

alPHa Resolution A06-2

TITLE: All Terrain Vehicle Safety

SPONSOR: Durham Regional Council

WHEREAS the current *Off-Road Vehicle Act* states that no owner of an off-road vehicle shall permit a child under the age of 12 years to drive such a vehicle except when the child is driving the vehicle on land occupied by the vehicle owner or under the close supervision of an adult; and

WHEREAS retail sales of off-road or all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) in Ontario have increased dramatically from 5,704 in 1997 to 21,188 in 2004; and

WHEREAS ATV-related injuries are the only type of injury on the rise while other types of injuries are decreasing; and

WHEREAS children less than 16 years of age account for almost one-third of ATV injury-related hospital emergency visits; 30% or more of ATV injury hospitalizations and almost half of all ATV-related deaths; and

WHEREAS ATVs range in size from 50cc to 700cc engines and weigh up to 273 kg (600 lb.) with speed capabilities as fast as 75 mph; and

WHEREAS ATV steering is complex and according to the Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS), children and young adolescents lack the knowledge, physical size and strength, and cognitive and motor skills to operate ATVs safely; and

WHEREAS the CPS has developed a set of evidence-based recommendations aimed to improve ATV safety for children; and

WHEREAS the Government of New Brunswick, for example, struck a multi-stakeholder ATV task force that developed a set of comprehensive recommendations in the following areas: public safety; environmental protection; enforcement; legislation; trail networking; education and funding; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Ontario be urged to strike a multi-stakeholder ATV Task Group to develop a comprehensive, evidence-based approach, including amendments to the *Off-Road Vehicles Act*, to promote ATV safety and prevent ATV injuries, particularly in children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Premier of Ontario, Ministers of Children and Youth Services, Health and Long-Term Care, Health Promotion and Transportation and Chief Medical Officer of Health be so advised.

MOTION: L. O'Connor (BOH, Durham)
SECOND: K. Gorman (ASPHIO, Durham)

Resolution CARRIED.