

May 14, 2014

Hon. Bruce Northrup
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
bruce.northrup@gnb.ca

Re: Helmet law in New Brunswick

Dear Hon. Bruce Northrup,

In December 2012, following a bill passed by the Nova Scotia government: An Act to Require Downhill Skiers and Snowboarders to Wear Helmets, we wrote to Hon. Robert Trevors with our concerns urging him to amend the legislation in New Brunswick to enforce a similar law. Then, in April 2013, we received correspondence to advise the government was not expecting to introduce a new provincial legislation on helmets at that time, but that he would inquire into the Nova Scotia law to see who was tasked with the enforcement, what the sanctions were and what had been the impact of the law.

At our last Annual Meeting, our members had raised concerns that this law had not yet passed in New Brunswick. Our members reinforced their position by voting on a motion to recommend the mandatory use of helmets on all ski hills in New Brunswick. We would also like to bring your attention to a Position Statement made by the Canadian Paediatric Society, also endorsed by the College of Family Physicians of Canada, which outlines the importance of mandatory helmet use in preventing injuries and saving lives. Please refer to the following link: <http://www.cps.ca/en/documents/position/skiing-snowboarding-injury>

Once again, we would ask that you consider our plea to protect the public's health in New Brunswick and we thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,



Marc André Doucet, MD, CCFP
President

cc : Hon. Hugh Flemming, Minister of Health
Mr Denis Landry, MLA, Public Safety and Solicitor General critic
Mr Donald Arseneault, MLA, Health critic
Anick Pelletier, Past President NBCFP
Ms Patricia Titus, concerned citizen