

February 8, 2005

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier:

RE: Legislation for ATV Use Among Children and Youth

Please be advised that at its January 27, 2005 meeting, the Sudbury & District Board of Health reviewed the Canadian Paediatric Society's position statement and recommendations regarding ATV use by children and young adults and passed the following motion #08-05:

WHEREAS the Sudbury & District Health Unit is mandated to reduce the rate of injuries caused by motorized vehicle crashes including, boats, snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles; and

WHEREAS on June 7, 2004 the Canadian Paediatric Society, after examining the data on escalating injury while operating an ATV, released a new position statement "Preventing All-Terrain Vehicle Injury", calling on all provinces and territories to harmonize off-road vehicle legislation including legislating a minimum operator age of 16 years, restriction of passengers to the number for which the vehicle was designed; compulsory helmet use with no exemptions, mandatory training, licensing and registration and ban of the use of three-wheeled vehicles; and

WHEREAS this position statement states that ATV use by children and young adolescents is particularly dangerous because they lack the physical size and strength, knowledge, and cognitive and motor skills to operate the vehicles safely;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health support the Canadian Paediatric Society's position statement and recommendations regarding ATV use by children and young adults; and

FURTHER THAT the Sudbury & District Board of Health shall advocate to the Premier of Ontario, to request that the government implement the Canadian Paediatric Society's recommendations so that the number and severity of injuries can be reduced by restricting ridership among young operators.

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The Sudbury & District Board of Health supports the October 2004 Thunder Bay District Board of Health resolution on this matter and seeks your attention and support in this matter that disproportionately affects the health of rural and northern children.

Yours sincerely,

Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

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c: Dr. C. Robin Walker, President, Canadian Paediatric Society
Dr. Sheela Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister
Ontario Boards of Health