

Honorable Ross Landry
Minister of Nova Scotia Department of Justice
Chair of the Law Amendments Committee
5151 Terminal Road, P.O. Box 7
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2L6
Phone: (902) 424-4030
Email: justweb@gov.ns.ca

December 12, 2011

Honourable Ross Landry,

Re: Snow Sport Helmet Act, Bill 131

As a critical care and research Nurse of 23 years, the most profound tragedies I have witnessed have been preventable brain injuries. The pain and suffering of families, patients and societies sustaining these injuries are insurmountable. Helmets are a well researched and proven method to decrease the severity of a brain injury. Therefore, I was very pleased to hear the announcement of the Snow and Sport Helmet Act, Bill 131 by the Minister of Health, Honourable Maureen MacDonald on December 6th. I submit this letter to indicate my full support of this legislation.

The Division of Neurosurgery, Neurotrauma and Injury prevention programs have been leaders in collaborative practice with ; Ski Patrol, Nova Scotia Ski Hills, Brain Injury Association of Nova Scotia , Injury Free Nova Scotia, Child Safety Link, Canadian Paraplegic Association, Nova Scotia Trauma Program, Emergency Health Services , RCMP / Municipal Police and ThinkFirst in the prevention of head injuries. We have worked tirelessly in research and education for helmets for all activities. Our tract record for wheeled activities has yielded the lowest rate of cycling related brain injury in the Country and some of the highest rates of bike helmet usage in the world; we are confident that legislation works!

Brain injuries have life-long consequences for individuals, their families, and society at large; the government's ski helmet legislation is the best approach to prevent these unnecessary injuries and unnecessary health care costs. Research indicates that helmets and legislation work. The cost savings to the health care system through prevention of brain injury clearly offsets any enforcement costs of the legislation therefore; I strongly encourage you to pass this very important piece of legislation.

Yours sincerely,

Lynne Fenerty, RN, BN, CNCC(c), DO (MP)
Research Manager, ThinkFirst Coordinator
Division of Neurosurgery
Neuro-Trauma & Injury Prevention Programs
Capital Health, QEII HSC, HI Site, 3rd Floor
1796 Summer Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 3A7
902 473-7895 (ph), 902 473-4422(fx)
lynne.fenerty@cdha.nshealth.ca
www.thinkfirst.ca
<http://neurosurgery.medicine.dal.ca/programs.htm>

Cc: Gordon Hebb, Chief Legislative Counsel- LEGC.HEBBGD@gov.ns.ca