry, Chair of the Law Amendments Committee

FROM: Sandra Newton, Manager, Child Safety Link (CSL)

Re: Support for Bill 131: Snow Sport Helmet Act

Dear Honourable Ross Landry and All Members of the Law Amendments Committee:

Good afternoon Honourable Chairman, Committee Members, fellow colleagues and members of the media, I am here on behalf of the IWK's Primary Health Team and Child Safety Link program. Child Safety Link is a Maritime-wide child and youth injury prevention program whose goal is to reduce the incidence and severity of injury. On behalf of Child Safety Link, I want to offer our support of this new legislation.

Child Safety Link strongly supports Bill 131 that ensures that everyone – no matter what age - wears a helmet while on the slopes. We know that helmets are effective in preventing or reducing the severity of a head injury. As well, having all ages wear a helmet while skiing or snowboarding provides our children with positive role models on the slopes. We know that children are influenced by adult behaviour, and this piece of legislation ensures a safer environment for children to engage in winter physical activity.

Our province continues to be a leader in injury prevention in Canada. As you know, Nova Scotia was the first province in Canada with a government endorsed and funded injury prevention strategy. This new bill is another positive step in reducing serious injuries in our province.

Again, I would like to commend the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness, Ski Hill operators, the QEII Department of Neurotrauma and Neurosurgery, and others who have worked together in partnership to ensure that the slopes are safe for everyone. We want Nova Scotians to remain active, in a safe manner, so that they are able to continue skiing and snowboarding for many years to come.

Child Safety Link would like to offer our support to the government and work with you to inform our stakeholders across the province about this new development. On behalf of Child Safety Link, I would like to again thank the Nova Scotia government for collaborating with others to reduce serious injuries in the province.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Newton".

Sandra Newton
Manager, CSL

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