

A05-13, Window Safety Devices

(Sponsor: Durham Region Health Department)

WHEREAS the National Building Code of Canada, 1995 stipulates that in homes, windows with sills 50 mm or less (about 18 in.) from the floor must be protected by a guard or a mechanism capable of limiting the window from opening to less than 10 cm (4 in.) to prevent children from sliding through; and

WHEREAS the City of Toronto has amended its Municipal Code to require safety devices be installed at windows in multiple-dwelling buildings; and

WHEREAS it is estimated that children's falls from a balcony or window cost Canadians \$630 million a year; and

WHEREAS in the past year, several small children in the GTA have fallen from windows with severe injuries leading to death; and

WHEREAS in Toronto, for example, between 1999 and 2004, 42 children, 14 of whom were critically injured and 10 died, were treated after falling from a window or balcony; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT alPHa urges the Government of Ontario to act immediately to amend the Ontario Building Code to require the installation of an acceptable window safety devices in multiple-dwellings such that in every multiple-dwelling, every window, any part of which is capable of being opened, that does not lead to a balcony, that is located two metres or more above the finished grade of land upon which it faces, and is not otherwise equipped to prevent falls shall be equipped with a safety device to prevent an opening in any part of the window greater than 100 millimetres; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Premier of Ontario, the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Health Promotion, and Health and Long-Term Care are so advised.