



BILL 80

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October 5, 2018

Chair and All Members of Law Amendments Committee

RE: Support for Bill 80, Nova Scotia's Traffic Safety Act

Dear Chair and Members of the Law Amendments Committee:

On behalf of the Atlantic Collaborative on Injury Prevention (ACIP), I am writing to indicate our support for Bill 80 – Nova Scotia's new Traffic Safety Act. With this new act, Nova Scotia sets a strong precedence for prioritizing the safe passage of vulnerable road users.

Motor vehicle collisions (MVCs) are a leading cause of injury-related death for Atlantic Canadians of all ages. MVCs and associated injuries and fatalities are preventable and are typically attributable to factors such as speed, impairment, distraction, or lack of seatbelt use. We are pleased to see the Traffic Safety Act is designed to make the roads safe for all users, including our most vulnerable populations, and seeks to address the above risk factors by focusing on priority areas such as distracted driving, bicycling, and speed limits.

ACIP is a non-profit organization providing leadership and evidence-based knowledge translation, policy advice, and support to governments, NGOs and other interested agencies from across Atlantic Canada in efforts to prevent injuries and their impacts on families and communities across the region. One of the core components of ACIP's work is advocating for and supporting evidence based injury prevention policies and practices at the national, provincial, and municipal levels. Creating supportive environments and encouraging safe behaviours through the continuation of improving infrastructure, enforcement, and raising awareness of road safety issues is critical, and the work to update the TSA is a positive step in reducing serious injuries and deaths related to road safety in Nova Scotia.

With a vision of an injury free Atlantic Canada, ACIP applauds the hard work and commitment of the NS Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, along with their many community partners for their efforts in protecting and ensuring optimal population health and safety for people of all ages. ACIP offers its support to the Department to ensure the regulations related to road safety continue to have an important injury prevention lens.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Russell
Executive Director
Atlantic Collaborative on Injury Prevention