

## **Proposed Resolution for the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) Annual Meeting**

- TITLE** Petition the Ontario government to enact all-ages provincial bicycle helmet legislation
- SPONSOR** Middlesex-London Board of Health
- WHEREAS** Cycling injuries are one of the most common injuries incurred from summer sports and recreational activity for Canadians (Canadian Institute for Health Information, 2011); and
- WHEREAS** Over 1200 Ontarians are admitted to hospital each year for cycling injuries and over 13,000 visit the Emergency Department (SMARTRISK, 2009); and
- WHEREAS** In the past decade, 78% of the severe cycling injury hospital admissions were not wearing a helmet (Canadian Institute for Health Information, 2011); and
- WHEREAS** Millions of dollars are spent each year in Canada on direct and indirect costs associated with pedal cycle injuries (illness, disability, and death) including lost productivity in the workplace and home (SMARTRISK, 2009); and
- WHEREAS** A properly fitted helmet can reduce the risks of serious head injury by as much as 85% (Thompson et. al, 2004); and
- WHEREAS** Ontario's bike helmet use ranks below the national average (36.5%) at 34.4% (Statistics Canada, 2009); and
- WHEREAS** Ontario's current helmet legislation requires only children under the age of 18 to wear an approved bicycle helmet when cycling on a roadway or cycling (Ministry of Transportation, 2011); and
- WHEREAS** Bicycle helmet legislation has been proven to increase helmet use, in some cases dramatically (Dennis et. al, 2010); and
- WHEREAS** Each dollar invested in a helmet saves \$30 dollars in societal costs. (Smartrisk, 2009),

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) petition the Ontario government to enact all-ages bicycle helmet legislation.