



December 09, 2011

Honourable Ross Landry
Minister of Nova Scotia Department of Justice
Chair of the Law Amendments Committee
5151 Terminal Road
P.O. Box 7
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Re: Snow Sport Helmet Act, Bill 131

Honourable Ross Landry,

The **Brain Injury Association of Canada (BIAC)** was 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 am writing this letter to indicate that the Brain Injury Association of Canada (BIAC) is in full support of this legislation.

As a NGO, we work very hard for the prevention of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and see the devastating consequences of TBI. We know the human and financial costs are staggering, with one brain injury costing the health system an estimated \$400,000 the first year, and every year thereafter in addition to the human and economic costs; which are tragedies for all involved. Let us not also forget the concussions, mild traumatic brain injuries that also occur on the ski hills and the costs that may be related to these injuries either on the short or long term.

Recent research has shown that concussions can also lead to many other neurological conditions such as early onset of dementia, Alzheimer's, ALS, seizures, Parkinson's and possibly others. If you wish to witness the effects of a brain injury I would like to suggest that you take a few minutes to watch the first 15 minutes if not all of our educational film Wipe Out which can be viewed at by going to this link:
<http://wipeout.knowledgenetwork.ca/wipeout.html>

We know that skiing and snowboarding injuries occur on NS ski hills as well as all ski hills across the world and the severity of head injury while skiing and snowboarding can be decreased by as much as 88% with the use of helmets; therefore, I strongly encourage you to pass this very important piece of legislation. Congratulations on blazing the trail and for raising the injury prevention standard for ski hills across Canada and the world.

Sincerely,

Harry Zarins

Harry Zarins
Executive Director
Brain Injury Association of Canada

Cc: Gordon Hebb, Chief Legislative Counsel Province of Nova Scotia
Larry Carlson, President, Brain Injury Association of Canada