



1-888-SAFE-TIPS (723-3847)

December 9, 2011

Re: Bill 131: Snow Sport Helmet Act

Dear Honourable Members of the Law Amendments Committee:

On behalf of Safe Kids Canada, I am writing in support of Bill 131: *Snow Sport Helmet Act*.

Safe Kids Canada is the national injury prevention program of the Hospital for Sick Children. We work to reduce unintentional injuries, the leading cause of death among children and youth in Canada. We urge the passage of Bill 131 without delay as an important piece of legislation, critical to ensuring that Nova Scotians remain free of preventable and avoidable injuries while staying active through winter sports.

Safe Kids Canada has long supported mandatory ski-helmet use as an effective way to keep Canadians of all ages safe while staying active through winter sports. An international review, including Canada, concluded that head injuries are the most common cause of death among skiers and snowboarders. It is estimated that 87.5 per cent of skiing and snowboarding deaths are the result of a head injury. *The Snow Sports Helmet Act* is an important step in reducing ski-related traumatic head injuries, as helmet-use reduces the risk for skiers by up to 60 per cent.

Nova Scotia has long been an international leader in injury prevention. With the passage of Bill 131, Nova Scotia will continue in its role as a world leader in promoting strategies to reduce the incidents of serious and preventable unintentional injuries, which can constitute significant direct and indirect costs to the economy and society at large.

We urge the passage of Bill 131 without delay and look forward to the positive impact all-ages helmet use will have on the rates of head injuries among Nova Scotians who engage in winter sports. We are pleased to share our expertise with you in order to achieve our mission - *Fewer Injuries. Healthier Children. A Safer Canada*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'P. Fuselli'.

Pamela Fuselli,
Executive Director

Unintentional injuries are the number one cause of death among children and youth in Canada. Safe Kids Canada is the national injury prevention program of The Hospital for Sick Children. Our work is based on evidence. The strategies we recommend are proven to be effective in reducing injuries. Safe Kids Canada collaborates with community partners and national stakeholders to conduct research, raise awareness, educate families and advocate for safer environments to protect children.

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The national injury prevention program of SickKids
Le programme national de prévention des blessures du SickKids