

2/15/2006

Hon. John Gerretsen  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Main Legislative Building  
Room 420  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A4

Honourable Minister,

**Re.    alPHa Resolution A05-13, Window Safety Devices**

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On behalf of member Medical Officers of Health, Boards of Health and Affiliate organizations of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa), I am writing today to introduce alPHa's resolution on Window Safety Devices (A05-13, attached).

As public health practitioners, alPHa's members have a direct interest in any measures that are designed to reduce preventable disability, morbidity and mortality, and must often rely on partners outside the health sector for their implementation.

As you are no doubt aware, the measures that we are requesting have already been added to the National Building Code as well as Toronto's Municipal Code. We hope that your Ministry will consider doing the same for the Ontario Building Code in order to provide similar protections across the province.

Yours truly,



Linda Stewart,  
Executive Director

**Copy:** Dr. Sheela Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Hon. George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
Hon. Jim Watson, Minister of Health Promotion  
Hon. Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario

**Encl.**

**2005 aPHa Resolution A05-13**

TITLE           **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** aPHa 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.