



December 23, 2010

Linda Stewart, Executive Director
Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA)
2 Carlton Street, Suite 1306
Toronto ON M5B 1J3

RECEIVED

JAN 13 2011

ALPHA

Dear Linda Stewart:

Re: All Terrain Vehicle Safety

Thank you for your letter dated November 24, 2010 regarding the use of non-automobile modes of transportation on highways and private properties in Ontario. On December 17, 2010, at a regular Board of Health meeting for the Grey Bruce Health Unit, the Board considered your letter and the following motion was passed:

Motion 2010-104

THAT, the Grey Bruce Board of Health support ALPHA's position on the appointment of a select committee to study the use of non-automobile modes of transportation on highways and private properties in Ontario, and to offer recommendations for ensuring the safety of Ontarians who use such modes of transportation.

Carried.

Building Healthy Communities Together,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hazel Lynn".

Hazel Lynn, MD, FCFP, MHSc
Medical Officer of Health

HL/em

Encl.



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Providing leadership in public health management

Dr. Helena Jaczek,
MPP, Oak Ridges-Markham,
Ferguson Block
11th Flr
77 Wellesley St W
Toronto ON M7A 2T5

November 24, 2010

**Re: Select Committee to Study the Use of Non-Automobile Modes of Transportation on
Highways and Private Properties in Ontario**

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 to express alPHa's support for your Resolution calling for the appointment of a select committee to study the use of non-automobile modes of transportation on highways and private properties in Ontario and to offer recommendations for ensuring the safety of Ontarians who use such modes of transportation.

The stated aim of the proposed committee is to develop a strategy for reducing injuries and fatalities related to the use of such modes of transport, which is well-aligned with our members' obligations under the Ontario Public Health Standards related to the development and implementation of healthy policies and programs, and the creation or enhancement of safe and supportive environments that address road and off-road safety.

More specifically, it appears that the proposed committee would answer alPHa's 2006 call on the Ontario Government to develop a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to promote ATV safety and prevent ATV injuries, particularly in children (see attached Resolution A06-2), and extend this approach to similar modes transportation.

We hope that members of the Ontario Legislature will recognize that addressing the gaps that exist in Ontario's regulation of such modes of transport will significantly reduce the thousands of preventable non-automotive motorized vehicle-related injuries that occur each year in this province.

We are pleased to endorse your Resolution for the appointment of a select committee, and look forward to providing input and feedback as appropriate as it begins its work.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Linda Stewart,
Executive Director

Copy: Dr. Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health

Encl.

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.



DR. HELENA JACZEK, MPP

Oak Ridges - Markham

November 19, 2010

Dear Linda Stewart,

On November 3, 2010 I tabled a Private Members Resolution stating that a select committee be appointed to study the use of non-automobile modes of transportation on highways and private properties in Ontario. I have copied the Resolution below for your review:

That, in the opinion of this House, a select committee be appointed to study the use of non-automobile modes of transportation on highways and private properties in Ontario and to offer recommendations for ensuring the safety of Ontarians who use such modes of transportation.

Specifically, the committee shall investigate and report on strategies for reducing injuries and fatalities related to the use of bicycles and non-automotive motorized vehicles, such as:

- 1.- Imposing minimum age requirements for operators and passengers of non-automobile motorized vehicles;
- 2.- Implementing safety training and licensing requirements for operators of non-automobile motorized vehicles;
- 3.- Requiring the use of protective equipment for operators and passengers of bicycles and non-automobile motorized vehicles; and
- 4.- Creating regulations regarding the appropriate size of certain classes of non-automobile motorized vehicles relative to operators and passengers.

The committee shall have the authority to conduct hearings, undertake research and do anything else it considers relevant to developing a strategy for reducing injuries and fatalities related to the use of non-automobile modes of transportation in Ontario.

The committee shall be composed of Members representing all geographic regions of the Province of Ontario.

The committee shall present a final report by no later than May 31, 2011.

Constituency Office

137 Main Street North, Suite 201, Markham, ON L3P 1Y2

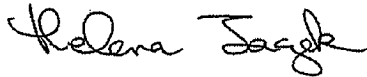
Tel 905-294-4931 | Fax 905-294-0014 | Toll Free 1-866-531-9551 | Email hjaczek.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

I ask that you review the attached copy and let me know if we can count on you supporting this Resolution. If you could please contact Lesley Sherban, Dr. Helena Jaczek's Legislative Assistant at 416-212-7308 or lsherban@liberal.ola.org it would be appreciated.

I hope you can join me for the Second Reading of the Resolution on November 25, 2010, a formal invitation will follow.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact my.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helena Jaczek". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'H' and 'J'.

Dr. Helena Jaczek,
MPP, Oak Ridges-Markham