



**Ontario Public Health Association**

**l'Association pour la santé publique de l'Ontario**

Established/Établi 1949

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**Honorary Patron**

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**Constituent Societies**

ANDSOOHA – Public Health Nursing  
Management in Ontario

Association of Ontario  
Health Centres

Association of Public Health  
Epidemiologists in Ontario

Association of Supervisors of Public  
Health Inspectors of Ontario

Canadian Institute of Public Health  
Inspectors (Ontario Branch)

Community Health Nurses' Initiatives  
Group (RNAO)

Health Promotion Ontario:  
Public Health

Ontario Association of Public Health  
Dentistry

Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals  
in Public Health

Public Health Research, Education and  
Development (PHRED) Program

Charitable Registration  
Number 11924 8771 RR0001

The mission of OPHA is to provide leadership on issues affecting the public's health and to strengthen the impact of people who are active in public and community health throughout Ontario.

December 13, 2006

To all Boards of Health and Public Health Units:

**Re: Amending the Off-Road Vehicle Act**

At its Annual General Meeting of October 26, 2006, the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) passed the attached resolution regarding amending the Off-Road Vehicle Act. The resolution looks to the Government of Ontario to strike a multi-stakeholder All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Task Group to develop a comprehensive, evidence-based approach, including amendments to the Off-Road Vehicle Legislation to promote ATV Safety to prevent ATV injuries, particularly in children.

OPHA is respectfully requesting that all Boards of Health and Public Health Units in Ontario adopt this resolution as well.

According to the Canadian All-Terrain Distributors Council (CATV), retail sales of ATVs in Canada have increased from 32,607 in 1997 to 89,452 in 2004. During this same period, sales in Ontario have increased from 5,704 to 21,188 (CATV, 2004). With the increase in sales there has been an increase in ATV-related injuries, despite manufacturers' voluntary safety measures. The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) reported an approximate 50% increase in the number of ATV-related hospitalizations, even while there has been a decrease in the number of hospitalizations from other types of injuries (CIHI, 2003).

Other evidence indicates that children and youth lack the knowledge, physical size and strength, cognitive and motor skills to safely operate an ATV (Canadian Paediatric Society, 2004; Levinson, 2003; Hospital for Sick Children, 2004; Murphy & Yanchar, 2004). It is therefore necessary to make legislative changes that reflect safety practices similar to those governing the operation of motor vehicles, snowmobiles and boats. These changes should include a comprehensive approach to ATV use, including legislation and enforcement, as well as trails systems with a focus on decreased environmental impact similar to the approach adopted in New Brunswick.

Thank you for your support and cooperation on this important injury prevention initiative.

Sincerely,

Dr. Garry Aslanyan, President