



November 29, 2011

Dr. Dan Cass
Regional Supervising Coroner
Toronto West Region
Office of the Chief Coroner
26 Grenville Street
Toronto ON M7A 2G7
Occo.inquiries@ontario.ca

Dear Dr. Cass:

We are writing on behalf of the Ontario Society of Physical Activity Promoters in Public Health.

OSPAPPH's mission is to elevate physical activity as a public health priority in Ontario through engagement, education, advocacy and strategic alliances. We aim to be the unified voice representing public health practitioners with the mandate of promoting physical activity in our respective communities. This society builds on the strengths of an established infrastructure and mandate within the public health system, as well as the partnerships formed at the community, provincial and national levels, with the ultimate purpose of increasing physical activity levels in Ontario.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments to you in advance of your review of cycling deaths in Ontario during the last 5 years. We would like you to keep in mind the following elements that we believe are important filters to use in reviewing the specific details of each case and when making your recommendations.

1. The number of cyclists on our roads is increasing and the number of cyclists/motor vehicle interactions is going to increase in the coming years. Your recommendations will provide an important roadmap for how to decrease a wide range of injuries and increase active transportation, whose importance is often undervalued in policy and planning practices. Specifically, there is a need for segregated cycling infrastructure.
 2. Cycling is a critical part of the solution needed to address the continued rise in chronic diseases and poor air quality that are putting a huge financial strain on our health care system.
 3. Consider that different types of cyclists have different needs. Experienced cyclists, road racers and recreational cyclists all have different needs that need to be addressed in unique ways.
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4. Take into account the environment within which people cycle. Different solutions will be needed in different environments – urban, rural, on-road, trails and pathways.
5. Cycling education needs to be incorporated into road use training for all road users, motor vehicle drivers, cyclists & pedestrians. When each road user's behaviour is predictable, crashes and injuries will decrease.

We also urge you to include specific recommendations and provide direction for how improvements can be incorporated to the ongoing infrastructure renewal that is happening across our communities.

Finally, it is our hope that the inquiry will help to support the work of public health. Cycling is not only a great form of physical activity and a growing sport, but it also plays a key role in active transportation. It is our hope that an inquiry of this nature will help to inform messaging and guide practices in public health to ensure cycling continues to be an effective, safe and enjoyable means of increasing physical activity in Ontario.

OSPAPPH welcomes the opportunity to provide further feedback once the review process has been undertaken. We look forward to reading the final document.


Lisa Kaldeway
OSPAPPH Co-chair


Chantal L. Lalonde
OSPAPPH Co-chair