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Development (PHRED) Program

Charitable Registration  
Number 11924 8771 RR0001

Honourable Donna Cansfield  
Minister of Transportation  
1201 Wilson Avenue  
Downsview, ON  
M3M 1J8

December 13, 2006

**Re: Amendment to Seatbelt Legislation (Highway Traffic Act)**

Dear Minister Cansfield:

The Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) passed the resolution below on amending the Highway Traffic Act at its Annual General Meeting of October 26, 2006. The resolution is in keeping with the work you have done in the same area, and we would like to express our gratitude and support for this action. This change in legislation will save many lives.

**OPHA Resolution for 2006: To Amend Ontario's Highway Traffic Act**

**WHEREAS** there is no present legislation restricting the number of passengers who ride in a vehicle to the number of available seatbelts, and therefore public safety is being threatened as passengers are traveling unbelted, AND

**WHEREAS** according to Transport Canada in 2003, failure to wear a seat belt resulted in 37% of passengers being fatally injured and 20% being seriously injured due to being unbelted, AND

**WHEREAS** for 2003 Transport Canada reported 86% of all occupants wore seat belts, thereby failing to reflect Canada's National Road Safety Target for 2010 as a minimum 95% compliance rate, AND

**WHEREAS** the Canada Safety Council advocates for the current regulations to be amended to limit the number of passengers who can ride in a vehicle to the number of seat belts,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that OPHA submit a letter of support to the Ontario government to amend the current Ontario Highway Traffic Act restricting the number of passengers to the number of seat belts in a vehicle.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Garry Aslanyan  
President