



Bike to the Future
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May 9, 2012

Dr. Margaret Fast
Acting Chief Provincial Public Health Officer

Dr. Thambirajah Balachandra
Chief Medical Examiner of Manitoba

Dear Dr. Fast and Dr. Balachandra:

Safety for cyclists on public roads

This letter is further to recent meetings and correspondence between Bike to the Future, the Safety Committee for Active Transportation, Minister Lemieux (Minister responsible for Active Transportation); Dr. Warda, Medical Director of the WHRA's injury prevention program IMPAC; and Member of Parliament Olivia Chow re: truck sideguards to protect cyclists. This letter is also further to the tragic death of Arne Johnsrud, run over from behind by a truck and killed on March 19, 2012 while cycling and wearing a helmet, and trying to navigate the ending of a paved shoulder on Highway 12. We are attempting to obtain more information about cycling safety issues through freedom of information requests of the Winnipeg Police Services, Manitoba Public Insurance and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation, however, given that we are a volunteer organization, the progress on this front is fairly slow.

This letter is also further to the very recent publication of a report from Toronto Health and recommendations from the Toronto Medical Officer of Health in a report published by Public Health entitled A Healthy Toronto by Design Report (April 16, 2012).

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/story/2012/04/24/toronto-speed-limits.html>

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.HL13.1>

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2012/hl/bgrd/backgroundfile-46520.pdf>

This letter is also further to the fact that in Ontario, the Chief Coroner has announced that the Office of the Chief Coroner will be conducting a review of cycling deaths across the province. This review is being undertaken as a result of public concern surrounding the issue of cycling safety.

<http://news.ontario.ca/mcscs/en/2011/10/cycling-death-review-announcement.html>

In addition, the Ontario Coroner's office undertook a study of cycling related fatalities in Ontario between 1986 and 1998. (Recommendation 15 dealt with the issue of truck side guards.)

http://www.toronto.ca/cycling/reports/coroner/coroner_recomend.htm

The purpose of this letter is to urge the Manitoba Provincial Health Officer and/or the Manitoba Chief Medical Examiner to undertake a detailed review of cycling fatalities and serious injuries in Manitoba, and to prepare a report on the public health benefits of cycling and the best methods to promote safer cycling in Manitoba.

Bike to the Future would be very willing to provide information about many legislative and other initiatives being undertaken across North America and elsewhere to make cycling safer and to increase cycling generally.

Yours sincerely,

Tom McMahon
Co-chair, Bike to the Future

CC

Ron Lemieux, Minister responsible for Active Transportation
Theresa Oswald, Minister of Health
Jim Rondeau, Minister of Healthy Living
Steve Ashton, Minister of Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation

Arlene Wilgosh, President & CEO, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

Lynne Warda, MD FRCPC
Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics and Child Health
Injury Prevention and Child Health, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority